

A GESTURE OF POSSESSION

1.

Genesis 13:14-18; Job 1:6-7

*BACKGROUND: In the 12th chapter of Genesis we hear the Lord saying to Abram, (1) “get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from your father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: (2) And not only that Abram, I will make thee a great nation and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shall be a blessing: (3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curse thee: and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.” Gen. 12:1-3.

Theme: A GESTURE OF POSSESSION

A. What is a “gesture?” Webster’s dictionary considers a “gesture” a “Verb/action word.

*Definition of “gesture” is two-fold:

(1) “a *movement* of the body or limbs, such as a wave, or a shrug, body language.”

(2) “a *visible sign, or symbol* of something that is *invisible*.” In our text today, we are going to find God, through Abram, making a “gesture,” a movement, a “visible sign of something invisible.” *THUS, our THEME: “A Gesture (movement) of Possession (Ownership). *Keys, purse, car, house/home*

B. As we know, God created Israel for *His Glory in the earth*. God created Israel to be “a *Royal Diadem*” (*Crown*) In His hand, from which God would rule and reign on this *earth*. *His Kingdom on and over this earth* is to be *established in Israel*. God's *righteousness* was to go forth from His nation (*Israel*) unto all the earth, along with *His Salvation for the nations* which will deliver them from the face of Satan’s usurped dominion.

C. This, after all, is God's *purpose* in separating Abram unto Himself & establishing a binding agreement/covenant with Abram to make him a “great nation.” **The destruction of Satan's plan of evil on this earth, along with the re-establishment of the Kingdom of God, is to be accomplished through God's own creation, the nation Israel.*

*In the 13th chapter of Genesis, God had Abram perform a “*particular action*” (gesture, movement) once he came into the land. *And we will see this *particular action*, (was 1 of many) in a special way, emphasized & confirmed God's purpose with the nation of Israel.

D. *Abram obeyed God*, and as he entered the *land of Canaan*, God instructed Abram to do something special. On the surface this might not appear significant, but in fact it was very meaningful, in view of God's purpose. *What did God instruct Abram to do?

*God instructed Abram to *not only survey (examine) this land of Canaan, but to walk through it, in its length and breadth (width)*. *READ: Gen. 13:14-17*

2.

A. *What God was doing* in directing Abram to survey the land, *especially by walking through it*, was in connection with the fact that God was now giving this land to Abram and his seed as a *possession*. *Yes, the *gesture* of Abram walking through the land (the movement of Abrams body and limbs as he marked off the territory) was a *visible sign (Symbolic)*, of the *Invisible Plan of God that He had for the re-possession of the earth*.

B. *God was making Abram the possessor of this land*, (which in reality), was already in the possession of the Canaanites, and therefore was part of *Satan's usurped domain*. Cf. Gen. 12:6; 13:7. *God knew what He was doing!) This portion of land was the part of Satan's domain where he had apparently established the *hotbed* for the spreading of all his ungodly abominations (wickedness.)

C. Case & Point: *The vileness and wickedness of the Canaanites is repeatedly referred to by God, along with the exceedingly great wickedness of those of Sodom and Gomorrah*. *By claiming this land for Himself and bringing Abram into it, *God was bringing the battle to Satan, right into the very heart where he was concentrating his strength!* *God was in fact *repossessing a portion of the earth from Satan's Dominion & was giving it unto Abram for his possession*.

D. Having Abram *walk through this land* was something God had Abram do, as a *gesture of possession (movement of ownership)*. *God was giving the land to Abram and his seed and was having Abram *conduct himself* as one who was taking possession of it.

By *walking up and down in the earth*, Abram conducted himself as the *new owner* of the land, the one into whose *possession* it had now come by God giving it to him.

E. *The *idea* that is being conveyed here, of having Abram perform this *gesture of possession*, is readily appreciated when it is fully understood that Satan himself has been performing a similar *gesture of possession* regarding the whole earth since the day he *usurped* its dominion from Adam.

*Satan has been walking up and down and to and fro in the earth, as a constant reminder of the fact, that he is the one in possession of it!!

*Job 1:6-7; (6) "Now there was a day when the sons of God (Angels) came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan (Adversary) came also among them. (7) And the Lord said unto Satan, whence, comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, from going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

*Job 2:1 *NOTICE: "And Satan came also among them to present HIMSELF before the LORD." ** QUESTION: Why does this vs. add: "SATAN PRESENTING HIMSELF?"

3.

A. Satan was *not* just going for a walk in the park, folks. On the contrary, Satan's conduct was consistent with *who he was* as the "Prince of the world." By going "to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it," Satan was examining, surveying & admiring his possession, and was conducting himself as the one who was the *possessor of the earth*.

*Satan himself, was performing *the gesture of possession*. By constantly doing so, and by answering the Lord in such a manner, *Satan was also flaunting (showing off) before the LORD (throwing in his face) that this is just who he is---- the possessor of the earth.*

SIDEBAR: *No wonder the Lord said to Satan (1:8; 2:3) "have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one who feareth God, and resists evil?" *The Point Is This: For there in the midst of Satan's usurped dominion, and the midst of his policy of evil, *was a man who was not following Satan's course for this world*. Job instead feared God and turn away from evil & kept his integrity (honesty").

B. Satan himself, was *walking up and down in the earth* being *who he was*, the usurped *possessor of the earth*. 1 Peter 5:8; is making reference to "the enemy" prowling about. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour. *BUT GOD, had a *counter plan* for the *repossession of the earth*. *And with the call of Abram, God had Abram to walk through the length and the width of the land that he was going to give to him for a possession. READ Gen.13:17.

C. Again, by so doing God was repossessing a portion of Satan's usurped dominion unto Himself, and Abram was performing the *gesture of that possession*.

*It is important to see, that God also had in this land, which He was now giving unto Abram, a Godly MAN who stood for Who HE truly was as the "Most High God, Possessor of Heaven & Earth." This Man's name was MELCHIZEDEK, KING of SALEM. "Priest, of the Most High God." Melchizedek blessed Abram in accordance with God's plan and purpose with him. *READ: Genesis 14:18-20*

D. God, in connection with his repossession plans established Melchizedek in the land. By his priestly function and by his presence, he gave testimony to the true "most High" in the midst of the very ones who were following the "course of this world" charted by the one (Satan) who desired to be like the "most High."

Melchizedek stood for *who* the "most High," the "possessor of heaven and earth" truly was, in the midst of Satan's usurped domain. He was there in connection with God's battle with Satan's plan of evil on the earth. God would create His own nation, the N.O.I. through which God would establish His Kingdom on this earth.

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