

112 – In Holy Awe

I want to invite you to join me tonight in a celebration of PRAISE to the Lord; praise, thanksgiving, appreciation, and worship in Holy Awe.

While we're going through some scriptures tonight, I would like to invite you to jot down some examples that come to your mind of God's sovereign hand moving in your life. Instances that you know He spoke to you, or showed you something, or made something happen that was unmissable and could not have been mistaken for your, or someone else's, action.

On a daily basis, Barbara and I witness God's sovereign hand, but yesterday, He moved unmistakably over the weekend in a way that has had me, since about 3:00 yesterday afternoon, in a state of pure, holy awe and reverence of the type we read about in the scriptures.

Barbara touched on one example of what I'm speaking of during Jammie Church last Sunday:

(Genesis 17:1-8)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." ³ **Abram fell facedown**, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God. "

Three things to keep in mind as we give God praise tonight:

1. **God's voice is unmistakable**; so is His hand when it moves and when it stops. His moving isn't always toward something you could have anticipated – indeed, in my experience, it's never been toward something I

would have anticipated! When God is quiet, or when it looks like He has stopped moving, you're either having a rest (and those don't last long since He doesn't get tired); you're undergoing a test, like Joseph in Pharaoh's prison; or you've missed a step of obedience to some revelation, which has stopped the flow.

2. **God's word is true.** He'll do just what says He'll do.

Numbers 11:21-23

English Standard Version (ESV)

²¹ But Moses said, "The people among whom I am number six hundred thousand on foot, and you have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat a whole month!'" ²² Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, and be enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, and be enough for them?" ²³ And the LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD's hand shortened? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not."

Unless God's word is very specific as to how and when He will fulfill His promise, it isn't likely to match your idea of how or when He fulfills it, but that's where faith – where trusting God – is so important. Living your life according to God's word over your life not only demonstrates your *trust* in Him and honors Him, but it is also wise; it is protection for us, so **we** don't run off trying to fulfill God's promise!

a. [Psalm 138:2](#) – "I shall worship toward Your holy Temple and shall acclaim Your Name on account of Your benignity and on account of Your faithfulness, For You have magnified Your Name, Your promise [also 'Your saying'], over all else." [\(The ESV is the closest to this direct translation\)](#)

b. **Think about this:** if you're busy "helping God" fulfill His promise, what glory is there for Him? In whose name are we acting?

3. **Falling facedown is sometimes all you can do!** When God is declaring His goodness and His kindness to you, the power of His majesty will cause you to fall face down, like Abram did. God continued to speak to Abram, while he remained facedown! God doesn't **make** us assume that position, but His declaration to us – the moving of His hand in our lives inspires such a Holy Awe that the only thing we CAN do is fall facedown!

a. The word of the Lord will test you, just like it did Joseph, to determine whether you will trust God or yourself or someone else.

- i. [Psalm 105:19](#) - *Until the time that His word came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.*(NASB)
- ii. Until the era [season] when His word came to pass, When the saying [the promise] of Yahweh had refined him.

4. **Always remember the principle that revelation, when followed by obedience, leads to confirmation and then the blessing follows.** We see this principle play out constantly in lives all around us as well as our own.

God no sooner called Abram to go, in [Genesis 12](#), than He promised Abram:

²“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.

³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Abram was 75 when he left Harran for Canaan. When he arrived at Shechem, somewhere around 400 miles away on foot – that would be like walking from Salem, NH to Baltimore, MD! – the Lord promised Him: “To **your offspring** I will give this land.” ([Genesis 12:7](#)).

In [Genesis 13](#), the Lord promised Abram again:

¹⁴The LORD said to Abram **after Lot had parted from him**, “Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. ¹⁵All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. ¹⁶I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. ¹⁷Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.”

The whole time in this relationship, from the time God first spoke to Abram, Abram trusted God. Why else would he have ventured so far from a land and people he knew well?

Here’s another principle: When you are in a posture of completely trusting God, you’re also in a position of spiritual authority. Here’s an example, from In [Genesis 14:17-22](#):

¹⁷ After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.

²⁰ And praise be to God Most High,
who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

²¹ The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.”

²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,²³ that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’”

Melchizedek recognized God's call on Abram's life. Melchizedek brought out refreshment – a sign of honor, respect, and even brotherhood. Abram is in spiritual authority over the king of Sodom, and the king knows it.

Here's another principle: Beware of someone who would give you anything, as if they're doing *you* a favor, when *you're* the one God has called and who *should* be the one standing in spiritual authority.

Abram, I'm sure, gladly shared bread and wine with Melchizedek, whose spiritual authority Abram recognizes, so he honors *him* with a tenth of everything. There's no record of an encounter with Melchizedek before this, although the two must have known one another: as we read the dialogue, they sound like they know one another. Abram appears to give a tenth of everything to Melchizedek purely out of his heart of respect for the call of God on Melchizedek – it's a scene in which men of like kind recognize one another by the spirit.

Right after this encounter, the Lord re-states His promise to Abram:

Genesis 15:

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your very great reward.**”

² But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” ⁵ He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

That is the scripture quoted by the Apostle Paul, thousands of year later, in

Romans 4:2-3

2 For if Abraham was justified by acts, he has something to boast in, but not toward God.

3 For what is the scripture saying? Now "Abraham believes God, and it is reckoned to him for righteousness."

We started this journey tonight, with Abram at 99 years old, hearing again from the Lord, receiving a change of name 22 years after he heard Him the first time, from **Avram** (“*exalted father*”) to **Avraham** (“*father of a multitude*” or “*chief of multitude*”). Sarai also became Sarah; from “*princess*” to “*noblewoman*.”

God showed no sign of being upset in the least over Ishmael; after all, He knows full well the role he’ll play in the fulfillment of His eonian purpose. He took care of Hagar and promised Abraham and her to take care of Ishmael too, even though He was not the heir of the promise.

PRINCIPLE: When you have a promise from God; when He has shown you an inheritance, don’t settle for – don’t be seduced by – only the blessing. Wait for the promise to be fulfilled. Make sure you know exactly what the promise is, by the way – take God at His word, but don’t read anything into it and don’t stop at anything less than it. When I hear Christians claiming the blessings of the kingdom for themselves, living toward and waiting for the kingdom, I cringe, because the promise in Christ Jesus is an inheritance far beyond the comprehension that is the kingdom.

Genesis 17:19-21

“...your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. ²⁰ And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.

God promises and *what* He promises, He fulfills, because He magnifies His Name, His promise, above all else.

It was interesting to me, looking at God’s timing in Abraham and Sarah’s life, that it was 22 years from God’s call to Abraham to the promise of Isaac’s birth. It has been 22 years between the time when God called Barbara to the time He’s invited her to “settle down.” God alone knows what He will birth through her in the land He has given her as her own. If we may be permitted to look at the parallel, I would urge us to watch what the Lord does in the next year. I can’t say that I *know* anything, but there will begin, I believe, when Barbara’s feet touch the soil of her geographic Promised Land, a mighty gestation resulting in the birth of something that has not been seen or known before.

We both are profoundly grateful to you and to God for each of you who are walking with us today, who are also called and chosen – choice instruments of His – and for your support of all He is doing and through our lives because of your faithfulness to Him.

You may remember the study we did in Galatians last September? We made a major discovery about how being IN Christ, who is the SEED of Abraham, we are likewise Abraham’s seed.

Look at [Galatians 3:29](#)

Now if you are Christ's, consequently you are of Abraham's seed, enjoyers of the allotment **according to *the* promise**.

Now look at [Isaiah 41:8-14, 18-20](#) and receive this:

“But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom **I have chosen**, you descendants of Abraham my friend,

⁹ **I took you** from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners **I called you**.

Don't think you are where you are by some fluke or accident or stroke of luck. God brought you right here, right now, through your entire lineage and geography to this time and place for His purpose! How do I know that? How can you know that? Because His word here applies to you, seed of Abraham. No you aren't a Jew, nor will you ever be, nor should you ever be. The flesh seed of Abraham hopes for the kingdom of God to come on the Earth, while you and I are "*pursuing for the prize of God's calling above in Christ Jesus*" (as Paul wrote in [Philippians 3:14](#)).

I said, 'You are my servant' I have chosen you and have not rejected you.

Today, we may amend that, since Christ has come, to "*You are My son; You are My daughter; I have chosen you and have not rejected you.*"

I am so grateful to God for this declaration, because of where I've been and what I've done that would have been more than enough cause for God to leave me in the dust! But He did not reject me – or you – and He calls us "sons" and "daughters." Bless the Lord. Bless His name. Bless Him from rising to sleeping!

¹⁰ So do not fear, for **I am with you**; do not be dismayed, for **I am your God**.
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

¹¹ "All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish.

¹² Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them.

Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all.

¹³ For **I am the LORD your God** Who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; **I will help you**.

¹⁴ Do not be afraid, you worm Jacob,

This is not a derogatory term, but only recognition of size and ability in comparison to God, lest we at any time should feel self-important – Let all Christendom hear this, I pray.

little Israel, do not fear, for **I myself will help you**," declares the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

...

¹⁸ **I will** make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys.

I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs.

¹⁹ **I will** put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive.

I will set junipers in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together,

²⁰ so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.

There are 7 “I will” declarations in those few verses. There are 3 “I am” declarations. And there are 3 other declarations: “I have chosen,” “I took,” and “I called.”

Today is the 50th month anniversary of when Barbara and I were married – a jubilee of months. Jubilee in the scriptures was a time where everyone started over completely. No old obligations or debts or indenture carried over.

Over a period of the past three days and three nights, God brought about a miracle in the new land of Dallas, Texas, by showing and then sealing our home where He would have us live and where He will dwell with us for at least the next year.

7 is the number of perfection and completion, 3 is the number of maturity; as I saw it today, 3 is God’s way of saying, “it is enough.”

Father, you are enough. You are El Shaddai – Shaddai means “almighty,” or “the One Who is sufficient.” You are perfect, and so is everything you do perfect and complete. We look for You throughout our lives, even if our perspective seems cloudy because we haven’t always known that You were the One Who chose us, took us from where we were to where we are, and Who called us to Yourself.

Father, You are our Papa, Abba, Daddy, and we give you praise tonight for all You are and all You do, most of which, probably, we don’t know and can’t see. It’s not important that we know or see all You’re doing, only that we believe You, that we trust You. We are Loving You, with all our hearts, souls and strength, and because of the ones You’ve put in our lives, we’re loving one another as we love ourselves and as Christ loves us.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you: the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."