

I Will Bless Thee - vs - Thou Shalt Be A Blessing

Gen. 12:1-3

"And God said unto Abram, 'Get thee out of thy country -
day and from thy kindred and from thy father's house
into a land that I will show thee, and I will make
of thee a great nation and I will bless thee, and
make thy name great; and thou shalt be a bless-
ing, and in thee shall all the families of the earth
be blessed' -"

we like to stay in our own country and
amongst our kindred. It means a great
deal for us to break those and go out into an
unknown land. But this part from the very
beginning seems to have gone with the
people of God. To do this brings into play the
element of faith.

Some one has said, "Faith rules the world."
Now the blessing that lies on faith is our line of
thought to - night.

When we look at the procession of illus-
trious characters that pass before us we
note that they are associated with certain
qualities.

a. Elijah is the embodiment of dauntless
courage.

b. Solomon stands for wisdom.

c. John is the image of love.

d. Abraham is pre-eminently the hero
of faith. Called upon to leave all that men
deem dear he obeyed and is truthfully called
the "Father of the Faithful." - 4. Upon life

Now as we look into these verses which we are
given text we observe that the blessing on a
believing soul is two fold. It touches him-
self and passes on to the whole human race.

1. The blessing of faith has an aspect which
is purely personal to the believer. "I will
bless thee and multiply thy name great." This was
guaranteed to Abraham. God spoke of him
as "Abraham my friend" we all live
in him, and then we look down three
the centuries and see no character like
his till we come to Jesus. St Paul speaks
of all the mercies dispensation as only an
interlude between Abraham and Christ.

we look out side the pages of inspiration and find the same supreme position ascribed to Abraham. In Eastern literature - in a book like Arabia nights Abraham is spoken of as almost immortal.

To-day there are only three great religions which may be described as monotheistic and they all come from Abraham. The Christian - the Jew and the Mohammedan. So amply has God made good His promise, "I will make thy name great."

Now we need not concern ourselves about making our names great. If they are written in the Lamb's Book of Life that will be enough. We might long for that other part of the promise "I will bless thee." This can only come through faith.

The supreme blessing that come to man can be salvation and this come through faith in the Son of God or our personal Saviour. God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

But supposing that we have been converted yet in our daily lives we need abundant blessings which we cannot have except through faith. It is to the trusting soul that the Lord is ever saying, "I will bless thee."

We enjoy peace and comfort in our daily life when our union is close and our hold on God is strong. We should not worry our selves about trifles. We know that when we do worry about trifles is when we get furthest away from Christ and our vision of God is dim.

II But the blessing of faith is two fold. I will bless thee - there shall be a blessing. It is a great thing to be blessed but a greater thing to be a blessing.

"I will bless thee and make thy name great." That appeals to us, make thy name great.

But God went on to say "Thou shalt be a blessing and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

There is a deal of difference in the two expressions "make thy name great" and "in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

A man is a cheater who lets the blessing stop with himself.

We do not always appreciate the movements of history, and standing by would not have thought that Abraham's name would mean so much to the world. But any movement small or great if truly hallowed in their centre deep faith - God will effect the destiny of humanity.

The world gazed in amazement at the career of Napoleon. But the last comes as small. From moral and spiritual standpoint there was nothing in it. He was selfish - but his work does not endure.

But the Puritans obscure made a wage which meant a new world greater than the old. They went out in faith like Abraham and God went with them.

Our lives will be fruitful for good in proportion to our faith. So often as we go forth absolutely relying on God we shall hear him say, "Thou shalt be a blessing."

May we not pray, "for increase our faith."

