

WEEK 9

CALL TO OBEIDENCE

Obedience is an act of following the laid down rules and regulations. A person who keeps the words of God in his/her heart and does the will of God is obedient. Obedience should reflect in every area of our life – at home, in school, in the church and the society. When we are obedient, things will go well with our society and us.

ABRAHAM OBEYS GOD (GENESIS 12:1-9)

Abraham was living in Ur of the Chaldeans, his father's land. God called him to leave his father's land for a land He (God) would show him. God made a covenant with Abraham in which He promised the following:

- God promised to make Abraham a great nation
- He would make him a blessing to all nations
- He would bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him
- All the families of the world shall be blessed through him.

Abraham obeyed God. He left with his wife Sarah and Lot who was the son of his brother. When he got to Canaan, God repeated the promises He had initially made to Abraham. Abraham accepted the promises of God with faith though he and his wife had not got any children at the time. He was seventy-five years old at that time. We must learn from Abraham to obey God always. We must imbibe the habit of obedience at school, at home and in society. As students, we must obey our parents; we must also obey the government and the leaders in our community.

BLESSING FROM OBEYING GOD'S CALL (GENESIS 12:1-9)

God fulfilled all the promises he made to Abraham because Abraham obeyed Him. The blessings Abraham received from God for his obedience is:

1. God made Abraham a great nation. The Jews and Arabs are descendants of Abraham.
2. God blessed Abraham
3. He made his name great
4. He made him a blessing
5. He blessed those who blessed him
6. God cursed those who cursed Abraham
7. God blessed all nations through Abraham. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, the Saviour of the world descended from Abraham.
8. Ultimately, God ended the barrenness of Abraham and his wife, Sarah by giving them a son named Isaac.

THE BIRTH OF ISAAC (GENESIS 21 L 1-3)

On a particular day, Abraham was under a tree when three visitors came to him. Abraham attended properly to the three visitors and entertained them. They thereafter asked for his wife and said the wife would bear him a son. Because Sarah was old and already past the age of childbearing, she laughed. However, Sarah eventually conceived and gave birth to a male child. Abraham named the son Isaac. Abraham then circumcised his son, Isaac when he was eight days old.

ABRAHAM DEMONSTRATES HIS OBEDIENCE IN THE SACRIFICE OF ISAAC (GENESIS 22:1-8)

God put the faith of Abraham to test after he had blessed him with a son. God said to Abraham one day, "Take your son, only son Isaac whom you love and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I will tell you." Abraham rose early; he obeyed God. He took along two of his young men with him. He dressed his ass and asked Isaac to follow him. He took some wood and knife while they embarked on the journey to Mount Moriah. The journey took them three days.

Abraham, after locating the mountain, asked his two servants to stay with the ass while he and Isaac went to the mountain to worship. Meanwhile, as they were going, Isaac asked his father, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Abraham answered Isaac and said, "God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son". As soon as they reached the mountain, Abraham prepared an altar; he laid the wood and tied Isaac, his son on the wood. Just as he took the knife to slay the son, an angel of the Lord called him from heaven and commanded him not to lay his hand on the boy because it was clear that he feared God. Behold, as Abraham lifted his eyes, he saw a ram behind him and he offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham then called the name of the place Jehovah Jireh meaning "the Lord will provide".

As a result of the great faith demonstrated by Abraham, the angel of God called him a second time from heaven and said, "By myself, I have sworn... because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you.." The act of faith and obedience demonstrated by Abraham made the following blessings from God to be permanently pronounced upon him:

- Abraham became the father of nations
- God changed his name from Abram which means a stranger to Abraham which means the father of nations.
- Abraham occupied the land of Canaan permanently. All these are contained in Genesis 17:5-8.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Explain how Abraham demonstrated his obedience to God.