

Genesis 35:9–15

The Persistent, Patient Power of the Purpose and Promise of God

Main idea: God's forgiveness in Christ means that the repenting believer can be sure of ongoing blessing and purpose in his earthly life, and perfect blessing and service in his eternal life.

⁹ Then God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him. ¹⁰ And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel. ¹¹ Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body. ¹² The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land." ¹³ Then God went up from him in the place where He talked with him. ¹⁴ So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He talked with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it. ¹⁵ And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, Bethel.

Introduction

Have I missed out on God's best? You have missed many opportunities to enjoy God. You have had much more misery than you might have. You have often brought more glory to His patience and less glory to the transforming power of His grace (cf. Eph 2:4–10; 3:8–13). You may come to worship this morning wondering if you have missed out on God's best. Well, Jacob might be coming to Genesis 35 this morning wondering the same thing. Certainly, the death and burial of his mother's nurse in v8 would bring such questions to his mind and heart. Jacob had missed many opportunities to enjoy God. Jacob had missed many opportunities to glorify God. God has assured him of his forgiveness in Christ at the altar of sacrifice. But has Jacob missed out on God's best? "Then God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him..." **God's forgiveness in Christ means that the repenting believer can be sure not only of that forgiveness, but also of ongoing blessing and purpose in his earthly life, and perfect blessing and service in his eternal life.** And God declares that in this passage by recalling two former interactions with His people: with Jacob from chapter 32 and with Abraham from chapter 17.

1. **"Israel shall be your name," v10. Our blessedness comes from God's purpose for the future, not our performance in the past.**
 - a. Hasn't God done this already? Yes, in chapter 32 at the river Jabbok. But some time has passed, some things have happened, and Jacob is quite literally in a different place. Some of you can remember when you were converted, and the new life and identity and calling that you had at that point. Most of you can remember times in your walk with the Lord where He came to you in a powerful way in His Word and gave you a strong sense of those things. But time has passed. And things have happened. And you may be quite literally in a different place. God has not given up on your new life, your new identity, your new calling. "Israel shall be your name."
 - b. Amazingly, God still calls Himself "the God of Jacob." He is not waiting to identify Himself with you until you are doing better spiritually. He identifies Himself with believers who still too often—far too often—look too much like what they did before they came to faith. Because He has counted Christ as the righteousness that is counted for them. And He has committed to Christ as the righteousness to which He is conforming them. When Hebrews 2:11 tells us that Christ is not ashamed to call us brethren, we see in the Lord Jesus the exact image of our Heavenly Father, who is not ashamed to be called the God of Jacob. He is not ashamed to be known as your God, even when you are so very unlike what you will be when He is done with you!
2. **"I am God Almighty, be fruitful and multiply," v11. Our usefulness for service comes from the power of the One we serve.** A lesson that Abraham learned. A promise that Abraham was given. And the lesson and the promise are now repeated to Jacob in Genesis 35 and to Hopewell ARP this morning. Repetition of the introduction from Genesis 17. Repetition of exact promises from Genesis 17:6, 8.
 - a. Because God is God Almighty, you are called and equipped to walk before Him and be blameless.

- b. Because God is God Almighty, you are able to be fruitful and multiply.
 - i. Fill the earth with a renewed humanity. This is a call to be pro-life, pro-family, pro-multiplication. But it is more; it is also a call to be pro-spiritual-life, pro-covenant-family, pro-congregation, pro-church-multiplication.
 - ii. And it is for you and for us, despite all our weakness and failing up until this point. Given to Noah after the flood. Given to Abraham after Ishmael. Given to Jacob after Padan Aram and Shechem. Now given to you after everything you've been through, and everything you've done up until this point.

3. God Himself is standing on the promises, v11–12.

- a. People. A nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you. Covenant children. Covenant community in the church. Light that seeks to see other darkness transformed into light in the community.
- b. Power. Kings shall come from your body. The church almost always looks quite unimpressive. But He is making us kings and priests. David and Solomon were in Jacob's body. Indeed, Christ Himself—the King of Kings and Lord of Lords—was in Jacob's body. In this room right now is a congregation of those who will praise Him in heaven, saying "You have made us kings and priests unto our God!"
- c. Place. The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land. All things are yours, for you are Christ's, and Christ is God's (1Cor 3:21–23). A New Heaven and a New Earth in which righteousness dwell. In which God Himself is your inheritance, and His dwelling place is with you.

4. You must stand upon those promises too, v13–15.

- a. First in worship. God uses our worship to etch into our minds and hearts who He is and what He has done. Do not let what He gives you of Himself to fade easily. This is one reason that it is the Lord's DAY. This is one reason that He calls us to morning and evening private and family worship every day in the home. This is one reason that He calls us to a meditation upon Him and His Word that is a continual habit of mind.
- b. Then in work. He front-loads every week with this worship, but then He fills the rest of the week with that being fruitful and multiplying, and walking according to His Words, using His means for the building of His kingdom.

Conclusion

God Almighty comes to you this morning, and He says, "My best is yet to come. And it SHALL surely come. And I command you to pursue it by My promise and My power."

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

As we come now to continue worshipping God in the hearing of his word preached. Turn in a copy of that word to Genesis chapter 35.

And with our Baba's open let us ask him for his help again.

Our father the.

Man whom you called to proclaim own earth is weak. And sinful. With the son of man. Whom you have made strong for yourself. Even arisen Lord. Jesus Christ.

Has never once sinned. And in him is all life. And all power. And he is the one by whom you have poured out your spirit. He has poured out his spirit. So we pray. For the mighty working of your spirit. Not only as he lays hold of mind and heart and mouth of one who proclaims.

But especially that by this word. He would work in us the life of our Savior. And that he would work mightily. By all of our hearts minds mouths indeed bodies everything you have given to us. That in the offering up of spiritual sacrifice. And the hearing of your word preached.

You would fit and equip and call us. To the offering up of living sacrifice. Offering of our bodies as living sacrifices this week to your glory. And so we pray for that working of your spirit and Jesus name. Amen. For this rise as we. Come now again to hear the word of God read.

Genesis 35 verses 9 through 15, these are God's words. Then God appeared again to Jacob when he came from Padana Ram and blessed him. And God said to him your name is Jacob. Your name shall not be called Jacob anymore. But Israel. Shall be your name. So he called his name Israel.

Also God said to him. I. Am God, almighty. Be fruitful. And multiplied. A nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you and kings shall come from your body. The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, I give to you. And to your descendants after you I give this land.

Then God went up from him in the place where he talked with him. So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him a pillar of stone. And he ported a drink offering on it and he pulled oil on it. And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him.

Be dell. The sins is reading of God's inspired and inherent word we were joist to know that he promises to add his blessing to the preaching of it as well. Please be seated.

Have I missed out. On God's best.

This is. A question that is. Troubled many believers. Used to trouble me growing up and. Semi charismatic church context and which one of the reasons that we were supposed to be walking with God in a way that we continually felt him. Which is a standard that is impossible to achieve and depressive to put upon God's people but one of the reasons we were to be doing that is because there would be moments when we had to make decisions and if we weren't tuned in at the moment, we would go left instead of right or put on the red one instead of the blue one or marry the tall one instead of the short one or take this job over here instead of that job over there or go to that school or that that there was this invisible path in the choose your own adventure book.

And if you weren't tuned in all the time, you were going to miss God's best. I hope none of you are living that way that has nothing to do with the way God leads his people in the Bible and in reality. But. This is also troubled me and I suspect has troubled many of you.

When you have come to a place in your life where the Lord lays hold of your heart and your mind, he sits Christ before you who he is what he has done for you. And you realize that you have lived so much for yourself. And to obtain earthly pleasures and you have lived so little for him and had him as your pleasure.

And you wonder. How much you have missed. Have I missed out? On God's best. And then there are times in our walking with him. Where he brings us to increased understanding of his word. Whether through preaching and teaching or sometimes through meeting and getting to know believers who have walked with him according to that word.

Seeing what their life with him is like their faith and their joy and their love their obedience and you realize that it could have been much more. Have I missed out on God's best. And then there are those times when we have been backsliding. And stumbling. And perhaps living even outright sin.

And God in his mercy brings us to repentance. He brings us to the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He brings us again to the altar. To not only hear and see Christ sacrificed for our sins in the preaching of the word but even to smell and feel and taste.

The sacrifice of Christ given from me reconciled to God through his sacrifice through his blood. Fed upon him having fellowship with God in him. But even in those situations. Sometimes when we have been renewed and reconciled we wonder occurs to us how much damage have I done? By the way that I was walking.

How much blessing and purpose and service? Have I ruined? Now, it is true. That when you have not loved and obeyed God you have missed in the past. Many opportunities to enjoy him. You have had much more misery than you might have had by walking without him. You have often brought more glory to his patience.

Than you might otherwise have. And less glory to that transforming power of his grace. In which those who see you would wonder what a marvelous God. That he would work like that in them. That glory that Ephesians 2 4 through 10 and Ephesians 3 8 through 13 talking about when God takes someone out of darkness and into light out of death and into life and he displays the exceeding riches of his grace in those whom he saves and in his church.

So it is quite possible that you either came to worship this morning wondering if you have missed out on God's best. We're perhaps some of this introduction has brought that to mind. Well, Jacob, certainly might be coming to

Genesis 35 verse 9. Wondering the same thing. We've had the restoration of God calling him back to fellowship and presenting to him Christ and his atonement at the altar and the repentance that that brought in his house.

And the reconciliation to God and to one another that they might come and worship him. And then before our text this morning then God appeared to Jacob again verse 9, there is verse 8. Now, Deborah. Rebecca's nurse died. And she was buried below. Bethel under the Taraban 3. So the name of it was called Alon Buckith.

Terebinth of Weeping Weeping Tree or the Weeping Oak.

When you are at someone's deathbed. Or when you attend a funeral. That's often a moment in which God gives you the opportunity to reflect upon your life. What you've been living for? What you will have left behind when you go. What is in front of you when you leave?

It is almost certain that this was not men enjoyable reflection for Jacob in verse 8. That was his mama's nurse. His mama that he hadn't seen in decades. And the reason he hadn't seen her in decades was he had messed things up with his daddy. And with his brother.

And indeed coming off of. The worship at the altar at Bethel in verses 1 through 7. He had mess things up with the Lord. And so that's the context and Jacob's life and for the application as we think about what the Holy Spirit has recorded here and how he intends for us to read it and understand it.

Jacob wondering. He's missed many opportunities to enjoy God. He has missed many opportunities to glorify. God's transforming grace. God instead being glorified by his great patient with this father in the faith. And now God has assured him of his forgiveness in Christ at the altar of sacrifice. But as he missed out on God's best.

The blessings that were promised him the purpose that God had set before him the opportunity to be useful to the Lord in his plan of redemption. Has Jacob messed those things up as he ruined. The purpose and plan and enjoyment of God in his life. And it is into that context that verse 9 wonderfully says then God appeared to Jacob again.

When he came from Padanaram God had appeared to him at Bethel in the vision of the latter God had spoken to him at Bethel at the beginning of this chapter arise and go up to Bethel. But now got appears to him again.

And he blessed him. Verse nine. So this passage in this passage God sets before Jacob and he sets before this congregation this morning that God's forgiveness in Christ means that the repenting believer can be sure not only of that forgiveness. But also of ongoing blessing and purpose in his earthly life.

And perfect blessing. And service unto God in his eternal life. God's forgiveness in Christ means that the repenting believer can be sure not only of his forgiveness. But also of ongoing blessing and purpose in his earthly life and perfect blessing and perfect service of God for all eternity. God does that in this passage primarily by recalling two former interactions with his people?

In the repetition of the name change he recalls for Jacob that interaction by the stream or the river Jabbit and chapter 32 when he was about to meet Esau and when he says I am God almighty, and then he gives some promises he's using the same introduction that he used with Abraham and the beginning of chapter 17 and he includes several components of the promises that he had given Abraham in Genesis 17, and so what he's doing is he's coming to.

Jacob and he's coming to us this morning and he's saying yes you have sinned grievously and you have gone through more misery than you have put yourself through misery and you have not taken opportunity that you had in order to serve me and to serve others in your past, but you have not undone.

What I was doing in chapter 32 when I met you and you I changed your name and you have not undone what I was doing with your grandfather Abraham in chapter 17. And so we'll consider this morning that recollection of chapter 32, especially in the phrase. Israel shall be your name in verse 10 and that recollection of chapter 17, especially in the introduction.

I am L should I God Almighty and the promises that are repeated there and we will see that God himself is standing upon his promises. And that we too then must continue to stand upon the promises of God. So he says, Sorry so it says verse 9 again then God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Padana Ram and he blessed him and God said to him your name is Jacob you sure are the heel grabber you still are acting like the deceiver.

I changed what you are called but you are still acting like what you were your name is Jacob. Your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name. So he called his name Israel. And those of you children who are pretty sharp. Perhaps when pastor mentioned Genesis 32 and you had your Bible open and you flipped back to Genesis 32 to see what was there and he said.

Didn't he already change his name to Israel, why is his name still Jacob? Well he did change his name but some time has passed and some things have happened and Jacob is quite literally in a different place than he was in chapter 32 and there's emphasis on the place here.

And he's still acting like Jacob. Now God in his word if you are a believer in Jesus Christ and not only with reference to your faith, but to your being part of his church, if you are a member in good standing of his church, if you're a covenant member of his church.

Then God calls you saint. He has changed your name he has called you holy he has called you Christian and all of you covenant children he says this about you he's the one who chose what family to put you in he's the one who chose what mommy and daddy to give you and so that when he addresses the children who are part of the church in Ephesus, he says children obey your parents in the Lord.

And he addresses he calls us saints. He calls you Saints at the beginning of that letter. But he comes to us sometimes. With reference to how we've been acting and just like he says your name is Jacob your name shall not be called Jacob anymore. But Israel shall be your name.

Often the Lord comes to us by His Spirit and Scripture and it is as if He are holding up that mirror that James chapter 1 talks about the mirror of his law his instruction has commandments and he says your name is sinner. Your name shall not be called sinner anymore, but saint shall be your name.

And he tells us what he has already declared to us in the past. A truth a reality that has made certain the future of every believer and has given us a relationship to him of being set apart and holy by his declaration. And he says, I know you're not yet acting like what I have called you.

But you will. You will be what I have called you. Because I am the one who has determined it by my calling and I am the one who will do it by my power. Some of you can remember when you were converted. You had a new life in a new identity calling that you had at that point perhaps you were converted late in life or you weren't even a part of the church and so you had this this large number of friends and acquaintances associates who do not profess the name of Christ you became annoying to them.

You wanted them to know everything was new that you were new you're I'm a Christian you need to be a Christian to everything is different and and it changed so much. And you remember having new life and identity and calling most of you even those of you who grew up in the church, you can remember times in your walk with the Lord or in the preaching of His Word, especially when He came to you in a powerful way and He renewed your your walk with Him and you had a strong sense that He is your life and He is your identity and serving.

Him as your calling, But time passed. Now things happen.

And some things didn't happen. And you may be quite literally in a different place. God who did not give up on Jacob just as he was still acting like Jacob never gives up on any of his saints. Simply because they're still acting like sinners. The apostle praying for the church in Philippi praying for Yoda and Sentiki who are gossiping and quarreling and need to be called out by name and the scripture that they would agree with one another.

The apostle writing to the church in Philippi says being confident of this very thing that he who began the good work in you. We'll bring it to completion. Until the day of Christ Jesus, he turns around the next chapter. And he says not only in my presence but in my absence work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

He knows that that when the apostle is there and the power of the spirit the one who to whom Jesus has physically appeared the Philippians were like, yes, we are gonna work out this salvation with fear and friendly but Paul's elsewhere now and they just got those ordinary elders upon whom he laid hands at the end of the missionary journey and they're they're opening up there.

Hebrew Bibles are opening up the what they have. Of the New Testament word the Holy Spirit is is immediately inspiring whatever else is needed to fill in because the New Testament and yet complete yet and but they you know, they go to church every week and they hear the preaching then they go.

Yeah, the Monday through Saturday and not quite the same and Paul comes back and says work out your own salvation now even though I'm gone even in my absence workout your salvation if you're in trouble because it is God who works in, Both will and to work according to his good pleasure.

He was the one who is working in you when I was there. He's the one who's working in you now. Remember. The greatness of God and his gospel he has not stopped the work that he began in you. Similar dynamic here between God and Jacob and Genesis 35 and God and hope all congregation October 25th.

2020. God has not given up on your new life your new identity your new calling. He comes to you and he says Israel shall be your name. Amazingly. God still in many places in Scripture calls himself the God of Jacob. The God of Jacob will be your help. He often says in the Psalms.

Is that a precious promise? Because we wonder right? When I'm acting like Israel. I I know that God of Israel will be my help. But what if I've been acting like Jacob? Well, he's been the God of Jacob and he helped him when he was still being like Jacob.

He is not ashamed to be our God because that's the way the relationship works. We bring the weakness we bring the sin. He brings the forgiveness and the patience and the power and the goodness and the life and he works it out in us. It is not embarrassing to God to be called the God of Jacob that glorifies God.

Nor his patience and power the persistence of his faithfulness the way that his purpose and plan for transforming and using this converted sinner is not undone or thwarted by how slow and halting and often back sliding your growth and grace has been.

He's not waiting to identify himself with his church until they do better spiritually. He identifies himself with believers who still too often look too much like who they were and what they did before they came to faith. Because he has counted Christ as the believers righteousness. Counted for us and he is committed to making us to be like our righteous Christ when Hebrews 2:11 describing.

That dynamic between Jesus in heaven and his church on earth during the public worship service and we often quote verse 12 that it is in the midst of the assembly that that Christ declares his father's name to his brethren even as he is doing now through the humble and known impressive means of preaching and that it is in the midst of the assembly that Jesus sings his father's praise even as you was just doing previously and will again when we stand and sing and Christ have, Heaven sings his father's praise through his congregation on earth we often quote verse 12 verse 11 is just as amazing.

That the Lord Jesus and glory the the resurrected perfect one in the midst of the holy angels and of perfected saints and and all of that is not ashamed to call us brethren. He's not waiting till we get to the assembly that chapter 12 of Hebrews tells us that our worship services on earth join.

He's not waiting until then. He's not ashamed to call us brethren now. And what we see in Christ being glad to identify with with you and me this morning in this room in our in our remaining sin and our persisting weakness what we see in him we see also in our heavenly father he is the exact imprint of his father's nature to us as he told Philip if you've seen me you've seen the father and God is not embarrassed.

To be known as the God of Jacob. The God of Hopewell. Somebody might come here, they might have a bad experience. One of us perhaps the minister. Might show a little bit too much of what remains in him. From outside of Christ and they might go and they might say.

I want anything to have to do I want to have anything to do with their God. God is not ashamed. To be known as the God of his church. And if you know somebody who has had a bad experience at a true church, you can tell them you know, it might be true that that's not a real church that they don't have the gospel or they don't have the scripture they don't have the the Lord Himself in.

His means. But it might also be that they are a true church and that they're just still the way that God describes. His church in the Scripture. There are a whole lot of forgiven still being sanctified people there. But God is in a shame of His church. He's patient with her.

And you should be patient with her too.

God is not ashamed to be known as your God dear stumbling reconciled repenting Christian coming away from the altar wondering if you've missed out on God's best. He's not ashamed. To be known as the God of Jacob. So not only does he say Israel shall be your name. He also in verse 11.

Says also God said to him I am God Almighty. Well, there isn't as much suspense here. I don't think as there was at the beginning of chapter 17 because God has already called Jacob back to worship him. He sold pretty cold him to the altar. He's already set Christ before him.

He's already fed him upon the with a meat of the of the sacrifice and had fellowship with him. He's already repeated the blessing in verse 9 and his name change in verse 10. So there.'s that much suspense here. Remember in Genesis 17 when God appeared and said I'm God Almighty.

It was the first time God had spoken to Abraham in 13 years. And it was the first time God had spoken to Abraham since the whole Hagar and Ishmael thing. And then in the wake of that and as far as we know the first recorded time and in the scripture God comes to Abram and he says, I am God Almighty, and we're all just cowering with Abram.

Wincing like we were at the beginning of chapter 35 that Jacob, And he says walk before me. And be blameless. That it was the almightiness of God the God El Shaddai the the the power that is communicated in the way. God created mountains just a massiveness and a persistence that is almost impossible to imagine.

And he says on the basis of who I am. Abraham in Genesis chapter 17, you can walk before me and be blameless you are Abraham all week. To do it in the basis of who you are, you will not be able to walk before me and be blameless. I'm going almighty walk before me and be blameless so he God had come to Abraham before.

With with a command in chapter 17, he comes here to Jacob with a command as well, he says be fruitful and multiply be fruitful and multiply now.If we are still thinking of that in a very narrow mathematical biological sense, we might think well.Jacob's already got 13 right well Benjamin still in Rachel but as far as we could tell from the text he's probably in Rachel that at that moment so he's got 11 boys, he's got Nina he's got Rachel is pregnant and he's got this very large camp that came about in very sketchy fashion, so what do you mean be fruitful multiply?

Well the command was never just about sheer numbers was it?I mean the the full quiver.

Phrase that people take from Psalm 127, it's not simply achieved by conceptions and births.Right the command to be fruitful multiply was to fill the earth with images of the creator and the command to be fruitful multiply in the context of the gospel after the fall is a command to fill the earth with renewed images of the creator renewed in Christ through faith in Christ, it's not just a full quiver theory, it's a full pew theory and as a full Church theory and it's a full future churches.

Theory.Or approach.So God comes and he says, I'm God almighty be fruitful multiply he's talking to Jacob about something that doesn't look like it's on track.When God says kings will come from your body and Jacob as far as he's done following is finished to look at the boys who are around him.

And you compare that kings will come from your body in verse 11 with the boys and young men who are standing around him murderers and plunderers and in slavers.

Who have from that happen.How can ribbon simeon and Levi and Judah all the way down.It's not really king material are they?Jacob isn't king material, is he?Or you Saint material.Are you king and priests to your God material?The answer is well, yes.Because he is God almighty.

And so he comes and he front loads the the.Way that the command can be kept. I am God almighty be fruitful and multiply dirt is man material if it's the living God who's gonna form the body out of the dirt of the ground and breathe life into it and make the man a living being and a sinner is saint material if it's the living God who is gonna give spiritual resurrection and faith and forgiveness and sanctification.

You are kingdom and priest material because we know of a fact that when we are in glory you and I who are sitting here or standing one of us here this morning.In glory, we will when we come to chlorine we will say were there you are not just redeemed us to God by your blood, but you have made us kings and priests.

Unto God.This is his chosen working material.Samsung and Google and Apple they scour the earth to find those rare earth metals that are necessary for all the stuff that makes your tiny little device such a good and slavery of your mind and heart.

God shows the glory of the greatness of his work and his purpose in you and through you and for you.Because he uses material that have nothing good in itself.So that the one using it shows that he is. God almighty.Just by his use of it.So lesson that Abraham learned the nearer there are promises that Abraham was given.

Back in chapter 17.You have the promise in verse 6. I will make you exceedingly fruitful. I will make nations of you kings shall come from you 17 verse 8 to Abraham also I give to you and to your descendants after you the land.In which you are strange or any comes now in Genesis 35 and he says,Verse 11, I am God.

Almighty be fruitful and multiply a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you and King shall come from your body the land, which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you and to your descendants after you I give this land.It's quite arrogant to this.And we confessed it to some extent when we're thinking about Ezekiel 37 and the ability of the prof the word of God in the mouth of the Son of man to by which he gives the spirit of God to those dry bones.

And he raises them from the dead in the flesh comes onto them in the breath enters them in there and exceedingly great army.And how many have we prayed for?But not in faith.Probably.The ones for whom we have most often done it that way where our civil magistrates, right?

You pray for a president or a governor or a senator.Justice.And you pray Lord convert them.But you pray with faith.With confidence that he is. God almighty.That he can pull.

On the United States of America.Or in Ahab or Manasseh?On a President Trump or a President Obama.

Some of the most wicked and hopeless not only in terms generally speaking for converting sinners.But even in places of power and authority are ones that God was pleased to grant repentance, you know that Ahab and Manasseh two of the most wicked games in Israel's history were brought to repentance and the punishment and curse of God upon the land was turned back for a time was delayed.

Through those conversions.Is still the same God today.

Some of us it's for that sibling.Or that child.That decades of experience of their hardness of heart.And their deceitfulness and so many false moments of hope that they might have been redeemed.Come crashing down with the disappointment again.And yet he is still got almighty.He still works by that same word.

Which he attends by that same spirit.I suspect for all of us.For all of us, we've had that feeling about our growth and grace and are killing remaining sin.

Some of you.Are still battling sin that you don't let anybody know about.And the secrecy of it is part of what continues to enslave you.And when you come to God and you pray to be delivered.You are not remembering that he has God. Almighty.You are thinking this is just the way it's gonna go.

From now until I leave this world we're just gonna keep falling and coming back and we'll say the right things because that's the right doctrine and.It's just gonna be this way and he comes in Genesis 17 to Abraham and he says I am God almighty.Walk before me by my almighty power be blameless by my almighty power and he comes to you this morning in Genesis 35 and he says I am God almighty be fruitful by hi almighty power.

Multiply by my almighty power and not just physically fruitful but spiritually bear fruit.You see the idea of fruitfulness did not just begin in Jesus's parables talking about the fruitfulness of a of a seed that produces 30 and 60 and a hundred fold it does not just appear in Galatians chapter 5 when he talks about the fruit of the spirit.

There's an entire Bible history of the concept of fruitfulness that proceeds those things so that when you hear about your life producing thirty sixty and a hundredfold in a spiritual sense when you hear the fruit of the spirit is self-control in a spiritual sense you hear God saying I am God almighty bear the fruit of self-control by my almighty power by my spirit that comes and attends my word to produce that in you because you don't have it.

In yourself.And so when you and I come to God and we know and see and have just demonstrated that we don't have it in our self.We come to the God of Jacob.Who has spent years demonstrating that he doesn't have it in himself and it's just been spectacularly displayed in his family's conduct that he didn't have it in himself.

And it comes and he says, I'm God. Almighty.Be fruitful.And multiply.Fill the earth with a renewed humanity. This is a call to be pro-life.Pro-family pro multiplication. It is at least those things.Say, oh you Christians are so obsessed with babies.We have a God who is obsessed with babies.

He keeps saying be fruitful and multiplied. Adam the fruitful and multiply. Noah be fruitful and multiply Abraham be fruitful and multiplied. Jacob.Only embarrassed.To be marked as obsessed with what your God has obsessed with.

Some of our Christian friends acquaintances, perhaps family members. Are you done yet?Again.We won't even get into some of the.Sillier and more cutting ways, they say it.Yes.I am pro multiplication. A full cover theorem. Overflowing quiver theory. A full Earth theory.Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

We cover 1,000th of 1% of the planet so far. People I own over the earth is getting full.

Dear unbeliever and.Professing believer who's consistent in their view of children with unbelievers. We have not even begun yet.Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth but it is more than multiplication and biology. It is a call so called to be pro spiritual life.It is a call to be praying for that baby in the womb and preparing the the family and the the spiritual climate of the household every time that that God is bringing a new one into your home as a time of repentance and renewal and reformation or a viable eager that that new one will come into a house where God is known and the gospel is preached and Christ is going to.

That they will that they will get with their mother's milk the pure spiritual milk of the word that they will get with their their first bites of bread the preaching of the bread of life and that as soon as they come to faith they will profess him.

And that the earth will be filled with all of these whom Ephesians 2 and 3 says are these little trophies of the glory of the grace of God being displayed?

It was a call to be pro-covenant family.

That God's plan for the earth is the church.

That Christ has been given overhead as head over all things for the body for the church, which is.Honey and his bride and that corporate and congregational worship and that corporate and congregational life and the display of God's glory and God's Son by God's grace and God's church.Is the plan of God.

Not just not just individuals but a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you.Those who who have a small value on the church corporately understood as a body Harry placing small value on this wonderful promise that we have in verse 11 in which God has invested his Almighty power until which God has dedicated to the the display of and which God has dedicated to the display of his glory.

See God himself is standing on his promises and that is what brings Jacob to obedience to this be fruitful multiplied because God is still planning to complete. Everything that he has said. He's standing on the people promise and on the power promise and on the place promise. A nation and a company of nations, they'll will proceed from you the people promised the power promise.

King's shall come from your body. We overcome by the blood of the land. The world overcomes by killing the church overcomes, but dying. They love not their lives even unto death. And what do those who love not their lives even unto death say you have redeemed us and you have made us kings and priests to our God.

You know the church almost always appears quite unimpressive but God is still making us kings and priests. David and Solomon. Were in Jacob's body. There's a little nomad shepherd with his clan of wicked sons. Darting around Canaan needing God to put the terror his own terror in the cities so that this this little group of no man shall no bad shepherds doesn't immediately get wiped out by all the angry hevetes.

And in there is David and Solomon and the splendor that took all the breath out of the Queen of the South.

Jesus Christ. King of kings. Lord of lords is in Jacob's body. And Genesis 35. Material from which a son and a son and a son and a son and assignment and a son and one day a daughter. And the Holy Spirit. Would take perhaps even actual atoms that were in Jacob at Bethel on that day.

From the substance of Mary. And make for himself a human body for the second person of the training. The one who even now sits resurrected. On the throne of heaven.

Jacob couldn't see it, could he? Heart attacks this morning. King shall come from your body into verse 11. But there is the reason Lord Jesus now. The promise and purpose of God and what he will do with you who come. And you have wondered have I missed out on God's best.

Includes such things as you could not possibly imagine.

The people promised the power promise the place promised. The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, I give to you and to your descendants after you I give this land. You say oh well without really believe in the land promise anymore, do we not? You know with the the Jews and the Muslims fighting over a little tract in Palestine.

It's still our tract. It belongs to the Israel of God. The church from Adam to the end. This ours. But everything else is ours just because the promise includes the rest of the earth. And all of the heavens doesn't mean that part has gone.

The new heavens and the new earth in which righteousness dwells this is why the apostle and first Corinthians 3 verses 21 to 23 and the Church appears very unimpressive in fact he can teach them to be humble by telling them to take a look around during the worship service not many wise not many noble is the kind of these are the kind of people God are saving.

And he says, Don't be embarrassed of how small and stupid the world thinks you are. Everything belongs to you. Because you are Christ's and Christ is God's. Don't be afraid of Russia or China or North Korea or America. Which is more and more becoming a frightful nation. To those whose hope is in God and there's their commitment as to his word.

Afraid of any of them. It all belongs to you. Nations and kings and people's plot and vain God says my anointed will shatter them all to smithereens with his rod of iron blaster all who trust in him kiss the sun. Before his wrath as quickly kindled. And he comes to you and he says, it's all yours.

God himself still today stands on the people promise and the power promise and the place promise and they are not smaller than they were to Jacob in Genesis 35. There are unimaginably greater and they are to you who believe in Jesus Christ. Not to take them over by the greatness of your cleverness.

But by trusting in him and being fruitful and multiplying and walking according to his word. Sometimes you you you set before Christians with the Apostle says it that we should be peaceful and quiet and live dignified lives and I say but you're not trying to take. World.

The kingdom doesn't come in the fashion of pinky and the brain.

It comes through marriage and the bed kept down to filed and through the bearing of children. And through loving the Lord your God with all your heart soul mind and strength and having His word and your mind and your heart and on your lips leading your family and worship.

You head out in the morning leading your family and worship when you get back in the evening. Dad meditating upon the Word of God throughout the day Mom teaching the kids the Word of God throughout the day coming back together at night walking with him living in all of our earthly living out of worship unto him.

And that's what Jacob goes to immediately here at the end of our passage because it's not just God who stands on the promises but when God stands on his own promises, he calls you to stand upon his promises. It's not like it comes by God every once in a while saying yes.

I remember what I said. I was going to do.

But he calls you to be continually in remembrance. And so after God goes up from him in verse 13, Jacob memorializes what has just happened? He sets up a pillar of stone and he pours the drink offering and he pours the oil on it. He holds a worship service after God leaves.

It seems a little odd.

But is it not what he calls us to do. Does he not bring us to his worship and then call us to etch in our minds and hearts whom he has shown himself to be and what he has declared himself to be and what he is commanded us to do.

You and I are to take our experience of God when he gathers us to himself when he presents himself to us and worship and we are not to let it to fade let it fade easily. This is one reason that it's the Lord's day and not the Lord's hour that we may take the public exercises of worship and bring them into the private exercises of worship and yes, there are other things that must be done in order to to to keep mind and heart fresh and dwelling upon him.

But we are to be affected by and cling to and remind ourselves of This is one reason why he calls us to worship him in in secret and in family in our homes and to meditate upon him and his word. And if you are ahead of household the the you should be recalling to your family's mind and interacting with them and leading them in bringing what we hear of him and his word to bear on the rest of our week.

He has front loaded every one of our weeks with worship. And he fills the rest of the week with being fruitful and multiplying. And walking before him and being blindless. And so God, almighty. Comes to you this morning. He says you have not missed out on my best. My best is yet to come and it shall surely come.

And I command you to pursue it from a promise. And my power. Amen.

My father in heaven we thank you. That you persist with us that you have a who have begun the work will bring it to completion and so no so now attend what we have heard and its memory and its use in our minds and our hearts by your spirit.

To make us fruitful and multiply unto your glory in Jesus' name. Amen.