

FAVORED

Genesis 12:1-2

Charis

blessed
graced
favored

God loves to favor us

- He favors us with talents
- He favors with time
- He favors us with connections
- And so much more!
- “Count Your Blessings”

God favors us

- Because He loves us
- So that we can be a blessing to others

It's important to keep this in mind...

**“Abram believed the Lord,
and He credited it to him as righteousness.”**

—Genesis 15:6

About Abraham

- He's a Chaldean
- He's already 75 years old
- He's already wealthy
- He worships other gods
- He and God meet BEFORE Judaism exists

Genesis 12:1-3

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

God FAVORED Abraham

- God blessed Abraham because He wanted to bless him.
- God blessed Abraham because He loved him.
- God blessed Abraham so that he could be a blessing to all other nations of the earth.
- Abraham hadn't done a **THING** for God, but God already loved him deeply and favored him regardless!

Genesis 12:4-5

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

So what did Abraham do?

- He “went, as the LORD told him...” (he *immediately* obeyed)
- Abraham believed God!
- What is delayed obedience?
- The result of Abraham’s obedience is seen in vv. 6-9.

Genesis 12:10-20

ABRAHAM IN CANAAN

GEN. 12:10-14:24; GEN. 18-22

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ← Abrahams migration to Egypt and return to Canaan
- ←- - Abrahams route of battle with enemy kings
- ← Military route of the kings from the north in Gen. 14



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

EGYPT

Syro-Arabian Desert

0 25 50 Miles
0 25 50 Kilometers

Abraham departs from Canaan en route to Egypt

Abraham receives the blessing of Melchizedek

God promises a son to Abraham and Sarah

Hagar receives the news that she will bear a son, Ishmael

Conflict arises between Abraham and Lot

Abraham's attempt to offer up Issac at Mt. Moriah

Cave of Machpelah

Possible location of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zebotim

Droughts and Famines

- Abraham proved that he didn't trust God with everything. It was because of the drought and famine. He panicked.
- What would have happened if Abraham would have trusted God in Canaan?
- Abraham had struggles. Do you have certain areas of your life that you struggle to trust God with?
- What kind of famine or drought pushes you to misplace your faith and compromise your values?

- I will bless those who bless you
- I will curse those who curse you
- Everyone in the world will be blessed because of you (Were the Egyptians blessed by Abraham and Sarah?)

But that was Father Abraham!

- Of course God blessed and favored him!
- Yes, Abraham was mentioned in 14 chapters of Genesis
- Yes, he is mentioned in 25 of the 66 books of the bible
- Yes, all 3 major middle eastern religions love him
- But me? Am I really favored? Or am I insignificant?

Be Assured, You are Favored!

- Sometimes I feel like people don't even know my name...
 - Thaddaeus
 - Judas, brother of James
 - Judas, not Iscariot
- John 10:2-4

“The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. *He calls his own sheep by name* and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.” —Jesus

Be Assured, You are Favored!

- Okay, but no one recognizes my worth...
 - And Thaddeus?
 - We know what the disciples did, but his personal deeds are never mentioned, yet Jesus assured all of the disciples that they were favored and that their rewards are eternal ones!
- And our rewards? ... Colossians 3:23-24

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that *you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward*. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

—Paul

His Favored Ones will receive...

- A crown that is ETERNAL...
1 Corinthians 9:25
- The crown of LIFE that the Lord promised...
James 1:12
- The crown of THE GLORY OF HIS PRESENCE...
2 Thessalonians 2:29
- The crown of RIGHTEOUSNESS...
2 Timothy 2:8

“Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring —not only to those who are of the law *but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.*”

—Paul writing in Romans 4:16