

Genesis 12:1-4a

The blessing of God upon Abram

12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

12:2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

12:4a So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Psalms 121

The Lord watches over you

121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?

121:2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

121:3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

121:4 He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

121:5 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

121:6 The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

121:7 The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

121:8 The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

The promise to those of Abraham's faith

4:1 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?

4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

4:3 For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

4:4 Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.

4:5 But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

4:13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

4:14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

4:15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

4:16 For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us,

4:17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3:1-17

The mission of Christ: saving the world

3:1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

3:2He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person."

3:3Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

3:4Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

3:5Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

3:6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

3:7Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'

3:8The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

3:9Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

3:10Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

3:11"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.

3:12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

3:13No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

3:14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

3:15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

3:16"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

3:17"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Matthew 17:1-9

Christ revealed as God's beloved Son

17:1Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.

17:2And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light.

17:3Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

17:4Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

17:5While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

17:6When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

17:7But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

17:8And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

17:9As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."