



Pastor Scott Velain

## **Genesis Chapter 12c**

### **Abraham, Law, Israel and Separation**

Last week as we ventured into the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Genesis we spoke about several different things. One of the things we spoke about was how men had begun to make covenants between themselves before our Father's law was given at Mt. Sinai, and we learned that through the pagan practices that they had become accustomed to... when they made covenants with each other they had established all kinds of different rituals and traditions concerning covenant making. Back then men would cut themselves and then hold the two wounds together in order to mix their blood when they made a covenant with each other, and in some cultures, they would even suck the blood out of each other's wounds when making a covenant between each other. And we spoke about how our Father in Heaven took what men were already doing and incorporated it into the law that he gave at mount Sinai.

Before we go any farther I want to make it extremely clear that our Father in Heaven does not condone us cutting our bodies for any reason. Nor does our Father in Heaven condone drinking blood for any reason. These were pagan things that men were doing before our Father in Heaven gave the law at mount Sinai. Once our Father in Heaven gave the law at mount Sinai, he incorporated the slaughtering of animals for the remission of sin, so that man would understand that sin leads to death. It was important for our Father in Heaven to make it abundantly clear to his creation, what sin was, and that the wages of sin was death. And so, it's important to understand as modern-day Christians what the biblical definition of sin is, and why animals were put to death during the sacrificial atonement for sin.

The first thing that we must understand is the biblical definition of "sin". Exactly what is "sin" according to our Scripture? How does the Bible itself define "sin"? Let's turn to first John chapter 3 verse four:

*1Jn 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

So, if we allow the Bible to define the Bible itself... we can clearly see, know, and understand, that "sin" is "the transgression of the law." I want us to think about that for just a moment. If sin is the transgression of the law... then the law must exist in order for sin to exist. Does that make sense? If sin is the transgression of the law, then you cannot sin without the law. We know that our Father's law existed from the beginning of time as we now know it, because we're told very clearly that Adam and Eve "sinned" in the garden. How could Adam and Eve "sin" in the

garden if there was no law to transgress? We know that Cain and Abel were already sacrificing to our Father in Heaven. We know that Noah knew the difference between clean and unclean animals. And we know that all of these things were given through the Law. And so there should be no doubt in our minds that our Father's law (which is also known as our Fathers "word" by the way..) was given at the beginning of creation. The reason that our Father had to reestablish his law at mount Sinai, was because men had begun to forget God's law. The seed of the serpent began to teach them things that were in direct opposition to God's law, and men started to incorporate these pagan practices into their lifestyles. And so, our Father in Heaven came down to literally thunder his commandments and his laws to his people, and he had Moses write them down in order to reestablish his law with his people, and we'll see how this all took place as we continue to walk through our Fathers Torah, but as for now, what we need to understand is the biblical definition of "sin".

Now that we know and understand that "sin" is the transgression of the law (according to the Scripture)... we must now ask ourselves "so what is the penalty for transgressing the law?" Let's turn to Romans chapter 6 verse 23:

*Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

So, according to our Scriptures, the wages of sin (also known as transgressing the law) is death. And this is why our Father in Heaven commanded man to sacrifice animals for the atonement of sin. The penalty of the law was, and always has been, death. How important do you suppose that is for today's modern-day Christian to understand? The wages of sin is death. This penalty for breaking the law, was also known as "*The Curse of The Law*", and it was the "*Curse of The Law*" (also known as the "Penalty of The Law") that our Messiah came to move out of the way for us. He did not remove the law... He removed the penalty of the law. Why was it that our Messiah had to die on the cross? Our Messiah had to die on the cross because man sinned against God. Man had transgressed the law, and therefore man had a debt to pay. The animals that were being sacrificed on the altar for the atonement of sin pointed to that ultimate human sacrifice that was going to need to be completed in order for man's debt to be paid to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob who created him.

You see it was never about the law being a "curse". It was always about the "*Penalty*" of the law. The Penalty of the law was the curse... not the law itself, and this is where most of today's modern day Christian denominational charters of men have lost their way. They have chosen the wisdom of their early church fathers, over the wisdom of God and what his God breathed scriptures clearly tell us.

I want us to understand that these things were initiated from the very beginning of time as we know it. From the moment that Adam and Eve transgress the law in the garden... death was ushered into the picture. Death was ushered onto the world stage because man had decided to bow the knee to the serpent and the creature, rather than the creator. Man's sin had to be

covered up. God himself had to take the lives of animals in order to use the skins of those animals to cover man's sin with the skins of animals. And so, it is extremely important for today's modern-day professing Christian to understand what a black plague "sin" truly is, and has been for mankind throughout his existence. We often times see all kinds of plagues, all kinds of diseases, and the deterioration of our Fathers pristine sustenance that he gave to us because man has decided to re-create God's creation with genetically modified organisms, and by playing with the DNA and the molecular structure of God's creation.

Man is continuously trying to do exactly what the serpent told Eve back in the garden when he told Eve that if she ate of the fruit of the knowledge of the tree of good and evil, that they would become like Gods. Ever since that point in time man has been striving to become his own God. Man has been striving to overcome death on his own. Man has been striving to rule the world. Man has been striving to put himself upon the throne of God, so that he himself can be his own God.

I want us to understand who it was that brought cancer upon the world. Who was it that brought the black plague upon the world? Who was it that poisoned our water with fluoride and all kinds of chemicals? Who was it that genetically modified our food which directly leads us right back to cancer? Who is it that creates potions in their cauldrons from all kinds of unclean animals and then puts these potions in a syringe, and then shoots these man-made potions through the veins of our children? Did God do all of these things? You know, I often hear people tearfully crying out saying "*why did God take my father, or why did God take my son, or why did God take my wife or my daughter or my husband?*", Never really understanding that God did not create any of these diseases or these plagues. Man created these diseases and these plagues.

God created man and put him in a perfect world without disease, and without plague, and without sin, and without pain, and without suffering, and without depression. But it was through the sin... the transgression of the law... that man himself brought these troubles upon himself. It was man who made the conscious decision to bow his knee to the creature rather than the creator. And this is tectonically important for us to understand. We don't need to blame God because our loved one dies from cancer. If we rightly judge ourselves, then we should already know whose fault it is that our loved ones die from cancer... and it's not God's fault that our loved ones die from cancer. It's our fault. It's man's fault. We... brought these things upon ourselves into a perfect world because we chose evil over good. It's just like a small child when you tell them not to touch a hot iron. If they disobey you, and they touch that hot iron, they are going to get burned and they are going to have to suffer the consequences for not listening, and it's the same way with humankind. We are God's children... he told us not to touch the iron... but we decided to touch it anyway... and our suffering the burn, is a consequence of our blatant disregard of our Fathers instruction. All of this my friends is a learning process. A lesson that must be learned here on this earth before we can gain entrance into his coming kingdom.

And so, I hope that this helps us to understand the biblical definition, and the biblical understanding of exactly what "sin" is according to our God breathed Scriptures, and I hope this

helps us to understand the consequences that we bring upon ourselves by transgressing our Father's law and continuing to mock his law, and to put our faith in the wisdom of men and their charters, and their councils, rather than putting our faith in the wisdom of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten son.

Another thing that I really want to concentrate on here today is exactly who the descendants of Abraham are. We touched on this last week, but I want us to fully understand the implications of the seed of Abraham. Many people do not understand that today's modern-day Christian... is indeed grafted into the seed of Abraham who is our Messiah. If you are grafted into the body of the Messiah then you are the seed of Abraham according to Romans chapter 11, Galatians chapter 3, Exodus chapter 12, numbers chapter 15 and all throughout the word of God. It is irrefutable. And so, when God made the promise in Genesis chapter 12 that he would bless those who bless Abram and curse those who curse Abram... he's not talking only about those who live in the land of Israel. He's talking about you and I who have picked up our crosses, and have made a conscious decision to reject sin, and to repent of our old ways, and to walk in our Messiah's ways, which automatically make us grafted into the Olive Tree which is his body, and therefore makes us also... the seed of Abraham. And if you don't already know these things, please take the time to go back and study our earlier teachings into chapter 12 of the book of Genesis.. this is our third and final section of this study, and so we won't go back through all of that material again for the sake of those who have been with us so far.

Now, does this reject the land of Israel altogether? Absolutely not! Why? Because the land of Israel, not only has some of the seed of Abraham living within its borders... but it also has many Jewish people who according to the apostle Paul in Romans chapter 11 verse 26... and I quote says... "*all Israel will be saved*". So, there are "Jews" and those of the "Lost Sheep of The House of Israel" by blood... who are in Israel... that will be saved according to the Scripture.

So, we must continue in our prayer and our solidarity for Israel... but we must also, at the same time remember that it is not just those who are Israel by blood... but also those who are Israel because of being grafted into the Olive tree of Israel that God is jealous over. I want us to hear what our Messiah said in his own red-letter words in Matthew chapter 8 versus 11 and 12:

*Mat 8:11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,*

*Mat 8:12 while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

Our own Messiah tells us in his own red-letter words, with his own tongue, and with his own breath that the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into outer darkness in that place where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And so, we need to be aware of the fact that not all of the house of Israel will be considered to be those who are descendants of the house of Israel by blood. But all of the true Israel that loves God will be saved, and that God will save a remnant

of the house of Israel that truly qualifies as the true House of Israel according to Gods plan... but a large portion of the house of Israel will indeed be made up of prior Gentiles who have been grafted into the house of Israel. Listen to what the apostle Paul tells us in the book of Romans chapter 9 verses 25 through 33:

*Rom 9:25 As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'"*

*Rom 9:26 "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"*

*Rom 9:27 And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved,*

*Rom 9:28 for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay."*

*Rom 9:29 And as Isaiah predicted, "If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah."*

*Rom 9:30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith;*

*Rom 9:31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.*

*Rom 9:32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,*

*Rom 9:33 as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."*

And so, we see very clearly that Paul once again, (just as he does in the book of Romans)... proclaims that those who were not his people will be called "his people", and only a remnant of those who are Israel by blood... will be saved, and it's important to understand why Paul says this is going to come to pass. It's because... just as he tells us in verse 32... Israel who pursued a law that would have lead them to righteousness... did not succeed in reaching that law.... Why? Because they did not pursue the law by faith... but as if were based on works. In other words... they did not have the law written on their hearts like they should have according to Jeremiah 31:33, and Hebrews 10:16. They did not love the law of God as David did in Psalms 119... they were not keeping it by faith like David was... they were keeping it as if it were based on "works". Paul is very clear about the difference between having Gods laws written in our hearts and keeping it by faith.... and those who simply keep it because they think they're going to earn their way into his kingdom without faith, or the love of God in their hearts. And we'll see even more evidence of these things as we walk through our Fathers Torah, and his word.

And so, my point in all of this is that we should all be supporting our Jewish brothers and sisters in Israel. Not because they are doing what they should, or because they are right in rejecting their Messiah, or because they are righteous in Gods eyes... but because, just as Paul tells us in Romans 11:28... "as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers" and again to better understand these things I would simply point us back to Romans chapter 11 so

that we can better understand why the Jews have become our enemies until the fulness of the Gentiles have come in.

So, once again we pray for Israel and for Jerusalem where our Father has put his name just as we saw through the scriptures during our study last week, but I want us to also understand that we as Christians are also included in that promise that God made to Abraham and his seed, when God said that he would bless those who bless Abraham, and curse those who curse him. We... because we have been grafted into the seed of Abraham, are indeed included in that promise, and those who bless us will be blessed, and those who curse us will be cursed, and our Messiah's red-letter words agree with this promise according to his red-letter words in Matthew 10:41-42:

*Mat 10:41 The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward.*

*Mat 10:42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."*

God will bless those who bless Abraham, and curse those who curse him, and this promise is for Abrahams seed even to this very day. No-one is a prophet who is not of the seed of Abraham, nor does anyone give a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, if he is not grafted into the seed of Abraham through the body of our Messiah.

As we move forward through Genesis chapter 12, I want us to also notice when Abram was called out by God. When we look at the Genesis accounts of chapters 11 and 12, they seem to imply that while Abram was temporarily settled in Haran of Mesopotamia, God called to Abraham. But Acts chapter 7 tells us that God called Abraham before he got to Haran. Let's turn to Acts chapter 7 versus two and three:

*Act 7:2 And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,*

*Act 7:3 and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.'*

This was of course according to the testimony of Stefan who was stoned to death just before witnessing to the high priest and the Pharisees of Israel. And as we see these things coming to pass, and we see Abraham being called out from his family and from his friends... we need to understand how important this calling was, and how difficult it must have been for Abram to walk away from all of his friends, and all of his family in order to follow after the God that he didn't seem to know in the past.

At this point in time the world had gone pagan. The fallen Angels of Genesis chapter 6 had taught men things that were leading them in the direct opposite direction of our Father in

Heaven. All kinds of other pagan gods were springing up throughout the land, and these other pagan gods demanded their own feasts, and their own festivals. They demanded their own traditions be fulfilled, and let there be no mistake about it my friends... the sole purpose of these other pagan gods was to hide the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob from his people. Abram grew up surrounded by all the pomp and pageantry of the pagan world. They had been made to forget the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, and over generations they had chosen to follow after the wisdom of men and the fallen Angels who had led them away from the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

And I want us to think about that for just a moment. Has anything changed today? Are there not still those who call themselves pastors, priests, bishops, and popes who are leading God's people astray to this very day? Have they not built for themselves their own traditions, and their own rituals, and their own myths, and festivals and feast days? You bet they have, and so Abram was being called out from a world that is much like our own world today to be completely honest with you. It was a world where they worshiped another Jesus. Their Jesus had different names, their Jesus was called "Baal" and "Moloch", and "Astarte", and "Osiris", and "Tammz". You see this was the "Jesus" that they thought was going to save them. These were their saviors back then. Today we have a man that they call "Jesus" who they have created for themselves. A Jesus that causes them to believe that they are "once saved always saved". A Jesus that causes them to believe that "*do as thou wilt, is the whole of the law*" because their version of Jesus has abolished the law of God and nailed it to some tree somewhere. They worship the first day of the week Sunday Sabbath that belongs to the Roman Catholic Pope and the Pope alone... and they keep the birthday of the ancient God "Tammz" on December 25th in order to please their Roman Catholic Pope, whom they have made a God for themselves (whether they know it or not).

You see nothing is really changed my friends, our adversary has just gotten better at it over time. He's still leading us away from the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and causing us to live in a pagan world. The only difference between then and now is that he's using a poison concoction of truth mixed with lies in order to lead God's people astray. It's important to notice that today's modern-day professing Christian calls Yeshua Hamashiach "Jesus". "Jesus" is the Greek translation of our Messiah's name. It is not the true name of our Messiah. By doing this, our adversary has taught God's people not to pay attention to the Jewishness of their Messiah. By calling our Messiah by his Greek name "Jesus"... most Christians forget that our Messiah was a Jew who came from the house of David and the tribe of Judah. When we say his Hebrew name "Yeshua" we are automatically reminded that he was a Hebrew Jew. If you were to be transported back in time to the times of the apostles, and you would ask one of the apostles where "Jesus" was... they would have no idea who you were talking about. Because the name "Jesus" is a man-made name, that was not even invented until the early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

But you see, our adversary is not only well aware of these things... these things have happened because our adversary caused them to happen. Our adversary doesn't want you to know his true Hebrew name because he knows that every time you speak it, you will remember who he is.

You will remember that your Messiah is indeed a Hebrew Jew who came from the house of David and the tribe of Judah just as God promised David in second Samuel chapter 7. He doesn't want you to remember the anniversary of the death of your Messiah on Passover day... because you'll remember that he was a Hebrew Jew that came from the house of David and the tribe of Judah and that you are grafted into his body which makes you and your children the seed of Abraham and heirs of the covenant promise that God made with Abraham. You see he wants you to dress up your children up like the walking dead during Halloween because it's cute, and because the world is doing it, and he has made it so that when you don't dress up your children up like the walking dead and parade them up and down the street... you and your children are persecuted and laugh at and mocked as being too zealous for God.

And my point in all of this is exactly what our Messiah said. He said that it would be as in the days of Noah during the time of his return. And so, we today in our time should be able to understand what Abraham was being called out of in his time. Abraham was being called out of a pagan world that had chosen pagan things over the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. And yet through it all... Abram answers that call from God, and steps out of the pagan world that he had become accustomed to, in order to follow his creator, and he openly rejected the creature and the serpent that the world was dancing with in the pale moonlight.

Separation in one way or another is a prerequisite to serving our Father in Heaven. Does that separation often times fall into the category of being separated from our families? You bet it does! And we should see that from this example of Abraham who is being called away from his family, and away from his friends, and away from the pagan practices of a lost world in order to follow after the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

Often times we see separation as a bad thing. Even divorce... is often times seen as a bad thing in our lives, but I would submit to you my friends that not all divorces are bad according to our Father in Heaven. Separation is a prerequisite to serving God. Divorce is the result of a bad decision that was made on someone's part. But the result of that separation may very well be God dividing, electing, and separating his people and bringing them out of a pagan world. And it could be, as with Abraham, that for the purpose God has ordained for you, you cannot stay tied to the old life that you had. As painful as that separation might be... we are often times called to endure that pain just as our Messiah had to endure the pain inflicted upon him at the cross.

Separation can also be from friends whose values you no longer agree with. Perhaps the separation is from a church or synagogue that has overtime lost its first love, and now blindly chases after the world and has become a whitewashed tomb. I want us to understand what our Messiah said about our separation from the world in his own red-letter words. Let's turn to Luke chapter 14 verses 25 through 30:

*Luk 14:25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,*

*Luk 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and*

*children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.  
Luk 14:27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.  
Luk 14:28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?  
Luk 14:29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,  
Luk 14:30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'*

Abram understood the power of these red-letter words. Abram understood that his own family would become his own enemy because of his faith and his love for the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. What we must remember from this lesson, is that once you are called by God, God's calling surpasses any and all other purpose for your existence. Once again, red letter words from the mouth, the breath, and the tongue of our Messiah. Matthew chapter 10 verses 34 through 39:

*Mat 10:34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.  
Mat 10:35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.  
Mat 10:36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.  
Mat 10:37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.  
Mat 10:38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.  
Mat 10:39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

I daresay my friends, there are few Christians in the world today who have fully grasped this concept. There are few Christians in our world today who have ever even read these red-letter words for themselves let alone understood them. What we always need to remind ourselves, is that we are to be saving up our treasure in the life to come, not in the life that we are in presently. Our treasure should not be saved up here in this world, but in the next. Let's turn to some more red-letter words from our Messiah, found in Matthew chapter 19 versus 29 and 30:

*Mat 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.  
Mat 19:30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.*

That there be no doubt about it my friends, our relationship with our Father in Heaven is a personal relationship. The relationship that we have with our Father in Heaven and his only begotten Son is a relationship that we share with brothers and sisters who are like-minded, not with brothers and sisters who are necessarily from our flesh and blood. Our Father in Heaven gave up those who were of the house of Israel by blood because of their disobedience and their love of the world. We are to walk in his ways. And therefore, we also should be willing to give up those who are part of us by blood because of their disobedience and their love of the world.

Many of us have already been well educated concerning the fact that it is difficult to live as believers amongst those who do not believe. It is difficult at best for a believer to be shackled to a pagan world, and to those who persist in keeping us in the shackles and under their bondage. Over a period of time the light of a believer will shine so brightly that it will literally burn through the molten steel of the shackles that bind us to our pagan friends and family. Overtime as the faith of a true Christian grows... the chains of a pagan world become nothing more than dust in the wind to us. Those who follow God are not called to look back. Luke chapter 9 verse 62:

*Luk 9:62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."*

As we move forward through the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Genesis we find that Abram tells his wife Sarai to tell those in Egypt where they are going, that she is his sister. Now many uneducated Christians will become completely perplexed by why Abraham would lie about such a thing, but I would submit to you my friends that Abram was not lying at all. Sarai his wife was technically his stepsister who was the daughter of one of his father's wives, and we can see that by looking back at the genealogy that we've already looked at found in the book of Genesis.

Abraham prospers greatly from allowing Pharaoh to think that Sarai was only his sister, but somehow Pharaoh finds out that Sarai is actually Abram's wife (most likely from the plagues that God has sent upon him and his household) so Pharaoh returns Sarai to Abram along with the riches that Pharaoh gave him and he sends Abram away. There should be no doubt in our minds that this was the plan of God from the very beginning. What we need to understand is that God is the Potter and we are the clay. God will at times make a vessel for dishonorable use. To better understand this, let's turn to Romans chapter 9: 13-24:

*Rom 9:13 As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."*

*Rom 9:14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!*

*Rom 9:15 For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."*

*Rom 9:16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*

*Rom 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."*

*Rom 9:18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.*

*Rom 9:19 You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?"*

*Rom 9:20 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?"*

*Rom 9:21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?*

*Rom 9:22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured*

with much patience **vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,**

*Rom 9:23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—*

*Rom 9:24 even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?*

Notice that it is written in Romans chapter 9 verse 17 that Pharaoh was raised up for the sole purpose of God showing his power, and so that the world would know that God has mercy on whomever he wills and that he hardens whoever he wills. Once again it should be clear for us to see, that God is God... and we are not. And so, there should be no doubt in our minds that it was God's plan from the beginning for Abraham to gain these riches from Pharaoh on his way to the promised land of Canaan.

Later on as we walk through our father's Torah we'll see God's people coming back under the bondage of a new Pharaoh in Egypt, and we we'll once again see the power of God as he uses the Pharaoh of Egypt as a dishonorable vessel, to show his power and both his mercy and his grace, and the love that he has for his people.

And this my friends will bring the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Genesis to a close and allow us to venture into Genesis chapter 13 next Wednesday night as we come together for our study into Genesis chapter 3 on our next live broadcast, Wednesday night at 7 PM Eastern standard time.