

“THE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL”

GENESIS 22:15-24

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INTRODUCTION

Scripture reading: Hebrews 6:10-20. Reference here is to our passage of Scripture in Gen. 22:16-17.

Is your service as diligent now as it used to be? (Heb. 6:10-12)

We need to inherit the promises through “faith and patience” (12).

Cling to Him in hope (v. 18). This hope is an anchor of our souls (19-20).

In this New Year, you must have the full assurance of Hope!

From Abraham’s example we see that:

- 1) Diligent obedience leads to...
- 2) Strong Encouragement in the divine promises, which leads to...
- 3) Sure hope and full assurance, which eventually results in...
- 4) Fulfilled promises.

But, far too many give up at steps 1 & 3; not Abraham!

I. OBEDIENCE (16b, 18b)

- A. You have “done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son.”
- B. “Because you have obeyed my voice.”
 - This final recorded revelation to Abraham is reasonable.
 - God’s grace was not earned by Abraham; the reward was also by grace.
 - Advance came in both Abraham’s faith, and in his reward.

II. OATH

- Notice that the call of the Angel of the Lord was from Heaven (v. 15)
 - Solemnity is seen in both the oath and in the oracle spoken here.
 - The only oath given to the patriarchs; repeated references to it in the OT.
 - This is the same one mentioned in connection with David.
- A. Abundant Personal Blessings—“I will greatly bless you.”
 - B. Innumerable host of Descendants
 1. As the stars of the heavens
 2. As the sand which is on the seashore
 - C. Invincibly Victorious Posterity—“Your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.”
 - New feature
 - Messianic fulfillment eventually
 - D. Universal Blessing (cf. 12:3—“you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you shall all the families of the earth be blessed.)
 1. The statement here is not merely identical: “All the nations of the earth shall be blessed.”
 2. Here the reading is likely reflexive—“Shall bless themselves.” See also 26:4; cf. 12:2b.

- III. RETURN TO HIS TRAVEL PARTNERS AND TO HIS HOME (19)
 - A. Lived the remainder of his life in view of the divine promise and oath.
 - B. Heard the good news of happenings back home in Haran (20-24).
 - 1. Nahor and Milcah
 - 2. Eight sons
 - 3. A special Granddaughter—Rebekah
 - 4. Four more sons to Reumah, a concubine—12 total.

CONCLUSION

In this New Year, do you desire full assurance of hope?

Do you wish to inherit the promises?

Then, continue in the diligence of obedience.

God will then grant solid promises which will **solidify your assurance**.

Look ahead to chapter 23—death of Sarah, empty tent, and 24—wife for Isaac to fill Sarah's tent.