



Sermon Series: Promises We Can Count On

To be used with Session 3: God's Promise of Blessing

Sermon Title Possibilities: "Made" For Greatness

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study "Promises We Can Count On," this sermon examines how God imparts information, communicates explanations, and initiates expansion. In Genesis 12, God seeks out someone who will heed His word. The Tower of Babel incident in Genesis 11 exposed the darkest aspects of the creation that God had declared good. Nevertheless, God, in His faithfulness, reaches out to Abram once more, establishing a lasting bond with the promise of generational blessings. This sermon explores the unique relationship between God and Abraham, unveiling the intended vision God orchestrated for humanity's continual connection, along with His method for informing, explaining, and expanding upon it.

Introduction: Dubbed the "super-sub" by the local sportswriter, the sophomore basketball sensation gained recognition for her remarkable ability to come off the bench and score points for her team. Known as the "super-sub" by friends, teachers, principals, and family members, she became renowned throughout the region. However, her head coach hoped for her to become a starter rather than remain on the bench. Despite the respect for her coach, she declined the offer and continued embracing her role as a "super-sub", unwilling to relinquish the title in pursuit of becoming a starter. In today's text, we encounter a remarkable plan for Abram and his family—a promise of abundant blessings and blessings stretching far into the future. Yet, Abram had to be willing to place his trust in God and leave behind everything familiar to pursue a future he could not see. This sermon may unsettle individuals who failed to reach their full potential due to their fear of leaving behind the familiar to walk by faith. Greatness comes with a price that many are unwilling to pay—a price that includes comfort, familiarity, and even routine. However, just as God communicated with Abram, He continues to communicate with us, inviting us to join Him in the miraculous. May we be bold enough to recognize that we were indeed "Made for Greatness."

- **The Information (Genesis 12:1).**

The Bible, spanning over 31,000 verses, is a treasure trove of guidance and wisdom for those journeying with God. It serves as a rich source of strength, hope, and direction for navigating life's complexities. To align with God's will, individuals often find themselves challenged to leave behind the familiar and embrace the path laid out by Him. Regrettably, many forfeit blessings by clinging to comfort rather than stepping into the unknown at God's prompting. Yet, within the pages of scripture, we find assurance that God leads His people—both in ancient times and today. As we walk alongside Christ, we are tasked with absorbing this invaluable information eagerly, processing it with hope and enthusiasm. In verse 1, Abram is being asked to do something many of us are unwilling to do, leave our family. Allegiance to the family can prevent us from walking where God wants us to be. Through obedience, we glean profound insights from the One who holds ultimate significance: God Himself. When we open our hearts to receive and act upon God's guidance, miraculous transformations unfold in our lives. His glory shines through the impossible feats He accomplishes, reminding us of His ever-present power and love. In embracing His word and obediently following His lead, we bear witness to the wonders of His divine presence.

- **The Explanation (Genesis 12:2).**

In Genesis 12:2, God's call to Abram to leave his family marks a crucial turning point. Despite the uncertainty, God provides an explanation by revealing His plan to Abram beforehand. While we may not always comprehend God's workings in our lives, we trust in His wisdom. Reflecting on God's guidance, we acknowledge His omniscience—His understanding surpasses ours, and His ways transcend our comprehension (Proverbs 3:5). This verse underscores the importance of placing unwavering trust in God and surrendering to His sovereign direction. We believe that God's guidance leads us to places of peace and renewal (Psalm 23). In Abram's journey, God promises to bless him abundantly and make him the patriarch of a great nation. Yet, blessings often necessitate sacrifices. Abram had to leave behind familiar ties and territory to pursue God's calling. While many crave blessings, they may overlook the sacrifices demanded. Consequently, some find themselves spiritually lacking or devoid of blessings altogether. It's vital to understand that following the Lord entails sacrifice. Just as resurrection follows crucifixion, embracing sacrifice paves the way for divine blessings and fulfillment of God's promises.

- **The Expansion (Genesis 12:3).**

Verse number two indeed outlines the blessings awaiting Abram, providing clarity on what he stands to gain. However, verse number three expands upon the impact of Abram's obedience, not just for himself but for all peoples on the Earth. It illustrates a remarkable concept—that one person's obedience to God can cause blessings to extend far beyond themselves. As Abram faithfully follows God's directives, the blessings of God begin to flourish not only within his own life but also throughout his family, his nation, and ultimately across the entire earth. This expansion underscores the profound ripple effect of God's blessings, permeating through one individual to reach countless others. Yet, this expansion of blessings hinges upon the willingness of one person to make sacrifices. It's a sobering reminder that earthly decisions can hold monumental consequences, impacting the lives of multitudes. We are challenged to reflect on our own readiness to make sacrifices for the greater good, knowing that our choices can profoundly influence the world around us. This verse echoes a familiar theme—the sacrificial nature of blessings. Just as Jesus Christ sacrificed himself for the redemption of humanity, so too are we called to sacrificially serve and obey God, thereby bringing blessings not only to ourselves but to all those around us. While this passage may appear simple, it carries within it the weight of destiny and the power of sacrificial obedience. It serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us that through our willingness to sacrifice, we can bring forth immense blessings that resonate throughout the earth.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, this passage of scripture serves as a reminder that receiving God's blessings often requires making sacrifices. Many struggle to let go, but those who do can experience a profound joy in Christ that not only impacts them but also radiates to others. Abram's decision to leave his family challenges us to consider what we are willing to sacrifice to fully embrace all that God has for us. Where have you made sacrifices in your own life? Just as God sacrificed His Son Jesus Christ for us, may we be willing to understand the significance of Jesus' sacrifice and share this knowledge with others. By doing so, we can contribute to the expansion of the kingdom of God and become beneficiaries of the eternal blessings that come from following Christ.

Author Bio

Dr. Mark Louis Johnson Sr. is an Assistant Professor of Evangelism and Pastoral Ministry and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. Additionally, he serves as the Interim Pastor of First Baptist Church of Kenner, Louisiana.