

# Destiny and Dreamers: Abraham's Development

## How God develops us in the deserts

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>*

Pr 29:18 *"Where there is no vision (hāzôn: dream, perception) the people perish" (pāra': let go, drift)*

Isaiah 51:1-2 *"Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD:  
Look unto Abraham... for I called him..., and blessed him, and increased him."*

### Notice the Pattern/Process of God's Call:

#### 1. It starts with a (our) Dream/Hope.

A. Abram's dreams were nice, but Narrow!

B. He/We (and our dreams) are limited by our:

1) Perception (Clarity/Understanding) Eph. 4:18

2) Power (Ability) Phil. 4:13

3) Patience (Durability) Heb. 10:36

C. These limitations usually lead to frustrations. Gen. 11:30 *"But Sarai was barren..."*

#### 2. God reveals His Dreams/Hope for us.

A. God had much Bigger dreams for Him! Gen. 15:5,6

B. God has much Better Dreams for Him! Gen. 12:2,3

#### 3. God's Dreams have Directions *that are Purposeful and Progressive:*

(Gen. 12:1,2; Ps. 16:11; 32:8; 119:106)

#### 4. Expect Distractions, detours and delays that will come as result of:

A. Others who feel threatened by our journey. (Border Bullies)

B. Our own selfish, shortsighted nature. Gal. 5:17

#### 5. There'll be Inevitable Disappointments

A. We'll face some deserts in the pursuit of God's call that will produce:

1) Discouragement Gen. 12:10 "famine"

2) Doubt (about God and ourselves!) Ps 78:19

3) Danger. Dt 2:20 *"That also was a land of giants"* Heb 11:15 *"Opportunity to have returned..."*

#### 6. Critical Decisions (faith, family, feelings)

A. Choices we make in the "deserts of doubt" have consequences.

Joshua 24:15 *"Choose ye this day who ye will serve..."*

1Kgs 18:21 *"How long halt ye between two opinions?"*

Ro. 14:7 *"For none of us liveth to himself,..."*

Gal. 6:7 *"Whatever ye sow, that shall ye also reap"*

Dreams → Directions → Distractions → Disappointments → Decisions →

## 7. Development (of our Faith/Character)

A. Faith is **Revealed** in the difficult deserts of disappointment (James 1:2-5),  
*not in the delightful desserts of pleasure/prosperity!*

1) During such seasons we learn to recognize:

a) Who we are. b) Who God is. c) Whose plan and power is best!

2) Moses, (Ex. 3,4) Elijah (1 Kg 19), David (Ps 119:71), and Jesus modeled this! (Mt 4; Heb. 5:8)

Jn 8:31 *“Then said Jesus to those which believed on him: ‘If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, (about what/who?) and the truth shall make you free.’”* (from what/who?)

B. Faith is **Refined** in our disappointments. 1 Pt 1:6-8

1) God seeks to use the consequences of our decisions (good and bad) to develop our Faith in:

a) Who He is. (His Person/Nature) Jn 14:21

b) Who We are! (Our Position {in Him}) Jn 15

c) What He Wants. (His Plans for us.) Ro. 12:1,2

1 Peter 1:6-8 *“ye rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”*

C. Faith is **Requisite** to/for healthy relationships!

1) It's tied (related) to love! (1 Cor 13:13) *“Now abideth (meno: to stay!) Faith (pistis: reliance, dependence, trust) Hope (elpis: anticipation, expectation, confidence) Charity.”* (agape: benevolent love)

2) It's tested in (and through) hardships. Is 48:10,11 *“I have refined thee.. I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. For mine own sake ... will I do it: for how should my name be polluted?”*

Is anyone judging God by your actions and attitudes? (2 Sam. 12:14; Ro 2:24)

### Conclusion:

Ro. 8:28 *“All things work together (synerge'ō: cooperate) for good (agathos: to benefit) to them that love God, to them who are called (klētos': invited/appointed) according to his purpose.”* (Pro'thesis: intention)

What's God's ultimate intention/purpose? Prothesis comes from protith'ēmi, meaning: to send/set forth, exhibit! We are God's “Exhibit” to an unbelieving world!

1 Pt 2:9 *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth (exangellō: messenger {aka: exhibit, reveal}) the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”*

Because we're God's “Exhibits”, (messengers) He's actively at work to prepare us. (Mal. 3:17,18)

Ro. 8:29 *“for whom He did foreknow, he did also predestinate to be conformed to the image of his son. That he (Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brethren”*

### Application:

## Where are you in your faith Journey?

1) Still pursuing your own dreams?

2) Embracing God's Dreams for your life?

3) Honestly trying to Pursue God's Directions?

4) Distracted or delayed by “border bullies”?

5) Disappointed by delays or difficulty?

6) Teetering on the brink of Critical decisions? (Deciding “to follow Jesus” or yourself?)

7) Allowing (cooperating with) God to develop you? (Rev. 4:11; Heb. 11:6)

Are you willing to pursue God's Process for your Development toward His Purpose? Ro 12:1,2