

# PASTOR RAY'S BIBLE SCHOOL 301

## Kingdom Nation

### Session Five

## “Sanctification Nation”

### I. Review: Nation Identification

#### A. The Prophetic View Of The Redeemed

1. This course focuses on the “big picture” of God’s plan to redeem a specific, identifiable company of people as His representatives on earth...a “Kingdom Nation”.

2. This ONE PEOPLE were (fore) known of God from before the foundation of the world, (Romans 8:28-30), foretold of in the “Proto-evangel” (Genesis 3:15) as the “seed of the woman”, and ultimately destined to stand at the “right hand” of God in the final judgment as His “sheep”.

3. This innumerable company was primarily identified in the Old Testament with the nation of Israel, while primarily identified in the New Testament as the Church. (Exodus 19:3-6; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

4. While the antediluvian saints form the “root system” of this generational “tree”, the life of Abraham is presented as the proto-typical model for what was to follow:

“...that he (Abraham) might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

Romans 4:11-12 KJV

5. Notice two points:

- Abraham is the “father” (source, prototype, model) of “all them that believe”
- Those who believe will “walk in the steps of the faith of Abraham”

6. The life of Abraham is intended to be studied by the Church as a “type” of the life of the Christ-follower!

7. The life of Abraham, therefore, presents us with a rich “goldmine” of study regarding what life will look like for God’s “Kingdom Nation”.

8. In this class, we’ll examine the “big picture” of Abraham’s walk with God, and find a pattern of what we might call “separating faith”...a model of sanctification for all believers in all ages.

## **B. The Subject Of Sanctification**

1. The term “sanctify” is the root word from which we get the word “saint” and literally means ‘to set apart’, or ‘to separate’.

2. Sanctification is a “separation”, a process by which God calls us OUT of something to take us IN to something else, and by which He prepares us as a vessel for His use.

3. In our previous study, we saw how God “foreknows” and “predestines” His Kingdom Nation, and how justification (being made right God with God) is accomplished by simple FAITH in God’s word. (Romans 4:1-5; Ephesians 2:8-10)

4. SAN CTIFICATION is the PROCESS that follows JUSTIFICATION!

5. Sanctification is the 2<sup>nd</sup> step in our 3-fold redemption:

Now may the God of peace Himself *sanctify you entirely*; and may your *spirit* and *soul* and *body* be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 NASB

### **Justification**

### **Sanctification**

### **Glorification**

Our SPIRIT *has been* saved    Our SOUL *is being* saved    Our BODY *will be* saved

6. The dominant idea of sanctification is “separation”.

7. There are (at least) 7 distinct “sanctification” concepts in the life of Abraham.

## **II. The 7 Separations Of Abraham**

### **A. Separations 1 & 2: From “Kin” And “Country”**

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show you...and I will make of you a great nation...

Genesis 12:1-2

1. The first thing God does to the believer is to CALL HIM OUT of his old way of living!

2. The “country” and the “father’s house” are types of the old lifestyle, habits, and relationships that had been his environment up until this time.

3. Remember, Abraham’s family was Babylonian, and there had to be a willingness to ‘come out’ before God could ‘bring him in’ to the “land” He would show him.

4. To follow Christ is to “walk in the steps of the faith of Abraham”, and MAY require us to separate ourselves from our “natural” family and even our “place of birth” in order to obey His call!

5. God was telling Abraham to separate from his father’s house that He (God) might make of HIM (Abraham) a “great nation”, (a “Kingdom Nation” of the redeemed).

a. We might view this as God saying to Abraham, “Forget your connections to the natural, fleshly world...I’m starting over with you...don’t look to the flesh for headship...accept my call to be the “father” of something born of the Spirit...”

6. The lessons of faith for you and me:

- Following God’s call may require us to separate from our family after the “natural”—This may not be true of all...but the principle is true...and verified in the ministry of Jesus

**He that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.**

**Matthew 10:37 KJV**

**"If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.**

**Luke 14:26 NLT**

- The “CALL” of God will certainly mean a separation from our old way of life and the “country” we grew up in. (Think of “country” here in the larger sense; nationality, ethnicity, generational traditions, set of companions, etc.) This is almost certainly going to cause some pain.

**24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.**

**Matthew 16:24-25 NASB**

## **B. Third Separation: From Egypt**

1. We can’t do a detailed study here, but Genesis 12 speaks of how Abraham fled into Egypt to find relief from a severe famine. Egypt, in scripture, is often a “type” of the WORLD or the WORLD SYSTEM.

2. The spiritual lesson for believers, therefore, is that God wants to separate us from our tendency to RUN TO THE WORLD FOR RELIEF FROM OUR PROBLEMS!

3. This is a huge spiritual principle in the process of sanctification, and can be applied to our lives in many ways:

- We must not seek DRUGS to escape worldly cares and mental depression
- We must not lean upon the systems of men to solve our financial stresses (Credit card debt, borrowing money we can't pay back, looking to the government to bail us out of our financial difficulties)
- God wants to separate us from our dependence on the world for all our entertainments and "medication-delivery" systems

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1 John 2:15-16

KJV

### C. Separation Four: From Lot

1. Lot was Abraham's nephew, (son of his father's brother), and an obvious favorite with Abraham. And yet we read:

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him; and Lot with him. 2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. 3 And he went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 to the place of the altar, which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the Lord. 5 Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together. 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land. 8 Then Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me: if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left." 10 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere — this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah — like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.

Genesis 13:1-11

NASB

2. Lot represents a spiritual principle in the life of the believer; There will always be people in your life of whom you are most fond, and yet there are relationships that you can carry with you only so far in your walk with God. Sooner or later, strife will break out...and there will come a time when you must separate yourself from them. They cannot go (or will not go) where you are called to go. But you must make the call. They probably won't.

3. Lot is not necessarily evil...just worldly minded, which is proven out by his inclination to choose the attractions of Sodom and Gomorrah over the unknown paths of faith where Abraham was headed.

4. Some relationships are meant for a lifetime; others have a definite “shelf—life”; Abraham models the life of faith that can bear the pain of knowing when its time for paths to part!

#### **D. Separation Five: Love Of Money**

1, In Genesis 14, we have the first record of the “tithe”; paying the first tenth of financial increase to God or to God’s representative.

**17 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."**

**And he gave him a tenth of all.**  
**Genesis 14:17-21 NASB**

2. Sooner or later, God must separate His people from the love of money, which is:

a. The root of all evil

**“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things...”**

**1 Timothy 6:10-11**

b. Money is a primary contender with God for the “throne rights” in the life of the believer

**No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**

**Matthew 6:24 KJV**

3. The tithe, instituted here, demonstrates the principle of trusting and honoring God in our finances...

**“And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is yours, lest thou should say, I have made Abram rich**

**Genesis 14:22-23 KJV**

4. The biblical pattern is clear: Money (and possessions) compete with God for “first place” in our lives...only giving breaks the hold of the love of money on our lives.

5. Notice also that the principle of tithing, of honoring God with the first tenth of all our increase, is instituted BEFORE the giving of the law. So much for the argument that tithing is “legalistic”!

### **E. Separation Six: From Ishmael**

1. Space will not permit us to go into the details of the Ishmael principle, but the backdrop is this:

- God had promised Abraham a son
- The promise was delayed
- Abraham yielded to the temptation to “help” God by means of the flesh, going outside his marriage to produce a child “after the flesh” by means of Hagar, his wife’s maid servant

2. Ishmael was birthed out of Abraham and Sarah’s fleshly thinking, and thereby represents:

- Any plans or schemes we can conjure up to facilitate what God intends us to wait for in faith
- That which, though near and dear to us, is not according to the Word of God

3. Sooner or later, every believer will produce an “Ishmael” and come to the place where separation will be required!

**“And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.**

**Genesis 21:9-11      KJV**

a. That which is born of God, (the Isaac principle), can never peacefully cohabit with that which is born of the flesh, (the Ishmael principle).

b. That which is of the flesh is always at war with that which is of the spirit

**For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.**

**Galatians 5:17-18      NKJV**

c. Sooner or later, the “household” cannot bear the striving between that which is born of the flesh and that which is born of the Spirit; therefore, that which is born of the flesh will have to be cast out!

**“Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what says the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.**

**Galatians 4:28-30      KJV**

d. Here is one of the hardest tests in the life of faith...the agony of realizing that what we have birthed after the flesh cannot inherit the Kingdom of God!

**And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"**

**Genesis 17:18      NIV**

**Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.**

**1 Corinthians 15:50      KJV**

## **F. Seventh Separation: From Isaac**

1. The agony of the 7<sup>th</sup> separation is the greatest “tearing away” of all; when even what we have been promised by God becomes an “idol” to us and must be offered up as a sacrifice!

2. After 25 years of waiting on the promise, Isaac was born. But it’s obvious that Isaac became an “idol” to Abraham!

3. This is understandable. ALL of the promises of God were wrapped up in the “child of the promise”, the godly “seed” which would eventually birth the nation of Israel.

4. In Genesis 22, we have the heart-wrenching story of God’s command to “offer up” Isaac as a sacrifice to God.

5. The lessons of this account are deep and rich, and are usually reserved for those mature enough to handle it. As we know, Abraham passed the test. Can we?\*

**\*The student is strongly encouraged to make personal application of all 7 “separations” to their own life. We would dare to say that the “children of Abraham”, the Kingdom Nation, will experience ALL of these spiritual “separations” at some point as they “walk in the steps of the faith of Abraham”.**

## **III. Conclusion:**

### **A. Sanctification Is Separating Faith**

1. Most “faith teaching” centers around the idea of “adding”—we get MORE blessing, MORE possessions, etc.

2. But the life of Abraham models something quite different: a “separating faith”...a faith that operates when God is taking away something that is quite natural or even dear to us!

3. This is the great lesson for all who believe...sanctification for all of life.

**Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

**"Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the**

**Lord Almighty.**

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18 NASB**