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ABRAHAM'S TENT BECOMES A CITY

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 94
HEBREWS 11:9-10

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HEBREWS 11:9-10 "By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Let's get a corrected translation of verses 6-8.

Verse 6

And without doctrine resident in the soul it is impossible to please God; for when one is occupied with The God (The perpetuation of super grace), he must be confirmed by doctrine resident in the soul that God is, and that he becomes a rewarder to those who diligently seek him.

Verse 7

By doctrine resident in the soul, Noah, being warned about things not being seen (the destruction of the earth by water) having been motivated by super grace occupation with Christ, he had constructed an ark for the purpose of the deliverance of his family, through which doctrine resident in the soul, he had condemned the world and had become heir of the righteousness pertaining to doctrine.

Verse 8

By doctrine resident in the soul, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed; to go out into a place which he would afterwards receive as an inheritance, and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

1. DEFINITION.

The Abrahamic Covenant is the compilation of all the promises God made to Abraham and to his descendants related to the glory road--including saving grace, living grace, super grace, dying grace and surpassing grace. From these promises a new race emerged, the Jews, and a new nation, Israel. A covenant is a disposition made by one party, God; and by another party, Abraham and his descendants. Therefore, a covenant requires two parties, one party favoring another party.

2. THE ORIGINAL ABRAHAMIC COVENANT IS IN GENESIS 12:1-3.

Paragraph one is a separation.

Paragraph two is a blessing.

Paragraph three includes some miscellaneous things.

In verse 2 we have a blessing to the nation, to Abraham personall plus a part of the super grace paragraph about Abraham being made great.

In verse 3 we have the miscellaneous things.

Blessing by association--"Bless those that bless thee."

The anti-semitism clause--"Curse those who curse you."

The Messianic blessing clause--"Through thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

3. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT INCLUDES AN ADDITIONAL PROMISE OF REAL ESTATE. (Genesis 13:14-16)
 This will be their possession in the future. Christ's return to this earth is the time when this is to be fulfilled. (Today they must fight for every foot of land they have, and it will be this way until Christ returns.) So the return of the Jew to his land is a part of the Millennium. (Now they have to seize and hold, but then it will be theirs forever.) Please remember--they are not holding that land today on the basis of the Abrahamic Covenant. They are holding it on the basis of the fact that the nation is a divine institution.
 Please notice that this land goes from the River Nile to the Euphrates, and from the Mediterranean Sea to Saudi Arabia. This is a very large piece of land. No Jewish nation has ever held that much land yet. The Jebusites held out against them for 1,000 years and David is the first one who ever captured it. Israel is where she is today because of the military. The Nation of Israel is a very fine nation and right now she is fighting for her life. But when the Jews move under the Abrahamic Covenant, then God will give them their land. And Abraham will not get his city until the Millennium. "Spears into pruning hooks" is a Millennial passage. Genesis 13:14-16 will be fulfilled in the Millennium. God said, "I will make your seed as the dust of the earth" and God will see to it that this will happen.
 In Genesis 15:18 the Hebrew word is in the perfect tense--"I have already given you this land." Please notice that in verse 19 the giants "Rephaims" are included and they will be pushed out. And the Jebusites, who resisted so long, are also included.
4. GOD PROMISED ABRAHAM A CITY SUSPENDED OVER THIS LAND.
 (Revelation 21:2) It is such a beautiful city it looks like a bride. In Rev. 21:10 it is described as coming down from God. This is a part of the promise God made to Abraham. (Abraham's decision to stay on the high ground was when he went to Mt. Moriah and tried to offer up his son.)
5. THIS COVENANT INCLUDES THE SEED OF ABRAHAM--HIS DESCENDANTS.
 (Genesis 22:15-18)
 here in verse 15 we see a message from heaven given to Abraham from Jesus Christ.
 Verse 16--Christ made an oath to Abraham on the basis of Abraham's performance on Mt. Moriah.
 Verse 17--"Therefore, I will greatly bless you." This is a part of that super grace paragraph God had prepared for Abraham. This is the spiritual seed of Abraham. The sand refers to the physical seed.
Verse 18
 All the earth has been receiving fulfillment of this verse for over 4,000 years, 2,000 years before Christ and 2,000 years since.
6. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT WAS REITERATED TO ISAAC.
 (Genesis 26:3-4)
7. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT WAS REITERATED TO JACOB.
 (Genesis 35:12)

8. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT WAS THE BASIS OF THE EXODUS DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL FROM EGYPT. (Exodus 6:2-8)

God says that he appeared as "el Shaddai" and this means GOD ALMIGHTY. It means "The many breasted one." The female breast is used as the provision of sustinance for the child and here, God is presented as the many breasted one.

Verse 4--This deliverance is going to be on the basis of this covenant.

Verse 5--This deliverance from Egypt after being there over 400 years was on the basis of this covenant. God always remembers. We forget, but God never forgets. This is the deliverance of God, and we call it the doctrine of God's deliverance and it has much to do with premillennial theology. They were a race in Egypt, but they did not become a nation until they were settled in Canaan under Joshua. This Egyptian deliverance came because God means to keep this covenant.

Verse 6 God went to tremendous lengths to deliver them. They dragged their feet and they had the wrong mental attitude. Moses has to be about the most dynamic leader God ever used. You recall that they all hit the panic button at the Red Sea.

Verses 7-8 God brought them out and this is a part of the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant and one day it will be completely fulfilled.

Now back to Hebrews 11:9.

HEBREWS 11:9 "By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:" We have the word "by faith" from pistis and it means "doctrine resident in the soul." It means "What is believed." Next we have "he sojourned" and this is an aorist, active, indicative of paroikeo and it means to dwell somewhere as a temporary resident. We use the word "transient." This is a constative aorist and gathers into one point of time all the years that Abraham was in the land. And this super grace sojourn is closely associated with his surpassing grace blessing that is coming. When Abraham got to be 99, he reached super grace and he held it all the way to the end. (This is Abraham's Philippians 3:12-14.) This is the thing that motivated Abraham to live in a tent. He was able, from the high ground of his super grace to see the coming surpassing grace blessing. From his vantage point in time, he could look over the golden drawbridge of dying grace and see the coming city. So thus far, in this sentence we have--"By means of doctrine resident in the soul, he lived as a temporary resident." He was just passing through to the permanent city, and that's why he lived in a tent. He could not force himself to build a castle (Even though he had the money with which to build it) but he left that to God and he knew God could build it much better than he could. (In this connection I was thinking about where we got the term "pup tents." In the union army, they had such little material they cut the tents down and gave a very small tent to each two soldiers. They could barely get under the tents and when the general came by to inspect them, they crawled out and began to bark at him. This is where we get the term "pup tents.")

Next we have "In the land of promise" and it is from eis ge and it means "with reference to the land." Then we have "of promise" from epaggelia and it means "The land of the Promise." Abraham was living as a transient and was not yet a citizen. Next we have hos plus the accusative singular of allogrios and it means "as to a foreign land." Then we have the word "dwelling" and this is an aorist, active, participle of katoikeo. This is a constative aorist and gathers into one point of time all the years Abraham spent in Canaan.

THE TENTS OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB

The Holy Spirit here reveals to us something very wonderful. All three of these men finally reached the high ground and held it. In a very real sense, we discover that Abraham was so great he actually pulled Isaac and Jacob along with him and helped them come to the high ground of super grace. Isaac and Jacob may be the best illustrations we have in the Bible about "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Both of these men were juvenile delinquents until they were about forty. About the only thing they didn't have was a motorcycle.

It says "In tents" from en skene.

1. Living in a tent was a testimony to the reality of surpassing grace blessings and rewards forever. (Go to Abraham and say to him, "What are you doing living in a tent?" and he will say back to you, "The reason I live in a tent is that I have a city." Then you will say, "I don't see any city!" and he will say, "No, you don't see it but I do and I'm going to wait for it.") Living in the tent was a testimony to the reality of the coming city. He wasn't going to build a city just for Sarah's sake and call it "Abrahamsville" and he wasn't going to build a beautiful suburb called "Sarahsville." Some wag may come along and say to Abraham, "Remember, you can't take it with you." Well, you don't have to take it with you for you've got something far better over there.
2. To live in a tent in Abraham's time was to invite disaster. People were just not safe in tents.
3. Wealthy people in the time of Abraham lived in stone houses surrounded by great walls. They had fortified castle towers behind battlements.
4. Tent walls were not protection from wild animals, bandits, and greedy armies that roamed the ancient world of his time.
5. However, Abraham's security was not in walls and fortifications and armed guards, but in doctrine and in The Lord. Millionaire Abraham in a tent, protected by the living God.
6. The reason for Abraham being in a tent will be amplified in the next verse.

So we have here in this verse these words, "By means of doctrine resident in the soul, he lived as a temporary resident with reference to the land, as to a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the joint heirs with him of the same promise."

Abraham was able to lift Isaac and Jacob into this realm of super grace. The rest of the Bible does not bring this out as clearly as it is brought out here. The Holy Spirit here lets us know that Isaac and Jacob finally made it to the high ground, and they never fell back. So we are never to give up on training. Train up the child in the right way and in time, the seed will come into a harvest.

We have the words "meta" and it means "with Isaac and Jacob" and that "meta" means that they are one day to have the same super grace that Abraham had.

1. This is an announcement by the Holy Spirit that the word of God never returns void.
2. This verse is as clear as the day in teaching that Isaac and Jacob moved into the line of this Abrahamic Covenant. All three of these men passed over the golden drawbridge of dying grace. The Holy Spirit turns the spotlight on the path of Isaac and Jacob as nowhere else in all the rest of the Word of God. It says, "Heirs with him" and the word is sugkleronomos and it means joint heirs. Heirs of the same promise. So the ABRAHAMIC COVENANT HAS EXACTLY THE SAME MEANING FOR ISAAC AND JACOB AS IT HAS FOR ABRAHAM. "Of the same promise" means that all men gained the high ground. It is very strong language--THE VERY SAME PROMISE.