



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

Lord, I ask You to set a great and effectual door of opportunity before me. Please help me recognize when that door opens, for I desire to truly appreciate what You are doing in my life. At the same time, I need You to help me be spiritually discerning so I can differentiate my true friends from opportunists who might come to take advantage of me and steal this victory from my life. Give me spiritually discerning eyes to help me see who is and isn't with me whenever a great and effectual door is uniquely opened to me for Your purposes, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Scripture

Genesis 13

Genesis 13:1-18 (AMP)

1 SO ABRAM went up out of Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the South [country of Judah, the Negeb]. 2 Now Abram was extremely rich in livestock and in silver and in gold. 3 And he journeyed on from the South [country of Judah, the Negeb] as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 Where he had built an altar at first; and there Abram called on the name of the Lord. 5 But Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 Now the land was not able to nourish and support them so they could dwell together, for their possessions were too great for them to live together. 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle. And the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land [making fodder more difficult to obtain]. 8 So Abram said to Lot, Let there be no strife, I beg of you, between you and me, or between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are relatives. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself, I beg of you, from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if you choose the right hand, then I will go to the left. 10 And Lot looked and saw that everywhere the Jordan Valley was well watered. Before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, [it was all] like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as you go to Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley and [he] traveled east. So they separated. 12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the [Jordan] Valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom and dwelt there. 13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and exceedingly great sinners against the Lord. 14 The Lord said to Abram after Lot had left him, Lift up now your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; 15 For all the land which you see I will give to you and to your posterity forever. 16 And I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth, so that if a man could count the dust of the earth, then could your descendants also be counted. 17 Arise, walk through the land, the length of it and the breadth of it, for I will give it to you. 18 Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt among the oaks or terebinths of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and built there an altar to the Lord.

Worship Music

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Abraham's Visit to Egypt

It is well known from Egyptian inscriptions and artwork that throughout Egypt's history, "Asiatics" from Canaan entered Egypt for various reasons. From the days of the Patriarchs, dating from perhaps just a few years before Joseph entered Egypt (ca. 1891 b.c.), we have the painting on the wall of the tomb of Khum-hotep III that depicts 37 Asiatics entering Egypt for trading purposes. The colorful dress of both men and women are well represented. However, it is not necessary to draw the conclusion from this that the Patriarchs were merchant traders, for Asiatics entered Egypt for many reasons, including getting food and water for their families and flocks.

Genesis 13. Abraham and Lot Separate

Lot was Abraham's nephew. They had been together since they had left Ur many years before. But now their flocks and herds had become so extensive, and their herdsmen so quarrelsome over pasture lands, that it seemed best to separate. Abraham magnanimously gave Lot his choice of all the land. Lot foolishly chose the Plain of Sodom. Abraham chose Hebron, which was his home from then on.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; Zondervan; 2000; Bible History & Commentaries; pages 111-112)

Abram and Lot Divide: God promised the land to Abram and to his descendants forever. God told Abram to look at the land with the eyes of faith and then to walk in faith all over the land.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; commentaries; page 12)

In Genesis 13, we read that the herdsmen of Abraham and his nephew, Lot, were arguing because there was not enough space for both their flocks and herds to graze. Abraham suggested that Lot go one way and said that he would go the other way so there would be enough room for both their animals and households. Lot chose the best land for himself and left Abraham with an inferior portion (see Genesis 13:10, 11).

At that point, the Lord said to Abraham, "Lift up now your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your posterity forever" (Genesis 13:14, 15).

We would do well to remember this story today. Instead of becoming discouraged, depressed, or angry when people disappoint us, God wants us to lift up our eyes, look around, and trust Him to lead us into an even better situation. He wants us to look around and count our blessings instead of focusing on what we do not have. He wants us to fix our eyes on Him, not on the work of the enemy, because He has plans for us, He knows our final outcome.

Jeremiah 29:1-32 (AMP)

1 NOW THESE are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders in exile and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon.

2 This was after King Jeconiah [also called Coniah and Jehoiachin] and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem.

3 [The letter was sent] by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said:

4 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the captives whom I have caused to be carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

5 Build yourselves houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat the fruit of them.

6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not be diminished.

7 And seek (inquire for, require, and request) the peace and welfare of the city to which I have caused you to be carried away captive; and pray to the Lord for it, for in the welfare of [the city in which you live] you will have welfare.

8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Let not your [false] prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you; pay no attention and attach no significance to your dreams which you dream or to theirs,

9 For they prophesy falsely to you in My name. I have not sent them, says the Lord.

10 For thus says the Lord, When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you and keep My good promise to you, causing you to return to this place.

11 For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome. 12 Then you will call upon Me, and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear and heed you. 13 Then you will seek Me, inquire for, and require Me [as a vital necessity] and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will release you from captivity and gather you from all the nations and all the places to which I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I caused you to be carried away captive. 15 [But as for those still in Jerusalem] because you have said, The Lord has raised up prophets for us in Babylon, 16 Thus says the Lord concerning the king who sits upon the throne of David and concerning all the people who dwell in this city, your brethren who did not go forth with you into captivity— 17 Thus says the Lord of hosts: Behold, I am sending on them the sword, famine, and pestilence, and I will make them like vile figs which are so bad they cannot be eaten. 18 And I will pursue them with the sword, famine, and pestilence and will give them up to be tossed to and fro and to be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, an astonishment, and a terror, a hissing and a reproach among all the nations to which I have driven them, 19 Because they have not listened to and heeded My words, says the Lord, which I sent to them persistently by My servants the prophets; but you [exiles] would not listen [either], says the Lord. 20 Hear therefore the word of the Lord, all you exiles whom I have sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon. 21 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning Ahab son of Kolaiah and concerning Zedekiah son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying lies to you in My name: Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and he will slay them [those false prophets whom you say I have raised up for you in Babylon] before your eyes! 22 And because of them, this curse shall be taken up and used by all from Judah who are in captivity in Babylon: The Lord make you like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire— 23 Because they have committed folly in Israel and have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives and have spoken words in My name falsely, which I had not commanded them. I am the One Who knows and I am witness, says the Lord. 24 Also you shall say this concerning and to Shemaiah of Nehelam [among the exiles in Babylon]: 25 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Because you have sent letters in your [own] name to all the people who are in Jerusalem and to Zephaniah son of Maaseiah the priest and to all the priests, saying, 26 The Lord has made you [Zephaniah] priest instead of Jehoiada the [deputy] priest, that you should have oversight in the house of the Lord over every madman who makes himself a prophet, that you should put him in the stocks and collar. 27 Now therefore [continued the letter from Shemaiah in Babylon to Zephaniah in Jerusalem], why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth, who makes himself a prophet to you? 28 For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, [This captivity of yours] is to be long; build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat the fruit of them. 29 And Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet. 30 Then came the word of the Lord to Jeremiah: 31 Send [this message] to all those in captivity, saying, Thus says the Lord concerning Shemaiah of Nehelam: Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, though I did not send him, and has caused you to trust in a lie, 32 Therefore thus says the Lord: Behold, I will punish Shemaiah of Nehelam and his offspring. He will not have anyone [born] to dwell among this people, nor will he see the good that I will do to My people, says the Lord, because he has spoken and taught rebellion against the Lord.

Jeremiah 29 also deals with the people being in a land that God guided them to.....note this scripture set.....

4 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the captives whom I have caused to be carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

5 Build yourselves houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat the fruit of them.

6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not be diminished.

7 And seek (inquire for, require, and request) the peace and welfare of the city to which I have caused you to be carried away captive; and pray to the Lord for it, for in the welfare of [the city in which you live] you will have welfare.

.....the Lord will lead us to different places at times, note that in God's will and plans He usually gives one step at a time....we may know the plan He has for us, or He may give us a vision, this does not mean it will be done in the way we thought the planning should be, it will be His planning not ours. My journey the past 7 years has been complex, but I also know He has me right where He wants meand doing what I am doing right now....though in the beginning.....I did think it would go another way....and the weirdest thing instead of sending the necessary stuff to build a church building (which I thought would be first) He sent stuff to assist people to help them.....go figure, huh?.....Not really.....Jesus did not have a temple or church building....He went to the people and the people came to Him.....interesting today to.. all the home churches springing up....just like it was in the beginning....

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, page 20-22)

Alistair Begg at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa & Calvary Chapel Murrieta!

Alistair Begg from the Truth For Life Radio Program will be speaking at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa on Wednesday November 16th at 7pm (west coast time)! He'll also be sharing the very next day for the K-Wave Listener Event on Thursday the 17th at Calvary Chapel Murrieta! 7pm west coast; 9pm central; 10pm east coast.....

<http://calvarychapelcostamesa.com/media/watch-live/>