

Wow! What a perfectly beautiful Monday Morning! It seems only fitting that we celebrate it by letting The Spirit take us higher! Reflecting on the things that we talked about yesterday, I marveled at the goodness of God and the faithfulness of Abraham. So far as we know, Abraham was not asking to become “a father of many nations”, yet we are living proof of this “historicity” that we talked about

yesterday. I just think it’s such a cool word, and it carries such weight. As we noted, it means an historical authenticity; the characteristic of having existed in history. What we read of Abraham is not a story, it is a record. It tells us of a man who was born somewhere around 2100BC, several hundred years after the flood. It’s curious to note that in doing the math from the chronology of the genealogy, Abraham would have been around 10 or so when Noah died. Legend has it that he knew Noah, but that may be conjecture, let’s stick to the facts.

So, as far as we know Abram was not asking God to make him Abraham, the father of many nations”, (Gen 17:5), the father of our faith, the famous patriarch of the Hebrew people that would be the lineage of Jesus, The Son of David, The Messiah, The Son of God. But he obviously knew of El Shaddai, The Almighty God, or El Elyown, The Most High God, as He was known. And the only record of some qualification to this magnificent honor is that he would command, or charge, or train, his children after him so that they would keep the way of The LORD. (Gen 18:19) Which actually, if you look around today, is no small attribute. Anyway...

All of this is not a “story”, but a “record”. This is not mythology, but history. It’s a chronology of God dealing with men, establishing His Covenant in the earth, bringing about Jesus’ birth, The Son of God Who walked out the Covenant with Abraham, bringing into history the revelation the mystery of God! He validated the words of the Psalms and the prophets, and it took somewhere around 2000 years down from Abraham to get it done. So what’s the point?

Heb 6:12-15, “...be not sluggish (slothful, lazy), rather be imitators of those inheriting the promises through faith and *makrothumia*>longlasting enthusiasm. For God, in making His promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater to swear by, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so with long lasting enthusiasm he *epituchano*>hit upon the mark>gained the promise.” Abraham not only waited for 25 years to experience the birth of Isaac, He waited another 2000 years to see “The Seed” that would bless all the earth, Jesus! And look what Jesus said, “**Abraham rejoiced to see my day. He saw it and was glad.**” (Jn 8) Let that sink in. Not only did Jesus, the Son of God, established the historicity of Abraham, He let us know that God is not, “**the God of the dead, but the God of the living...**” (Mk 12:27) And let’s go one more, it’s possible for the “living” who have moved on to see what’s going on! Back to it.

Contrasting *epithumia*, from 2Pe 1:4, which had never produced a clear faith picture, with *makrothumia* from Heb 6:12 produced an important discovery. Digging deeper into *epithumia*, I found it not just, “upon desire”, “lust”. It is a picture of “yearning” or “longing”. And if you are yearning and longing, you’re not doing anything but whining or mourning, and that won’t get you anywhere. But long lasting enthusiasm keeps you fired up, full of vitality and expectation so that you can become a partaker of the divine nature, His Divine power, that has been bestowed on you, so that you lay hold to the promises of God! You escape the destruction or decay that comes from pinning away without faith and expectation! All that is wrapped up in 2Peter 1:2-4, but let me leave you with one more. “**And we should not grow weary in producing good, for in one’s own time we will reap if we don’t give up.**” (Ga 6:9).

Love never fails!

