

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The First Patriarch

Speaker:

Steve Heitland

Date:

January 7, 2023

Scriptures:

Genesis 12

Theme: Trust wholly in the God who saves.

Introduction: Genesis 1-11 showed us both the goodness of God's design in the garden and the evil and perversity that came because of man's fall. We saw the Lord work to save his people in spite of mankind's rebellion. But that mercy also raises the question: how is it that anyone can be right before God? And what is the relationship between faith and works? The patriarchs (Gen 12-50) serve as our examples, and in the story of the call of Abram in particular (Gen 12), we find some answers to these important questions.

We find gospel grace through 3 stages in Abram's story:

1. The promise of election (1-9)

Unlike other stories in Genesis, the Lord's call to Abram is sudden and stark. There is no reason that the Lord should choose him.

This demonstrates the truth of election, that the Lord sovereignly chooses who will be his apart from any merit on our part. Election safeguards the grace of the gospel.

The Lord's call of Abram is also linked to blessing. The Lord promises Abram a seven-fold blessing. Obedience to the Lord is always for the good of his people.

Abram chooses to believe God, which is then demonstrated by his obedience. He takes the Lord at his word and goes to the land of Canaan.

As he goes through the land, the Lord appears to him and promises it to his descendants. They will possess the land.

2. The threat in a fallen world (10-16)

Abram and his household are faced with a famine in Canaan, which they respond to by heading to Egypt.

On the way there, Abram reasons that the Egyptians will kill him in order to take Sarai, his beautiful wife. He tells her to lie about their marriage in order to save his life.

When they arrive, Pharaoh's servants take Sarai into his house, and Abram receives livestock and servants because of her.

3. The sheer mercy of salvation (17-20)

By his fear and unbelief, Abram has not only jeopardized his marriage, he has also jeopardized Sarai's chastity, as well as the line of the Savior (Gen 3:15).

Though he has failed to protect his wife, the Lord does not fail. He afflicts Pharaoh and delivers Sarai out of his hand.

Ultimately, the Lord delivers Abram and Sarai out of Egypt as he continues to show them mercy and grace. No one deserves salvation, yet the Lord saves his people.

Questions:

1. How are you tempted to compromise truth for personal well-being?

2. What is your standing before God? Where is your hope?

3. How do you need the Lord's grace to meet you? How is he at work to deepen your trust in him?