

I The Seed: Scattered and Sent

“God’s work does God’s way will never lack God’s resources.” J. Hudson Taylor

We are called to die to ourselves, not only in sacrificing for others—“Greater love has no one that this, that one lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13), but also in executing self-sufficiency. God’s gracious election to His Kingdom comes with a non-negotiable demand that we die to our dependence upon ourselves in our service to God. Then and only then can one be raised by Him to true life and service. The rule of the Kingdom in this regard is simply: *God’s Kingdom comes not through the “living” but through the resurrected dead.*

A. The seed Scattered

1. God’s command to go, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth” (Genesis 9:1). “Mankind is not to concentrate in some few spots but is to spread out so that the earth presents no unoccupied and uncultivated areas” (Leupold)
2. Man’s response: “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:4).
 - a. Man’s incorrigibility even after the Flood.
 - b. Man’s fear (lack of faith).
 - c. Man’s insanity, the thought that he might storm heaven.
 - d. Man’s insistence to make a name for himself, to take complete charge of his own destiny.
3. God’s judgment
 - a. “there the Lord confused the language of the whole world” (Genesis 11:9a)
 - b. “From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole world” (Genesis 11:9b).
 - c. The making of several nations should not be viewed as negative or as a punishment. Scattering and diversification were natural aspects of filling the earth. Language and cultural differences would have emerged naturally over time.
4. God’s mercy
 - a. “I have other sheep . . . I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd” (John 10:16). See John 11:52.

- b. “We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues” (Acts 2:11).
- B. The Seed Sent, God’s Call to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
 - 1. The call to be . . .
 - a. To be Blessed (Genesis 12:2-3)
 - (1) To be a great nation
 - (2) To have a great name
 - (3) To enjoy a great protection plan
 - (4) To rejoice in a great future
 - b. To be a blessing (12:2-3)
 - (1) Be a blessing to all
 - (2) Be a blessing now
 - (3) Be a blessing forever
 - 2. . . . and not to be (12:1)
 - a. A call to die
 - (1) No line (no protection)
 - (2) No heir
 - b. And to live by faith
 - 3. Abram’s response: “So Abram left as the Lord told him” (Genesis 12:4).

II Abraham's call to missions (Gen. 12:1–3)

A. God initiates in calling Abraham

- 1. Call includes being blessed
- 2. Call includes being a blessing

B. Call includes being a partner with God in mission (Gen. 18)

1. Shall I hide from Abram what I am about to do?
2. No, for I know him
3. And he shall instruct his children after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice

III God is the sole guarantor that world mission will be completed

A. "Fear not Abraham..." (Gen. 15:1)

1. Abraham had many good reasons to be afraid.
 - a. Made himself an enemy among some local leaders
 - b. Sarah was childless
 - c. Both advanced in years
2. God points Abram away from His hopeless situation
 - a. "I am your shield"
 - b. "I am your exceedingly great reward."
3. God binds himself to Abraham
 - a. God promises to make Abraham into a great nation
 - b. God promises to give the land of Canaan to Abraham

B. The covenant--God's symbol of commitment

1. "Behold the stars..." (Gen.15:5)
2. "Reckoned to him as righteousness..." (Gen. 15:6)
3. The cutting of the covenant (Gen. 15:8—21)
4. From Creation to Calvary

C. God's people's commitment to mission (Gen. 15:12—16)

IV Abraham's growth in faith

A. Dodging the bullet

1. Sara and the Pharaoh (Genesis 12)
 - a. How do you turn a bad situation into a good one?
 - b. Bride price
 - c. God intervenes
 2. Sarah, Abraham and Hagar (Genesis 16)
 - a. Doing God's work man's way.
 - b. What a mess.
- B. God restores (Genesis 17)
1. I am El Shadai, walk before me and be blameless
 2. Name change (sign of a new start)
 3. The covenant of circumcision
 - a. The need to die
 - b. And to live by faith alone.
- C. Abraham walks by faith (Genesis 22)
1. Take your son, your only son whom you love . . .
 2. Stay here, I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you
 3. Hebrews 11: He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.
- D. Our altar of sacrifice