



## The Blessing of the LORD

*"That the **blessing of Abraham** might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Gal 3:14)*

What is that Biblical essence known as "the blessing?" The New Testament teaches us

that the "blessing of Abraham" has come upon the gentiles (*see Gal 3:14 in the title section atop each page*). What is so important about the "blessing of Abraham?"

Isn't the giving of blessings merely an Old Testament ritual? Does the modern Christian really understand the depth of what it means to be blessed in a Biblical sense? Can the same "blessing of Abraham" really be placed upon you and your house in the same way that it was for Abraham?

Let's begin by looking specifically at the blessing of Abraham, "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will (1) **bless** thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a (2)

**blessing**: 3 And I will (3) **bless** them that (4) **bless** thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be (5) **blessed**" (Gen 12:2-3). The word "**bless**" is used five different times in that passage alone! If the blessing really is that important then we should devote some honest effort to understanding "**the blessing of Abraham!**"

Paul teaches in the Book of Galatians, "Christ (*the anointed one*) hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 **That the blessing of Abraham** might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; **that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith**" (Gal 3:13-14). According to Paul's words in that passage, the whole concept behind the process of redemption was, "**That the blessing of Abraham**" might come upon us!

Before we get too far into this lesson let us resolve to get a solid understanding of what "the blessing" is really all about! What is the fundamental nature of the entity that Paul identifies as, "**the blessing of Abraham?**" According to Paul this



*Melchizedek Blesses Abraham (Gen 14:18)*



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"blessing" is supposed to be upon all of us in the Church! Our purpose in this Bible Study is to carefully research the "blessing of Abraham" much more thoroughly than we have in the past.

We first need to understand the Hebrew expression "*shalom!*" *Shalom* is an integral part of the blessing; therefore, in order to understand the "blessing of Abraham" we first need to understand exactly what the Hebrew word *shalom* is all about. *Shalom* literally means **to be whole**; it means that there is nothing missing and nothing broken! When somebody experiences true Biblical *shalom* they come into direct contact with mental, physical and social well-being. This means that they naturally live in complete peace and financial prosperity. Prosperity certainly must include a financial component; however, material wealth is merely one of the many aspects of *shalom*! The Bible claims, "the way of peace ("*shalom*" in a Hebrew perspective) have they not known" (Rom 3:17). Now let's observe some illustrations regarding the conceptual nature of *shalom*: if someone has a million dollars in the bank but they are hooked on drugs, or in bondage to the curse of pornography, or they are a closet alcoholic, they cannot truly experience Biblical *shalom*! Or, if somebody has money in the bank and peace of mind but they are dying of cancer in their flesh then it is impossible for them to experience Biblical *shalom*! Let's take the concept of a person who has money in the bank and health in their body; however that person is a mean wretched individual and has nobody to love him. Once again this person does not experience the Biblical meaning of the word *shalom*. You must make the effort to understand this deep down in your spirit; *shalom* in a Biblical sense means that the individual is completely whole and happy, and there is nothing missing and nothing broken!

In Bible study there are many instances where we simply cannot rely on the common definitions that we have picked-up through our modern society. An illustration is the disparity in definitions is obvious when we investigate "prosperity" and "poverty" from a Biblical perspective. Without the proper Biblical definitions of "prosperity" and "poverty" we could never really appreciate God's perspective on these two opposite conditions! For example most everyone in our society would naturally consider a person who outwardly possesses a great deal of first-rate property and commercial merchandise to be "prosperous." Let me describe such an individual; he/she has both a late model Jaguar and a Mercedes Benz in their three-car garage along with a classic Ford Model T. The person's home is located behind a tall wall made of stone; and the only entrance to their spacious mountain property is through an electric gate monitored by means of cameras by a full-time guard. This person owns a Lear Jet which is stored in a private hangar at a nearby private airport and a yacht at the local private marina.

Would you all agree that this individual is prosperous? Now let's examine just one Biblical example which is assured to assault our modern common concepts regarding "prosperity" and "poverty." Notice, Rev 3:17, "Because thou sayest, ***I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing***; (In other words, I am prosperous; certainly our make-believe individual that we have just focused upon would fit into this category.) and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and ***poor***, (In other words, even though you have great possessions, you are nevertheless impoverished!) and blind, and naked" (Luke 4:18). Obviously, this passage clearly teaches us that an individual, "rich and increased with



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goods" is not necessarily prosperous from a Biblical perspective! Before any of us can understand the "blessing of Abraham," we must eliminate our false or at least non-

Biblical concepts regarding the rich and the poor.

With that background regarding prosperity, poverty, and Biblical *shalom*, we can begin to get a handle on "the blessing." We must first realize that the blessing of the Lord includes *shalom*! *Shalom* is an external provision from the Lord upon your life that empowers an individual to exist in a state where nothing is missing and nothing is broken. It is from this perspective that John wrote, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest **prosper and be in health**, even as **thy soul prospereth**" (3 John 2). John desired more than anything else in the LORD that his followers in Christ would prosper and remain in (*shalom*), "Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, (*shalom*) from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ" (2 John 3). John and indeed that entire society considered *shalom* to be financial, physical, and mental well-being. John expected Christians to live in peace (*shalom*) and have nothing missing and nothing broken! From these perspectives, we begin to understand that the blessing is an empowerment to prosper.

God's blessing is an invisible and intangible essence placed upon a person that despite circumstances causes the material physical world to respond to the blessed individual in a favorable fashion! Joseph had this invisible intangible essence upon his life. After being sold into slavery, wherever Joseph served he prospered! He came out of a dungeon and into Potiphar's house; "his master saw that **the LORD was with him**, and that **the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand**" (Gen 39:3). Joseph even prospered when he went to prison, "The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because **the LORD was with him**, and that which he did, **the LORD made it to prosper**" (Gen 39:23). We simply must begin to realize that the blessing from the LORD is an intangible empowerment to prosper. The blessing is not the physical observable stuff; instead, the blessing is what causes the stuff to come to the individual who is blessed. The bible says that during a famine, "Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: **and the LORD blessed him**" (Gen 26:12). The hundred-fold return from the field that Isaac received was not the blessing; the hundred-fold return was only the physical observable manifestation of the blessing upon his life; its says after the hundred-fold return, "**and the LORD blessed him!**" Notice how Abraham (*blessed*) or prospered Eliezer in a total non-financial manner, "And he said unto me, The LORD, before whom I walk, **will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way**; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house" (Gen 24:40). This is the second time that the word "prosper" occurs in you bible; it's first four usages all relate to Eliezer! In this passage Abraham viewed prosperity or the blessing that he placed upon Eliezer as his servant's ability to accomplish the mission.

Notice how God views prosperity, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but **it shall accomplish** that which I please, and **it shall prosper** in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isa 55:11). Unlike the perspective of our modern society, Biblical prosperity is much more than mere financial affluence! Obviously prosperity is associated with "the blessing." The question is, "How can we obtain that Biblical blessing?"



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The Bible identifies five paths that every Christian certainly must travel in order to arrive at the place of blessings in his/her life. (*There is probably more than these five essentials; however, the Bible identifies these five things as minimum requirements.*) The place of our blessings is the place of true Biblical prosperity:

- (1) **You must be obedient** – “If ye be willing and **obedient**, ye shall eat the good of the land” (Isa 1:19);
- (2) **You must be connected with the blessed, and you must be blessing the blessed** – Notice what God told Abraham, “I will **bless** them that **bless** thee” (Gen 12:3). When we bless somebody who is clearly working on a assignment that none other than God has established upon this earth (Your Local Church; Television Ministries; Charities, Feeding the Poor Programs; etc.) then we are blessing those who are blessed and therefore we are qualified ourselves to receive blessings;
- (3) **You must be faithful** – Faithfulness could itself become a study; the Book of Proverbs teaches that, “A **faithful** man shall abound with **blessings**” (Prov 28:20);
- (4) **You must be pure in both deed and word** – The book of Psalms asks a powerful question, “**Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?** 4 He that hath clean hands, and a **pure heart**; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, **nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD**” (Ps 24:3-4).
- (5) **You must forgive and be forgiven** – Obviously, we need forgiveness of our sins; likewise we must forgive others, “**Blessed** is he whose transgression is **forgiven**” (Ps 32:1); and Jesus taught, “**forgive** us our sins, **just as we have forgiven** those who have sinned against us” (Matt 6:12).

“Bless” occurs 330 times in the Old Testament’ the first time that we observe that word we find it used in the first chapter of Genesis, “And God **blessed** them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth” (Gen 1:22). We immediately notice that God’s blessing was bestowed first upon the fish and the birds! As a result of His blessing upon them they became fruitful and they certainly have multiplied and filled the earth. The birds and fish prospered in the earth as a result of God’s blessing. Next we see God’s blessing upon humanity; notice that they were given dominion over the previously blessed groups, “**God blessed them**, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: **and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air**, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Gen 1:28). Therefore let us recognize the Biblical concept; the blessing upon the first group was so that they could in turn be a blessing unto the second group. We will learn more about this as we continue.

What does it mean for us to be blessed? Notice, “Christ (*the one who received the anointing – or the anointed one*) hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles** through Jesus Christ” (Gal 3:13-14). It appears that the entire redemptive process was to the end that the blessing might come upon us! We can actually be blessed in the same sense as our spiritual father, Abraham!



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From that passage we discover that we must take delivery of the conceptual package that we are "the blessed."

Remember last week we learned that it is needful for us to obtain knowledge from the LORD, "My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge**" (Hos 4:6). When we lack knowledge we are ignorant and therefore we cannot receive every Biblical attribute that we are supposed to enjoy! Rosa Parks is an example of a person who used proper knowledge to drastically change her life. She claimed that she was entitled according to "equal rights under the law" to sit on a bus wherever she might chose! Nearly 100 years before Rosa's proper claim, President Abraham Lincoln and many soldiers gave their lives to uphold that demand. However, for ninety-some years even though the law of the land was clearly in favor of black people they failed to achieve their proper privileges under the law. Discrimination persisted even after a change in law because the slaves had become accustomed to their oppression! In the same fashion, Christians must believe in and claim their rights to Biblical prosperity and *shalom* or like 90 years of Negro history they simply will live below their authorized level of rights and privileges! We receive the blessing of the LORD through knowledge from the Bible, "**through knowledge** shall the just be delivered" (Prov 11:9). This strongly implies that we must know about each promise before we can receive it! If you were to open a secret bank account with millions of dollars, which authorized me to make withdrawals at will, it would not be possible for me to withdraw any money unless I knew about the existence of the account! God has designed blessings in much the same fashion. If we do not study, find and then claim our promised blessings we simply will not receive those promised blessings!

Abraham's actual life was an empowerment to prosper others! God essentially told him, "whoever empowers you to prosper, I will prosper them!" Notice the passage, "I will bless them that bless thee" (Gen 12:3). Once the blessing of Abraham is upon your life, then people who bless you are themselves empowered to prosper! Notice Abraham's blessing, "Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?**" (Gen 18:18). Abraham's blessing became the agent through which all families of the earth will be blessed! Through the "blessing of Abraham" all families of the earth will have an opportunity to come to Jesus Christ!

Let's take a look at how Abraham blessed his sons. It seems that Abraham never did openly lay his hands on his son Isaac and pronounce over him the blessings; instead, Abraham simply believed God's word that He Himself would bless Isaac, "as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, **I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful**, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But **my covenant** (This is the same covenant that God made with Abraham.) **will I establish with Isaac**" (Gen 17:20-21). And notice exactly how the blessing transpired, "it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that **God blessed his son Isaac**" (Gen 25:11). At this point Isaac possessed Abraham's blessing. Notice what happened next, "Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold" (Gen 26:12).

Clearly, Isaac understood that he was supposed to place Abraham's blessing upon his sons, "as soon as **Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob**, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting" (Gen 27:30). Notice that as soon as Isaac realized that Jacob had beguiled him, "Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, **Who? where is he that hath taken venison**, and brought it me,



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and I have eaten of all before thou camest, **and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed**" (Gen 27:33).

The very fact that Esau (*Jordan*) and Israel have struggled throughout the years is proof of the potential inherent in the "blessing of Abraham."

After the shock of that incident, Isaac blessed Jacob once again, "And Isaac called Jacob, and **blessed him**, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. 2 Arise, go to Padan-aram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother. 3 And **God Almighty bless thee**, (*Isaac acknowledged that it would be God who would bless Jacob.*) **and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; 4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham**, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, **which God gave unto Abraham**" (Gen 28:1-4).

Jacob never forgot the "blessing of Abraham." He passed-on that same blessing to his own son, "**he blessed Joseph**, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day" (Gen 48:15). The New Testament teaches us that, "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come" (Heb 11:20). Notice however, Jacob did not stop with Joseph! The passage continues, "By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff" (Heb 11:21). Jacob clearly understood the power of the "blessing of Abraham!" Therefore, he not only blessed his own son Joseph; but he also decided which grandsons would receive the "blessing of Abraham," "Joseph said unto his father, They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place. And he said, Bring them, I pray thee, unto me, and **I will bless them**" (Gen 48:9). Other Scriptures actually teach that Jacob literally adopted Joseph's two sons as his own.

Where/How does Jesus fit into all of this issue regarding the "blessing of Abraham?" Jesus did not receive a blessing; instead, He was cursed so that you and I could be blessed, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, **being made a curse for us**" (Gal 3:13) (*The individual who is cursed must live outside of God's blessings. That is the whole point; Adam was cursed and the Second Adam took away that curse! It was for this reason that Jesus said, "My God! My God! Why hast thou **forsaken** (or removed the blessing from) me?"* Why did God forsake Jesus? Read the answer from Galatians Chapter 3, "That **the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles** through Jesus Christ" (Gal 3:14).

We have gone through all of this information about the "blessing of Abraham" to arrive at this next concept, "**Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made**. He saith not, **And to seeds**, as of many; but as of **one, And to thy seed, which is Christ**" (Gal 3:16). That statement seems to be very powerful! But, what exactly does it mean? It means that the blessing was not given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, etc. Instead, it says that the blessing was given to Abraham and to Christ, "**to Abraham and his seed . . . thy seed, which is Christ**" (Gal 3:16) This means that Isaac and Jacob and Joseph were not immediately included in the blessings of Abraham! Sure, as we have just read, they ultimately received the "blessing of Abraham."

The blessings needed to be transferred to Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. After having received the blessings they actually became witnesses of the surety of God's blessings, "Isaac sowed



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in that land, and received **in the same year an hundredfold**: (This hundred-fold reaping came during famine!) **and the LORD blessed him**" (Gen 26:12). Jacob

too, was blessed directly by God, "Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And **he blessed him there**" (Gen 32:29); notice Jacob's expression of blessing that God had bestowed upon him, "Take, I pray thee, **my blessing** that is brought to thee; because **God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough**" (Gen 33:11). Here are two witnesses of what Moses wrote, "thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for **it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth**" (Deut 8:18). We already read how Joseph also prospered! These offspring that came from Abraham are all witnesses that the "blessing of Abraham" is powerful!

Can you begin to appreciate the blessings that come through Jesus Christ and are placed upon your life? If we hope to truly become victorious in our Christian walk, we simply must get to the point where we recognize and take hold of the "blessing of Abraham!" The "blessing of Abraham" is supposed to be upon our lives, "That **the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles** through Jesus Christ" (Gal 3:14)!

Receiving God's blessings is one literal way that we can actually please God, "**Let them** shout for joy, and be glad, **that favour my righteous cause**: yea, **let them say continually**, (This is a command that we should regularly vocalize positive affirmations.) **Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity (shalom) of his servant**" (Ps 35:27); God takes pleasure in the prosperity and *shalom* of his servants! Our lives actually demonstrate our focus as we favor His righteous cause! Let us focus on the work of God to take the "blessing of Abraham" to the nations! When we do, it naturally follows that we become those servants that God greatly takes "pleasure in (*their*) prosperity!"

Abraham's blessing became the agent through which all families of the earth will be blessed! God said, "Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him**?" (Gen 18:18). This obviously means that through Abraham all families of the earth will have an opportunity to come to Jesus Christ! Well if you have the "blessing of Abraham" upon you, then you will experience prosperity when you become focused upon being a blessing to "**all the nations of the earth!**" As you bless them with your focus, then God will cause them to become a blessing to you! In that exchange you will begin to experience true *shalom* and Biblical prosperity!

So let us go back to one of our original questions in this study, "Can the same 'blessing of Abraham' really be placed upon you and your house in the same way that it was for Abraham?" The answer is, "YES!" But only as you know about, understand, claim that blessing, and set about to bless others!

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