

YEARS AGO ONE COLD JANUARY DAY AN ANNUAL DOG SLED RACE WAS HELD BY LAKE SUPERIOR. IT WAS A ONE-MILE COURSE ON THE ICE. THERE WERE FIR TREES STAKED IN THE ICE ALONG THE WAY. IT WAS FOR YOUNG BOYS. BIG AND SMALL SLEDS OF ALL SIZES WERE USED. SEVERAL DOGS PULLED EACH ONE. THERE WAS ONE SMALL BOY WITH A SMALL DOG PULLING HIS SLED. IMMEDIATELY HE FELL BEHIND WITH THE BIG BOYS IMMEDIATELY MOVING AHEAD.

AS THEY ROUNDED THE HALFWAY TURN ONE BOY WITH HIS SLED DOGS BEGAN PASSING ANOTHER – SUDDENLY THE DOGS BEGAN FIGHTING. ANOTHER SLED PASSED – THE DOGS JOINED THE FIGHT – AND ANOTHER. IN THE DISTANCE THE LITTLE BOY WITH HIS DOG SLED CAME INTO VIEW. HE FINALLY APPROACHED THE FIGHTING DOGS WITH THE SLEDS IN A TANGLE. HE PASSED THEM UP MOVING ON THE WIN THE RACE.

THE MORAL OF THE STORY –NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THE CHALLENGE OR HOW IMPOSSIBLE OR HOPELESS THE TASK MAY SEEM, IF YOU ARE REASONABLY SURE YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT COURSE, JUST KEEP ON GOING. DO YOUR BEST.

◀ 2009 GIVING OUR BEST

SCRIPTURE; **GEN 17:1** *WHEN ABRAM WAS NINETY-NINE YEARS OLD, THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM AND SAID, “I AM GOD ALMIGHTY; WALK BEFORE ME AND BE BLAMELESS. V2 I WILL CONFIRM MY COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND YOU AND WILL GREATLY INCREASE YOUR NUMBERS.”*

V3 *ABRAM FELL FACEDOWN, AND GOD SAID TO HIM, V4 “AS FOR ME, THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH YOU: YOU WILL BE THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS.*

V5 *NO LONGER WILL YOU BE CALLED ABRAM ; YOUR NAME WILL BE ABRAHAM, FOR I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS.*

V6 *I WILL MAKE YOU VERY FRUITFUL; I WILL MAKE NATIONS OF YOU, AND KINGS WILL COME FROM YOU. V7 I WILL ESTABLISH MY COVENANT AS AN EVERLASTING COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME, TO BE YOUR GOD AND THE GOD OF YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU*

V8 *THE WHOLE LAND OF CANAAN, WHERE YOU ARE NOW AN ALIEN, I WILL GIVE AS AN EVERLASTING POSSESSION TO YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD.”*

HOW CAN A BELIEVER GIVE HIS/HER BEST FOR GOD? ANSWER, “TO WALK WITH GOD”

IS IT A REQUEST? IS IT A SUGGESTION? IS IT A COMMAND? I THINK IT IS A REQUIREMENT - WHICH IS FOR OUR BEST.

THE STORY OF ABRAM WALKING WITH GOD BEGINS IN GEN 12 WITH GOD CALLING HIM TO LEAVE HIS HOME-LIFE IN UR (IRAQ?) – “GO WHERE I SHOW YOU & I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION AND BLESS YOU”. WE READ, “*ABE BELIEVED GOD AND IT WAS COUNTED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.*” ABRAM WAS AGE 75. A FEW YEARS LATER GOD CONFIRMED HIS PROMISE TO ABRAM & MADE A COVENANT WITH HIM - 15;1—“*DON’T FEAR ABE, I AM YOUR SHIELD – YOUR GREAT REWARD.*”

REMEMBER TODAY, THINGS ARE NOT OUR PROTECTION AND OUR REWARD, GOD IS. ABRAM QUESTIONED GOD, “*HOW CAN IT BE – I HAVE NO CHILDREN?*” THE LORD SAID, “*ABE, YOU WILL HAVE A SON FROM YOUR OWN BODY. LOOK UP AND COUNT THE STARS IF YOU CAN. THIS WILL BE YOUR REWARD AND BLESSING.*”

QUESTION, (HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO NUMBER THE STARS? THERE ARE 100 BILLION IN OUR GALAXY + 100 BILLION OTHER GALAXIES?

WHAT ARE THE PROMISES OF GOD TO US TODAY?

A FEW MORE YEARS PASSED BY - STILL NO CHILDREN. SARAH – HIS WIFE SAID, “TAKE MY MAID, HAVE A CHILD WITH HER.” HE DID – HAGAR BECAME PREGNANT - IMMEDIATELY SARAH & HAGAR SOON HATED EACH OTHER. CHILDREN COMING INTO FAMILIES THROUGH SUCH SITUATIONS WHEN IT NOT GOD’S WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS AND DIVISION. ISHMAEL WAS BORN – HIS BIRTH CAUSED PROBLEMS THEN – AND STILL TODAY. HE IS THE FATHER OF THE ARABS WHO ARE CAUSING GREAT CONFLICT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

ABRAM WAS 87 YEARS OF AGE. TIME CONTINUED TO PASS, STILL NO CHILD. ABRAM WAS NOW 99 YEARS OLD.

IN GEN. 17:1 WE READ, “I AM GOD ALMIGHTY, (EL SHADDAH) WALK BEFORE ME AND BE BLAMELESS.” THE KING JAMES VERSION READS, “BE PERFECT.” “I WILL CONFIRM MY COVENANT AND WILL GREATLY INCREASE YOUR NUMBERS.”

ONE YEAR LATER, WHEN ABRAM WAS 100 YEARS OF AGE AND SARAH WAS 90 - IT HAPPENED - THE PROMISED SON – ISAAC WAS BORN. TWENTY-FIVE LONG YEARS HAD PASSED BY. BUT GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO GIVE HIS PROMISE. THIS WAS ABRAM’S CALL AND WALKING WITH GOD.

TODAY LET’S LOOK AT SOME TRUTHS CONCERNING WALKING.

* GOD MADE THE CALL, “WALK BEFORE ME” OR WITH ME.

*** TODAY, GOD CALLS US TO WALK WITH HIM.

QUESTION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WALK W/ GOD, OR WITH ANYONE?

A- IT MEANS, TO BE GOING THE SAME DIRECTION AND HAVING THE SAME PURPOSE, GOING WHERE GOD WANTS US TO GO. LIKE ABRAM WE SOMETIMES DON’T KNOW WHERE HE WANTS US TO GO, BUT WE MUST BE WILLING TO FOLLOW HIM EACH DAY AND MOVE IN THE SAME DIRECTION HE IS GOING.

B- IT MEANS, CONVERSING - TALKING WITH HIM,

ABRAHAM TALKED WITH GOD ALONG THE WAY. THIS WAS HOW HE KNEW GOD’S PROMISES, HIS WILL AND HIS PLAN. WE ABSOLUTELY MUST SPEND VALUABLE TIME WITH OUR GOD AS WE WALK EACH DAY. HE WILL TALK, AND HE WILL LISTEN AS WE TALK.

I WAS LOOKING AT A BOOK AT MY DAUGHTER’S HOUSE THE OTHER DAY. THE SECTION WAS, “HOW TO STAY MARRIED FOR LIFE.” ONE HINT WAS, “ALWAYS KEEP YOUR COMMUNICATION OPEN AND HONEST.”

WE MUST ALWAYS KEEP THE COMMUNICATIONS OPEN WITH OUR LORD AS WE WALK WITH HIM.

C- IT MEANS, KEEPING UP W/ HIM, NOT LAGGING HAVE YOU EVER LAGGED BEHIND WHERE THE LORD WANTS YOU TO BE? TODAY, ARE YOU UP TO WHERE THE LORD WANTS YOU TO BE?

WHY DO PEOPLE LAG BEHIND? TOO TIRED? TOO INTERESTED IN SOMETHING ELSE BACK THERE? JUST NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT HE HAS TO TALK ABOUT.

JESUS NEVER EXPECTS US TO DO MORE THAN WE CAN DO OR KNOW HOW TO DO. HE DOESN'T CARE WHAT OUR IQ IS OR HOW SMART WE ARE. HE ONLY ASKS THAT WE KEEP PACE WITH HIM.

WHEN I WAS TOO LITTLE TO KEEP UP WITH MY MOM AND SISTERS AS WE WENT TO CHURCH THEY USED TO CARRY ME, BUT AS I GREW OLDER, I BECAME RESPONSIBLE TO KEEP UP FOR MYSELF.

D- IT MEANS, NOT GETTING AHEAD OF HIM, BUT KEEPING PACE.

HEALTH EXPERTS SAY, WE NEED TO WALK 6,000 TO 10,000 STEPS A DAY FOR GOOD HEALTH. 1 MILE = APPROXIMATELY 2,500 STEPS. WE NEED TO WALK 3 – 4 MILES A DAY.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OR BENEFITS OF WALKING WITH GOD?

A- WALKING IS HEALTHY AND GOOD FOR ABSOLUTELY IN YOUR BODY.

I READ IN A BOOK MANY YEARS AGO, IF WALKING COULD BE MADE INTO A PILL, IT WOULD BE THE MIRACLE PILL OF THE AGES.

Q- WHAT IF THERE WAS A PILL THAT WAS GOOD FOR HEADACHES, ARTHRITIS, PINK EYE, A COLDS, SORE THROAT, GOUT, ACID REFLUX, DIABETES, CANCER, & HEART PROBLEMS.

WHAT A PILL???

AS PHYSICAL WALKING IS GOOD FOR MOST EVERYTHING IN OUR BODIES, SO WALKING WITH GOD BUILDS US UP IN ALL WAYS IN LIFE.

MAY GOD'S PROMISES BE FULFILLED IN YOUR LIFE AND MAY HIS BLESSINGS BE ON YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN THE DAYS TO COME THIS YEAR.