

# **PASTOR RAY'S BIBLE SCHOOL**

## **KINGDOM NATION**

### **Session Four**

#### **“The Call Is All”**

##### **I. Kingdom Nation**

###### **A. Spiritual Genealogy**

1. Our course is focusing on the identification of God's transcendent, overarching blueprint of redemption for an innumerable company of the “Redeemed”.

2. This plan was established before the “foundation of the world”, (Ephesians 4:1-4; Revelation 13:8; 17:8), and is finally revealed its fulness at the Throne of the Final Judgment, described by Jesus in Matthew 25:31-34)

3. Picture a “tree of life” like a drawing on a paper: Underground, beneath all, is the “seed of the woman”, Who is Christ. The root system consists of Abel and his line, including the antediluvian saints, such as Enoch, the Noahic line through Shem, etc. Then all comes “above ground”, so to speak, in Genesis 12, with the call of Abraham. In this metaphor, Abraham, Isaac Jacob and the 12 tribes of Israel would be the “trunk” of the tree, and the “Church’ would be represented in the fulness of the branches and its fruit. In this scheme, ALL are ONE, vitally and organically connected to the “seed”, The Word, the Son of God! (This metaphor is consistent with Paul's explanation of the relationship of Israel and the Church in Romans 9-11).

4. This “tree of life”, the “Kingdom Nation” of God, finds its roots in the Bible character Abraham.

###### **B. Covenant Theology And Federalism**

1. In Dispensational Theology, God deals with man in 7 different ways during 7 different times in history.

2. However, in CT, God deals with man on one basis, consistently, in OT and NT...the basis of COVENANT.

3. Covenant Theology is based on “Federalism”, the concept that God deals with a REPRESENTATIVE, who ACTS ON BEHALF of those represented.

a. Our “Federal” Government was constructed to work in this way...that elected officials would act for, or on behalf of, those they represent.

4. The Bible clearly teaches that ADAM and CHRIST are the two “Federal Heads” or “Fathers” of their respective people, and that God deals with Adam and Christ in accordance with the Covenants He made with each.

a. Adam in the Garden, acted not only for himself, but on behalf of his race, plunging himself and his offspring into “spiritual death”, or separation from God.

b. On the other hand, Christ (in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the Cross), acted not only for Himself, but also ON BEHALF of ALL those who would believe in Him.

c. In each case, BY ONE MAN came the result of his action upon his descendants!

5. The clearest presentation of this important doctrine is excerpted from Romans 5:12-21 here:

**12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 15 But...so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.**

**KJV (Emphasis added)**

6. Now we can better understand the concept of how Abraham, the “root” or “trunk” of the “family tree” of the redeemed is called the “father” of all them that believe. Abraham is a representative MODEL to all those in Christ!

## **B. The Gospel Preached To Abraham (Galatians 5:8)**

1. Dispensational Theology, by its very nature, creates discontinuity in the minds of its adherents, disconnecting NT believers from OT believers, whereas the scriptures continually encourage NT believers that we are of the same faith as Abraham and all of believing Israel.

Consider Galatians 3:5-9, especially v.8, which clearly states that the Gospel was preached to Abraham!

**5 Does He then, who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 6 Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the nations shall be blessed in you." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.**  
Galatians 3:5-9 NASB

2. Here Paul tells the Gentiles at Galatia that Abraham is their “father”; that the Gospel they had heard and believed WAS PREACHED TO ABRAHAM in his day, over 1500 years before the birth of Christ!

3. Galatians 3:8 directly references Genesis 12:1-3. And unless there are two “Gospels”, we may joyfully embrace God’s “calling” of Abraham as the same Gospel by which we are saved, in “seed form”!

4. The *first* and *greatest* thing we *all* share with Abraham is being *CALLED* of God!

## II. The Call Is All

### A. Back To Our Beginnings

1. Gen 12:1-4

“Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4 So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him...”  
NASB

2. According to Galatians 3, this IS the Gospel, in “seed form”!

a. *The Gospel, from the human perspective, is first and foremost, A CALL!*

3. Pause here and consider the context of Genesis 12 is Genesis 11, where Nimrod was busy building the city of Babylon. In dramatic contrast, we are introduced to Abraham, of whom we read later:

**8 By faith Abraham, when he was *called*, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.**

a. The student is invited to consider further meditations on this passage, especially regarding the identity of the “city” Abraham was looking for. (A rich study)

4. Notice this: IT ALL STARTS WITH THE CALL...THE CALL IS ALL!

## **B. The “Golden Chain Of Redemption”: A Shared Experience**

1. The Apostle Paul presents the “Golden Chain Of Redemption”, which applies to ALL the truly redeemed of all the ages, in 5 inseparable, immutable “links”. They are:

***Foreknown>Predestined>Called>Justified>Glorified***

**28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.**

**Romans 8:28-30 KJV (My emphasis added)**

2. Notice:

a. All these are VERBS in the AORIST TENSE (in Greek), which is the perfect past sense! Sometimes called the “snapshot” tense because it indicates things that have already happened, “captured” in a picture, it means that IN THE MIND, PLAN AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, these things have ALREADY HAPPENED! It means they are SURE.

b. *ALL* that is said applies to *ALL* who are referred to!

c. Notice that the first 2 “links”, occur before the foundation of the world, and the last of the links occurs in the future, at the end of the present world system.

d. Only TWO of these “links” occur (in our experience) in the present age, And the first is CALLING!

3. Our understanding of “Predestination” and “Election” may be lacking, but surely not our understanding of being the “CALLED” of God!

4. How God “foreknows” and how He “predestines” (“elects” or “chooses”) may be total mysteries to us...but we ought to be completely connected with His “Call”!

### **C. The Call Is At The Core**

1. The very “center”, or core of the shared experience of the Kingdom Nation is the “Call”. It is fundamental to the life of faith.

2. Calling, in Hebrew, carries the same simple, straightforward meaning as our English word. To “call” someone is simply to catch someone’s ear for a reason!

**“Calling is the truth that God call us to Himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism, and direction lived out as a response to his summons and service.”**

**Os Guinness, “The Call”, Word Publishing**

3. Everything begins for Abraham, and us, with the Call.

- In the Bible, to “call” can mean “to name” someone or something, as in “God called the light ‘day’ and the darkness He called ‘light’; or when God called Israel, He was thereby naming them as His own.
- Calling, in the New Testament, is synonymous with salvation. The term “church”, in Greek, is “ek” + “klesia”, literally meaning “called-out ones”!
- Besides the “primary call” to salvation, the Bible says we are ‘called’ to peace, to fellowship, and to service.

4. The “first call” to the Disciples was *“Follow Me”*...and there was so much power in those 2 words that, when obeyed, ALL things changed!

### **D. How Do You See “Calling”?**

1. God’s “call” to Abraham was “Come out”; Jesus’ call to His disciples was “follow Me”. So how do you see these callings?

- Summons? Or Invitation?
- Law? Or Grace?
- Demand? Or Offer?

2. How we see it depends on how we see the “Caller”: If we see God as, well, GOD...it’s the first in each group; If we see God as One who is giving a party and “calling” for guests to voluntarily attend, it’s the second choice in each group.

3. But two things are clear:

- The “Call” is primarily a summons, a law or demand
- However, there is a dimension of God’s call that is an invitation, a grace, or an offer

But in the end, we can assure ourselves that the nature of the “Caller” makes the Call itself something that is to be OBEYED or DISOBEYED!

**Matt 22:1-10**

22 And Jesus answered and spoke unto them again by parables, and said,  
2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,  
3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.  
4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.  
5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:  
6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.  
7 But when the king heard of it, he was angry: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.  
8 Then he said to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.  
9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.  
10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

**KJV**

4. It seems clear that the invitation or “call” to the Feast equated with the Gospel invitation to salvation; that not all who are called actually come; and begs the theological question, “why doesn’t EVERYBODY come?”\*

5. The Reformed Doctrine of “Effectual Calling” finds the answer in Jesus words that conclude the parable...

**“For many are called, but few are chosen.”**

**Matthew 22:14**

- a. That there is a difference between the GENERAL call and the EFFECTUAL call
- b. The “general” call goes out to all-this represents our being “sent forth” as God’s servants to “bid all to come”.
- c. Experience teaches us that not everyone comes; indeed, compared to the vast number of those we “call”, FEW respond

d. Jesus seems to be saying that the obedient response of those who DO come to the King is based on the fact that they were “chosen”. This would be consistent with Romans 8:29-30, which declares that the “call” to the Redeemed was preceded by being “chosen” (foreknown), and obedience to the call actually confirms that that is the case!

e. To embrace the truth of the “Golden Chain Of Redemption” is good and brings great comfort. Perversion of this doctrine can lead to spiritual pride, arrogance and in some cases, false presumption or false assurance. To pervert the precious doctrine of the “perseverance of the saints”, (popularized in the phrase “once saved, always saved”), is especially dishonoring to God, since the truly redeemed never assume their safety in a way that belies their profession!

**“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall...”**  
**2 Peter 1:10 KJV**

**2 Peter 1:10-11, in the New Living Translation says:**

**10 So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. 11 Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

6. But the truly redeemed of all the ages share much more with Abraham than just “hearing” the call! We share the fact that God has given us the GRACE to RESPOND in OBEDIENCE!

## **II. The Call To Obedience**

### **A. The Key To The Call**

1. God’s choice of Abraham is shrouded in the mystery of His sovereign will regarding election; nevertheless, the effectual nature of the “Call” of God had to be VERIFIED by OBEDIENCE!

**Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you...So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him...”**  
**Excerpted from Genesis 12:1,4**

**Heb 11:8**

**8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out,**  
**KJV**

2. It’s critical to see how OBEDIENCE cannot be separated from salvation.

3. Abraham is the “father” of “all them that believe” *in the way Abraham believed!* We must not miss this! True faith is action! The call must be OBEYED.

**“...faith without works is dead.”**

**James 2:20**

4. The faith of Abraham was validated by his OBEDIENCE to the call, and we can connect the dots with the New Testament call to discipleship!

**18 And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 And they immediately left the nets, and followed Him. 21 And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. 22 And they immediately left the boat and their father, and followed Him.**

**Matthew 4:18-22 NASB**

5. The “Kingdom Nation” of the Redeemed of all the ages, Abraham through the Gospels and up to today, is identified by OBEDIENCE to the King!

6. The power of an effectual calling is that it carries with it a faith-impartation that facilitates obedience!

**6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

**2 Thessalonians 1:6-8 KJV**

**17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?**

**1 Peter 4:17 KJV**

**5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: 6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:**

**Romans 1:5-6 KJV**

7. While we’ve already stipulated the “Call” of God has an “invitation” dimension to it, how can we possibly fail to see that the PRIMARY meaning of Calling is as a COMMAND or a SUMMONS?



a. By reducing the Gospel and the genuine faith of Abraham to the level of a plea or “offer” of salvation from God have we not encouraged the “mixture” within the Church?

### **III. Conclusion:**

#### **A. Re-Framing The Faith**

1. The Kingdom-Nation course has now prepared us for an amazing experience: relating to Abraham as our “father” and extracting revelation from his life and his “walk of faith” that can better equip us for spiritual success.

2. In the next cycle, we’ll actually “walk in the steps of the faith of Abraham”, and connect the dots of our lives in practical ways that reflect the Abrahamic model!

1.