

**Don't Neglect**

Shalom,

This week's Torah reading in **Genesis 18:1 - 22:24** is a portion called **Vayeira**, which means, **He Appeared**, and it relates a time when three visitors appeared to Abraham. The Complete Jewish Bible says in Genesis 18:1, "*Adonai appeared to Avraham by the oaks of Mamre...*" Abraham only saw three men, but the words "*Adonai appeared*" indicates that one of these was YHWH, and He was accompanied by two angels. Even though Abraham was unaware that God Himself, a pre-incarnate appearance of Yeshua, had come to his dwelling, he nonetheless treated these visitors with uncommon graciousness that indicates **a revealed knowledge of God's way of doing things**, or His instruction (Torah). He received the three strangers as his guests, showing them grace and hospitality by providing water so they might wash their feet, refresh themselves, and receive sustenance for their journey.

*Hebrews 13:2 (TLV) <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers—for in doing so, some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

**When God's Word tells us not to neglect something**, we need to understand that what He is telling us to do may be easily neglected, and that **it relates something that YHWH deems important**; for instance, He also tells us **not to neglect congregational meetings** (Hebrews 10:25). **Both verses have to do with ministry to others.** It is really easy to neglect very important areas in our life, and the reason it is so easy is because we don't perceive how important these areas are in developing us in God's plan for His covenant people, and there is a devil whose lies deemphasize the Word of God. It is clear to me that Abraham was aware that God had placed a great call upon his life, and **he was intent on fulfilling the call, not allowing circumstances or inconvenience to keep him from doing the will of God.**

*Genesis 12:2-3 (TLV) My heart's desire is to make you into a great nation, to bless you, to make your name great so that you may be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>My desire is to bless those who bless you, but whoever curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.*

Because he had heard God speak of His heart's desire for him, and how He intended to use him, Abraham was looking for **opportunities to be a blessing**. God had promised Abraham that all families of the earth would be blessed in Him. **That would certainly include those of his own house, his family, and local congregation, but also strangers he didn't know.** Certainly, prophetic fulfillment was speaking of far greater things than receiving guests and feeding them, and ministering to those of his own house, but that call on his life was not just for the future. **His call began to be evident in His life from the moment God spoke it to Him**, and as he received the Word of God, he took that call as the will of God, and he chose to receive the grace that was given him to allow the call to manifest. He began to **show favor** to others as **a lifestyle**, realizing that **his ministry was "to be a blessing."** He started with small acts of kindness and mercy, and God saw to it that greater opportunities were afforded him as he grew.

As YHWH spoke with Abraham, He told him that Isaac would be born to him and Sarah during the next year, their eyes were opened to the fact that they had welcomed God into their house. God not only spoke of the fulfillment of His promise to them, but **also shared the “outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah” because of Abraham’s place in the plan of God.**

*Genesis 18:16-19 (TLV) <sup>16</sup> Then the men got up from there and looked down over Sodom. Abraham was walking with them to send them off, <sup>17</sup> when Adonai said, "Should I keep secret from Abraham what I am about to do, <sup>18</sup> seeing that Abraham will most certainly become a great and mighty nation and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? <sup>19</sup> For I have made Myself known to him so that he will command his sons and his household after him to keep the way of Adonai by doing righteousness and justice, so that Adonai may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."*

**We can see that YHWH shared the impending judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah with Abraham because he had been obedient in not neglecting the things God had shown him by being faithful, not only to teach his children and household to follow the ways of the Lord, but he showed them by example in his daily life in dealing with his own household (congregation), in rescuing Lot and the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah from evil kings (Genesis 14), in the way he paid his tithes (Genesis 14:20), and by the way he ministered to strangers. In other words, whether it was in his daily routine or events that arose before him without warning, he maintained trust in the Lord and obedience to His instruction.**

As Abraham grew in understanding of the call God had placed upon Him, he became ready to be an intercessor on behalf of the righteous. As he walked with God, he began to exercise in the faith of God, and that had to include revelation into God’s will so that He was bold to plead with the Almighty God and speak **His word, which is His will**, “*Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*” (Genesis 18:25) I believe that **this boldness was birthed in him through the Word of God** which was spoken to him in Genesis 12:2, 3 “*thou shalt be a blessing*” and “*in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*” The Word says that, “*he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*” (Genesis 15:6). **Abraham was fulfilling the call of God upon his life when he prayed for the righteous.** He was already a blessing to those around him, because he trusted the call that God had placed upon him, and he was given corresponding grace to fulfill the call. **Praise the Lord that Abraham believed God, and that through him we have all been blessed in Yeshua.**

As we study the Word of God, and as we listen to the Spirit of God, it is clear that just as God had placed His call upon Abraham to be a blessing, we who walk in the faith of Abraham, have that same call upon our lives. **We are blessed and are to be a blessing!** Now, many who hear this relate to that call, but some think of it only in terms of being used for mighty works and signs and wonders. Praise God! These are things we should believe for, but realize that walking in the blessing, and being a blessing, must include what we often think of as small things, although if the Word of God says, “Don’t neglect...” they are not so small after all. Let us make use of all the

opportunities that the LORD brings into our lives, whether we see them as large or small. If we obey the Word and the voice of the Holy Spirit, we will be doing the works of God, and He will open doors of opportunity that will bring glory and honor unto Him.

*Galatians 6:10 (TLV) <sup>10</sup> Therefore, whenever we have an opportunity, let us do good toward all—especially those who belong to the household of faith.*

*Hebrews 13:16 (TLV) <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

Conforming to the call,  
Terry