

# Destiny and Dreamers: Abraham Pt 3

## How God develops us in the deserts

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>*

Pr 29:18 *"Where there is no vision (hāzôn: dream, perception) the people perish"* (pāra' : let go, drift)  
Satan's tries to poison our perception (2 Cor 4:4); *Turning our dreams into his nightmares.* (Jn 10:10)

Thankfully, God's a dream giver! (Jer. 29:11-13)

God created us for an "expected end" (Rev. 4:11) and encourages us to seek it (Him vs 12-14) and gives us examples to guide us. (1 Cor 10:11; Is. 51:1,2) In Abraham God reveals a Pattern and Process of how to Pursue Him and His Will.

### 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..."*

Usually after some frustrations and disappointments...

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

A. God had much **Bigger** dreams for Him!

1) Abram could see a small family of his own. God had something larger in mind! Gen. 15:5 ,6

B. God has much **Better** Dreams for Him!

1) Abram wanted a family to Bless; *God wanted Him to Bless the World!*

Gen 12:2-3 *"Thou shalt be a blessing... in thee shall all families be blessed!"*

God wants to bless you, so that you can be a blessing to others!

#### 3. God's Dreams come with **Directions:**

A. They're Purposeful Gen. 12:1a *"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred..."*

B. They're Progressive! Gen. 12:1 *"unto a land that I will shew thee:*

Ps 119:105 *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* (1 Jn 1:5-7)

#### 4. Expect Distractions, detours and delays.

A. Some will seek to distract and delay us as we purpose to pursue God's call.

1) Abram's family (Border Bullies) distracted and delayed him in "Haran".

2 Cor 6:14 *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"* (See Luke 14:25-35)

#### 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"*

(Battle for the Rescue of Lot in Gen. 14)

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

A. Choices we make in the “deserts of doubt” have consequences affecting us, and others. (Egypt, Sarah, Hagar, Lot, Isaac, etc)

Ro. 14:7 *“For none of us liveth to himself, ...”* Ro. 14:23 *“Whatsoever is not of faith is sin”.*

Gal. 6:7 *“Whatever ye sow, that shall ye also reap”* For good or evil!

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

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?”* (See 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