


Last year, in a galaxy far away



We studied the primary elements of
Cruciology

We answered the 5 riddles

1. You can come unto Him by embracing His, but you can only come after Him by embracing yours.
2. You cannot bear it by yourself; another bearer waits to help.
3. It seems to be heavy but it lightens with walking, yet without its weight you're too heavy to walk.
4. Once taken, you are never free of it, but only free under it.
5. Its shadow so totally eclipses you but others see "son"-light reflecting in you.

This year we enter into

Intermediate Cruciology:
The cross as perfecting process

Cross and the Perfecting work of God



Part One:
Sojourning to Fullness

Corruption of this World

- There is a corrupting factor within the whole fabric of creation
- 1John 2.17 *The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*



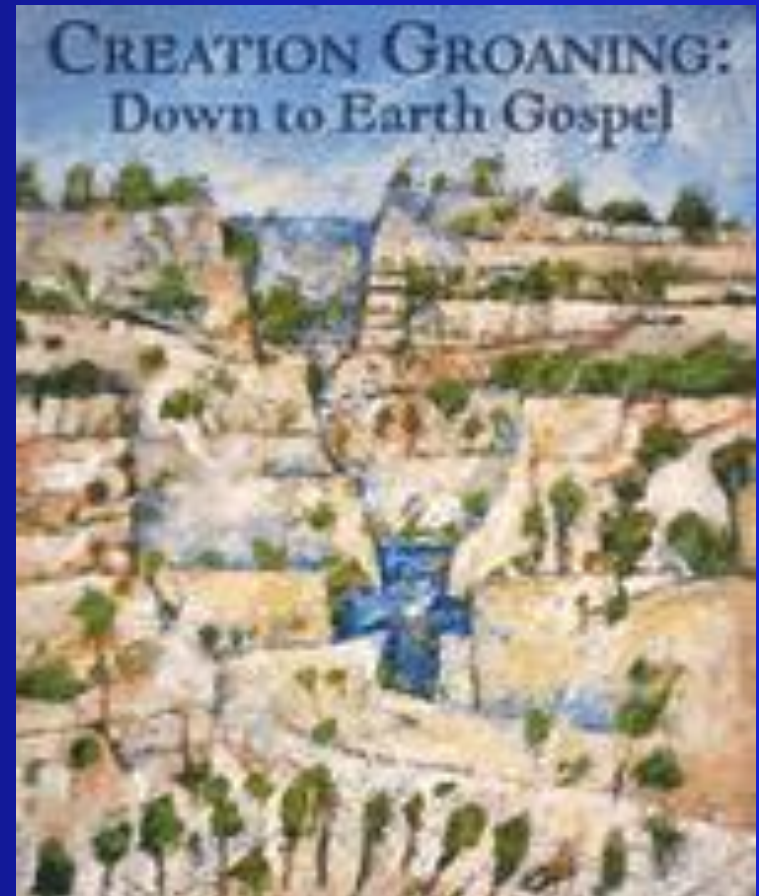
Corruption of this World

- Sin, love, pleasure, health and purpose all have a short shelf life because the old order is dying
- Rom. 8.20-21 *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God*



Corruption of this World

- This corruption will only stop when the ‘sons of God’ are perfected
- *Rom. 8.22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.*



Filling and perfecting of the New Creation

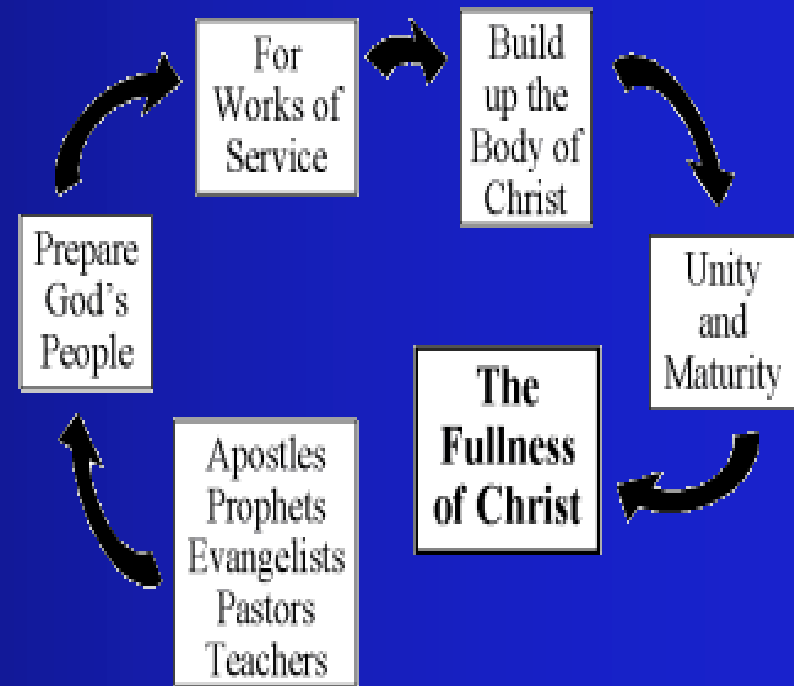
- So there is presently a perfecting and filling process going on in the new creation
- 2Cor. 5.17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*



Filling of the New Creation

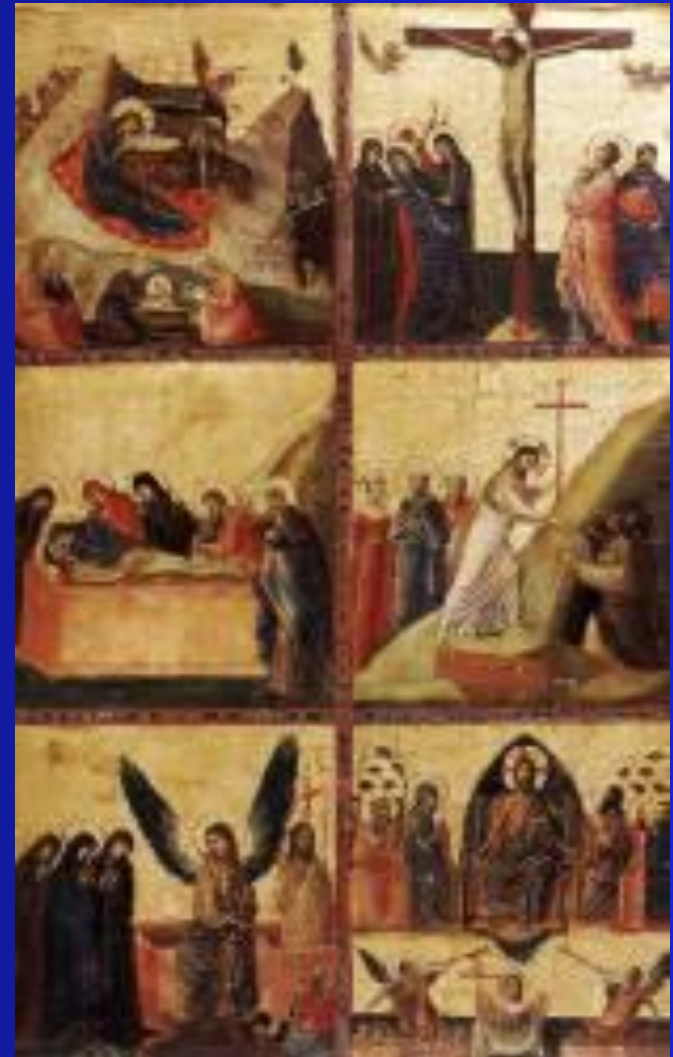
- This is proceeding from the heavenly overflow of resurrection life from the Lord
- *Eph. 4.10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)*

Ephesians 4:11-13



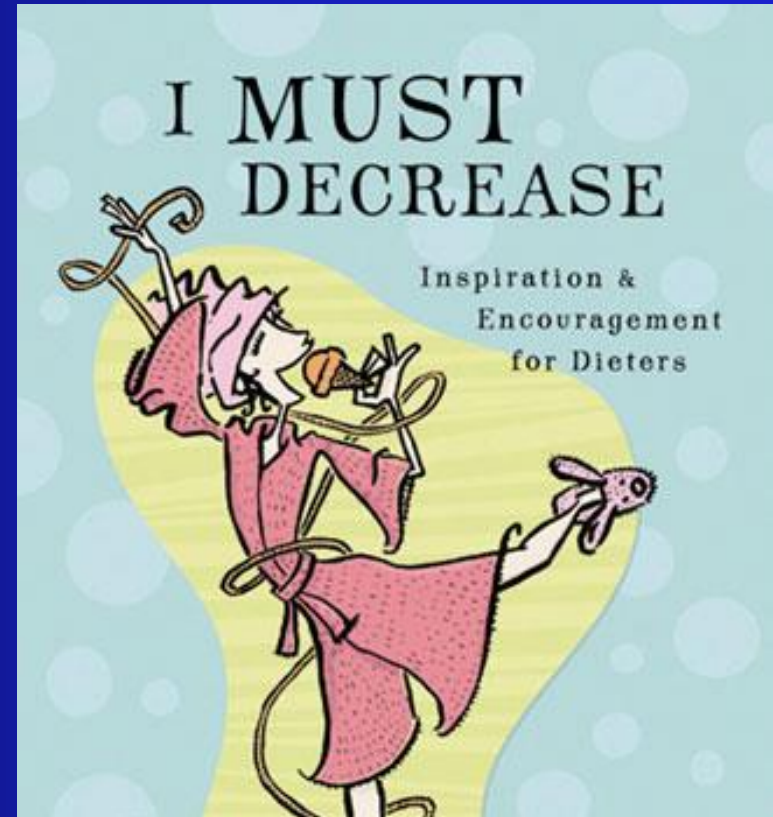
The key process of the New Creation

- The work of the cross and resurrection is the key process to transforming redeemed man into the fullness of Christ
- *Rom. 6.5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection*



The key process of the New Creation

- The work of the cross removes all that is corruptible in us
- 1John 2.15-17* ¶ *Do not love the world nor the things in the world... for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life...is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*



The key process of the New Creation

- The power of resurrection life transforms man into the the image of Christ
- *Phil. 3.10-11 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection ... in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

The First Annual
RESURRECTION RIDE
(Sawyer Point to Northern Kentucky and back)
...an early morning bicycle ride for individuals & families

For those who cannot ride,
The Purple People Bridge Walk
(see website information below)



Sunday April 23, 2006
Ride begins promptly at 7 a.m.

Come One...Come All & Enjoy the Fun!
* Free water, juice and breakfast treats
* T-shirt with registration

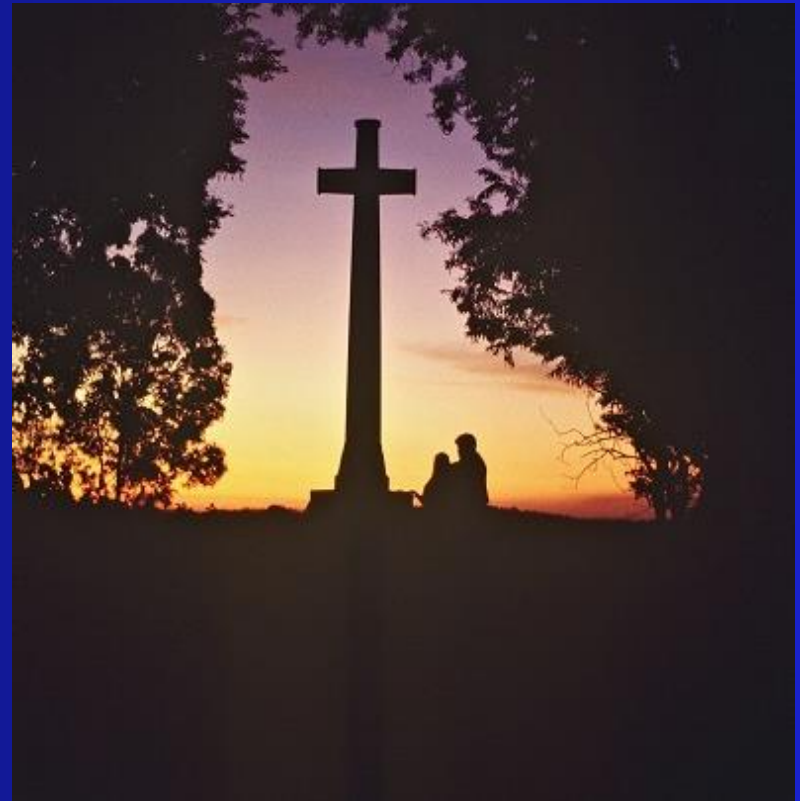
To register and for more information:
www.freewebs.com/mercyproservices
Phone: (513) 221-2330



Benefiting Mercy Professional Services
(A non-profit counseling service for underserved and uninsured families
from Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky)

The cross is therefore the initial phase of man's perfecting

- Being in the new creation will always involve both a dying and a quickening with incremental glorification
- *2Cor. 3.18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit*



Part One:

Sojourning

The practical outworking of the cross is accomplished in our “SOJOURN”

- The cross’ work is not theoretical nor is it some mystical experience - it works as we walk by faith
- *Gal. 6.14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the **cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*



What is 'sojourning'?



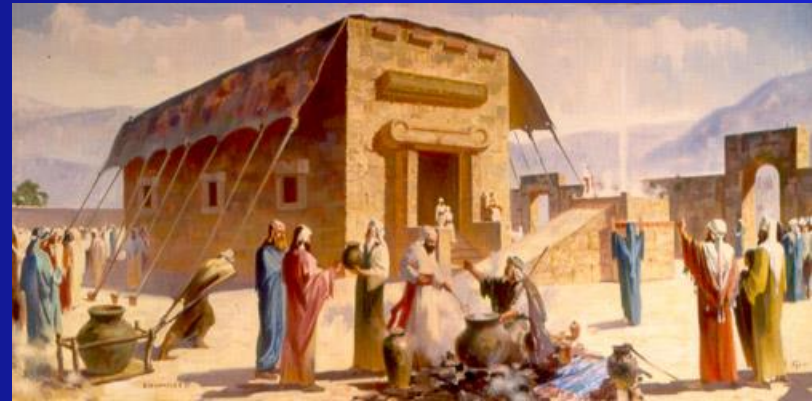
“SOJOURN” simply defined

1. It is a ‘journey’ away from what once was ‘home’
2. It is a ‘settling’ in a place that is not your home
3. Therefore in the Bible it is variously translated: journeyed, dwelled, stayed, lived, stranger and pilgrim



“SOJOURN” simply defined

4. It is used to define the experience of the Patriarchs
5. It is used to describe the experience of Israel as the nation sojourned in
 - *Egypt*
 - *Babylon*
 - *Diaspora*



“SOJOURN” simply defined

6. It is also used in the Bible to describe the life of a Christian

- *1Pet. 1.1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are sojourners of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,*
- *1Pet. 1.17 And if ye call on him as Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to each man's work, pass the time of your sojourning in fear:*
- *1Pet. 2.11 Beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lust, which war against the soul;*

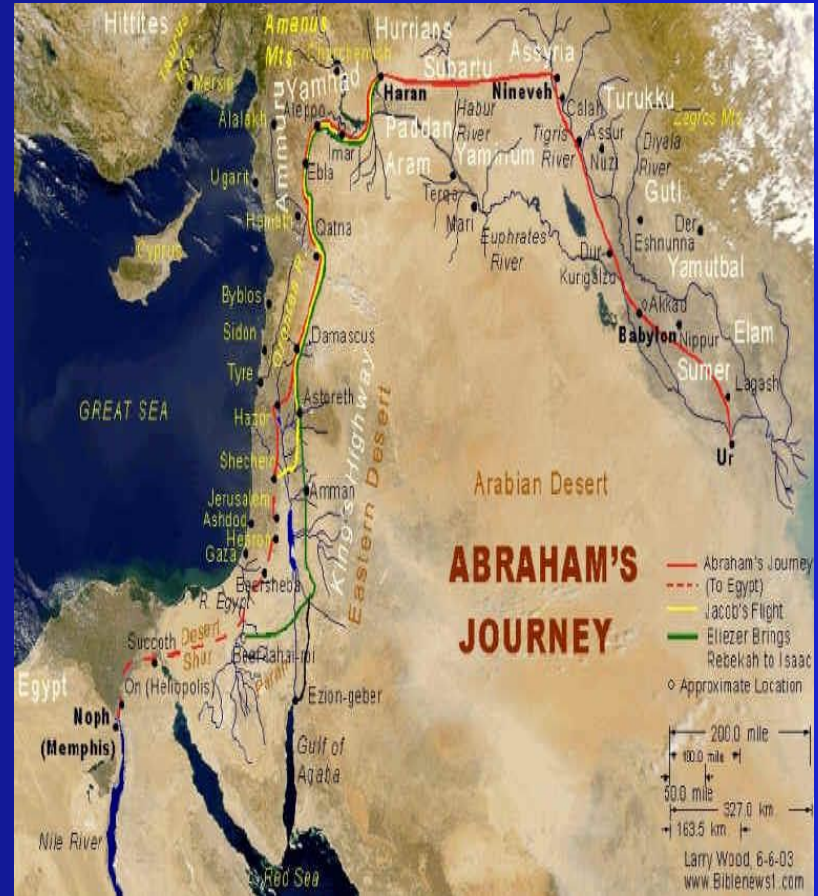
**By looking at the Patriarchs'
sojourn we can discover 7
vital principles in our present
walk with the Lord unto
perfection**

Sojourn principle #1

We are called out of what we once
thought was 'HOME' to a journey
according to Purpose

Abraham 'sojourned' from Ur of Chaldees into Canaan

- Gen. 17.8 “I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”



Isaac 'sojourned' from Beer Lahairoi to Gerar (Philistia)

Gen. 26.1 ¶ Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines.

Gen. 26.2 The LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you.

Gen. 26.3 "Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you



Jacob 'sojourned' from Canaan to Padan Aram

- *Gen. 32.4 He also commanded them saying, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: 'Thus says your servant Jacob, "I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed until now;*



Jacob saw that his 'sojourn' was spiritual and not just geographical

Gen. 47.9 So Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The years of my sojourning are one hundred and thirty; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning."



The principle of Sojourning according to purpose reviewed

1. The sojourn is different from 'wandering' without purpose - Israel's time in the wilderness was never called a 'sojourn'
2. By being called out of our 'home' we are cast completely upon the Lord for protection and help
3. As we sojourn we discover that the Lord is our 'dwelling place' and that this world is not our home Heb. 11:9-10 (KJV)

“The christian doctrine of suffering explains, I believe, a very curious fact about the world we live in. The settled happiness and security which we all desire, God withholds from us by the very nature of the world: but joy, pleasure and merriment, he has scattered broadcast. We are never safe, but we have plenty of fun, and some ecstasy. It is not hard to see why. The security we crave would teach us to rest our hearts in this world and oppose an obstacle to our return to God; a few moments of happy love, a landscape, a symphony, a merry meeting with our friends, a bathe or a football match, have no such tendency. Our Father refreshes us on our journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for home.”

CS Lewis, *Problem of Pain*

Sojourn principle #2

Whatever the circumstance that starts us on our sojourn, the LORD arranges to 'meet' us in the way

Sojourn principle #2

Gen. 24:27 “I, being in the way, the
LORD led me...”
(Eliezar’s testimony to God’s ways)

The reason for the sojourn may vary

- *Acts 7.2 ...The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,*
- *Acts 7.3 And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.*



The reason for the sojourn may vary

- *Gen. 26.1 ¶ Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines.*



The reason for the sojourn may vary

- *Gen. 27.42 Now when the words of her elder son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent and called her younger son Jacob, and said to him, “Behold your brother Esau is consoling himself concerning you by planning to kill you.*
- *Gen. 27.43 “Now therefore, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee to Haran, to my brother Laban!*



But the Lord meets us in the way

- Abraham had 7 Divine encounters on his sojourn



But the Lord meets us in the way

- Isaac had 6 Divine encounters on his sojourn



But the Lord meets us in the way

- Jacob had 5 Divine encounters on his sojourn



The sojourner comes to the crossroads of divine self revelation

1. He meets the sojourner in his loneliness and fear
2. The God of purpose arranges the circumstances that pushes the believer out of the 'nest' and then spreads His wings to catch him

Deut. 32.10-11

*“He found him in a desert land,
And in the howling waste of a wilderness;
He encircled him, He cared for him,
He guarded him as the pupil of His eye.
“Like an eagle that stirs up its nest,
That hovers over its young,
He spread His wings and caught them,
He carried them on His pinions.*

The sojourner comes to the crossroads of divine self revelation

3. He not only meets the sojourner 'in the way', He begins to 'carry' the sojourner 'into His Way'

*Psa. 85.13 Righteousness will go before Him
And will make His footsteps into a way.*

When did my way become His way?
I cannot tell the hour;
It was a fearsome transfer from
My weakness to His power.

Sojourn principle #3

Faith is tested and
proven on the sojourn

The Patriarchs' faith was discovered in the sojourn

Abraham's "obedience of faith" was tested and proven

Heb. 11.8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.



The Patriarchs' faith was discovered in the sojourn

Abraham also discovered
a faith within
sojourning after
heavenly things

*Heb. 11.9-10 By faith he
sojourned in the land of
promise, as in a strange
country, dwelling in
tabernacles ... for he
looked for a city which
hath foundations, whose
builder and maker is
God.*



The Patriarchs' faith was discovered in the sojourn

Isaac's abiding faith in God's Promise was tested through famine

- *Gen. 26.12-14 ¶ Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And the LORD blessed him, and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy; ... so that the Philistines envied him.*



The Patriarchs' faith was discovered in the sojourn

Isaac's persevering faith was proven through persecution

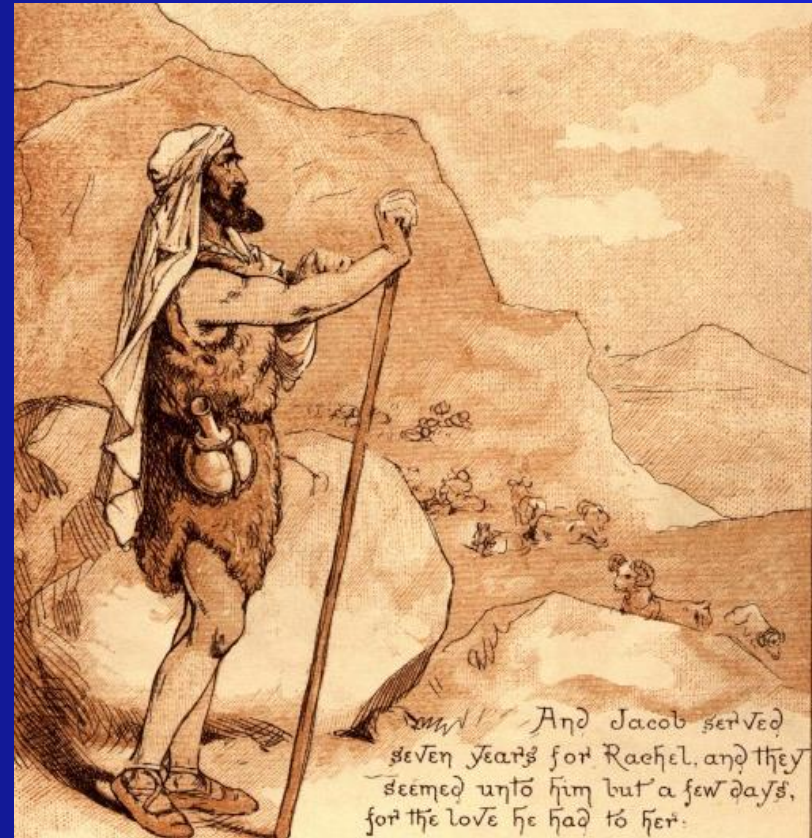
- *Gen. 26.15 Now all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines stopped up by filling them with earth.*



The Patriarchs' faith was discovered in the sojourn

Jacob's self-confident faith was tested in the sojourn with Laban

Gen. 31.42 *"If the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had not been for me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the toil of my hands, so He rendered judgment last night."*



The Patriarchs' faith was discovered in the sojourn

Jacob's 'wrestling' faith transformed his sojourn into that of a victorious 'limping prince'

Gen. 32.28 *He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."*



Faith is proven in your sojourn

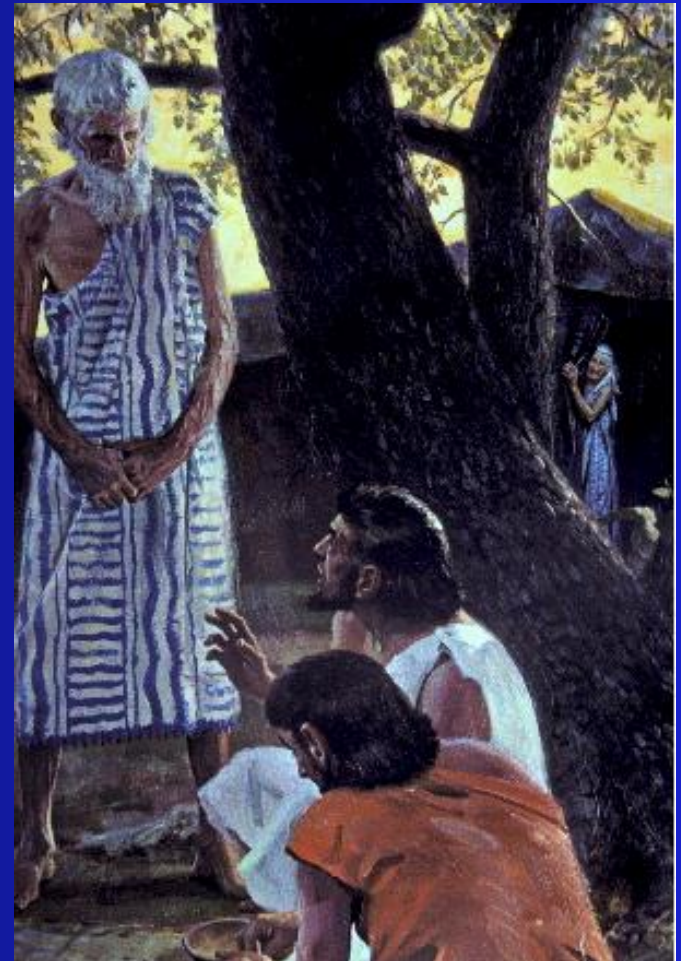
1. The world tolerates 'beliefs' and 'dogma' but despises faith that works on life's sojourn
2. The more one presses on an 'upward way' the more the world just wants to 'settle'
3. The sojourner is not aware of great faith within but becomes faithful by obeying each step along the way

Sojourn principle #4

The sojourn teaches the
true nature of 'Blessing'

The 'blessing' of the sojourn

- Abraham was progressively 'captured' by the God of Grace and Promise
- The earthly blessings he gained set his face toward a city where God dwells
- The Presence of God was his blessing



The 'blessing' of the sojourn

- Isaac 'inherited' riches whose keeping felt like a great burden
- At Beersheba Isaac sensed the 'blessing' of God's Presence once he returned to back to Canaan
- Blessing therefore involves being in the right place to enjoy



"Abraham's well" in Beersheba

Engraving by WM Thomson, 1880

Note the marks left by ropes in the mouth of the well

The 'blessing' of the sojourn

- Jacob discovered that blessings grabbed are not enjoyed
- Jacob's blessing came when he let go of all that was his and grabbed hold of God
- Jacob served God's purpose as a 'blessor' at the end of his life
He. 11.21



Our blessed sojourn

1. The sojourner eventually sees beyond the blessings to the Blessed One
2. The spiritual blessings in Christ become our riches and character enlargers
3. Both the Place of blessing and the Presence of blessing are discovered and coveted through the sojourn

Our blessed sojourn

- Lev. 25.23 ¶ *‘The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me.*
- Even when Israel entered the Promised Land they were commanded to remember:
 - They were still sojourners
 - God Himself was a sojourner with them through this world

Sojourn principle #5

The cross is the working principle of the sojourn

The sojourn (way) of the cross

1. In the sojourn one discovers their utter weakness and fleshly resistance
(=rez: one learns to lean on His Life)
2. In the sojourn one realizes that complicated thoughts and actions make them an unprofitable liability
(=rez: the way to a simple life is chosen)
3. Our sins reveal Sin reigning in our life
(=rez: the exchanged life is laid hold of)

The sojourn (way) of the cross

1. Abraham realized just how “as good as dead” he was as touching the promises (Rom. 4.19, He. 11.12)
2. Not only did Isaac’s sojourn begin at “death” on Moriah, but his wife, dwelling and blessing of children were determined by others

Yet through the cross’ decrease they sensed the increasing life of God within them rich with blessing and purpose

The sojourn (way) of the cross

3. Jacob sensed the cross upon all that he touched in his sojourn

Gen. 47.9 So Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The years of my sojourning are one hundred and thirty; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning ”

The Life of Jacob					
Strife with Family		Conflict with Laban		Struggle with God	
• Stolen Birthright	Journey to Padan Aram	• Marriage	Journey to Canaan	• Wrestles with God	Journey to Egypt
• Stolen Blessing		• Children		• Esau	
		• Prosperity		• Blessing	
Canaan		Haran		Canaan	
77 years		20 years		50 years	
"God's House"		"God's Camp"		"God's Face"	

The sojourn (way) of the cross

4. Yet Jacob sensed the blessed Presence of God throughout his sojourn

- *Gen. 48.15-16* *He blessed Joseph, and said, “The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, The angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; And may my name live on in them*



Christ sojourned to the cross

- Luke's gospel pictures Jesus last 6 month journey to Jerusalem as a sojourn (Lu. 9.52-53, 57, 10.1, 38, 13.22, 14.25, 17.11, 19.1, 11, 28, 41)
- Jesus found no home on earth nor among his own people



The way of the cross 'perfects'

1. Through the humiliation and emptying of self confidence and pride comes a deep confidence in the grace of God
2. It is not that the men became perfect in character but that they learned to live by the Life of God
3. The measure of perfection is how completely one abides in Christ

Sojourn principle #6

The sojourn is the way
one comes to really
know the Lord

“Knowing” the Lord

1. One meets God in the sojourn but experientially comes to know the Lord by ‘walking with Him’
2. Revelation begins the process of knowing and walking establishes our knowing

1John 2.13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

“Knowing” the Lord of Mercy

1. In the sojourn we come to know the God of all mercies
2. This happens through a two-fold process of the cross wherein
 1. One comes to the end of himself in failure and disqualification
 2. One realizes that a forgiving God not only knew his failures but somehow put these into His overturning plans and accomplished His purposes through them

“Knowing” the Lord of Mercy

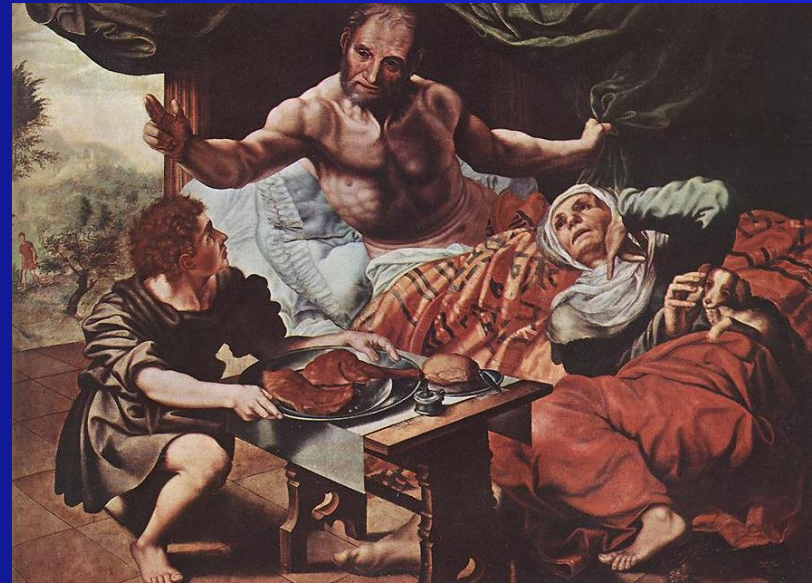
Abraham's
deflections from
faith were used to:
perfect Sara in total
submission (1Pet.
3.6)
discipline Israel as a
nation through
Ishmael's Arab
kingdoms



“Knowing” the Lord of Mercy

Isaac's blatant preference for Esau was overturned by God who looks at the heart

Gen. 27.33 Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, “Who was he then that hunted game and brought it to me, so that I ate of all of it before you came, and blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed.”



“Knowing” the Lord of Mercy

Jacob saw God's
overruling hand in
his sojourn which
God used to raise
up a family and
fulfill His promise
to Abraham for an
inheritance



12 Tribes
of Israel

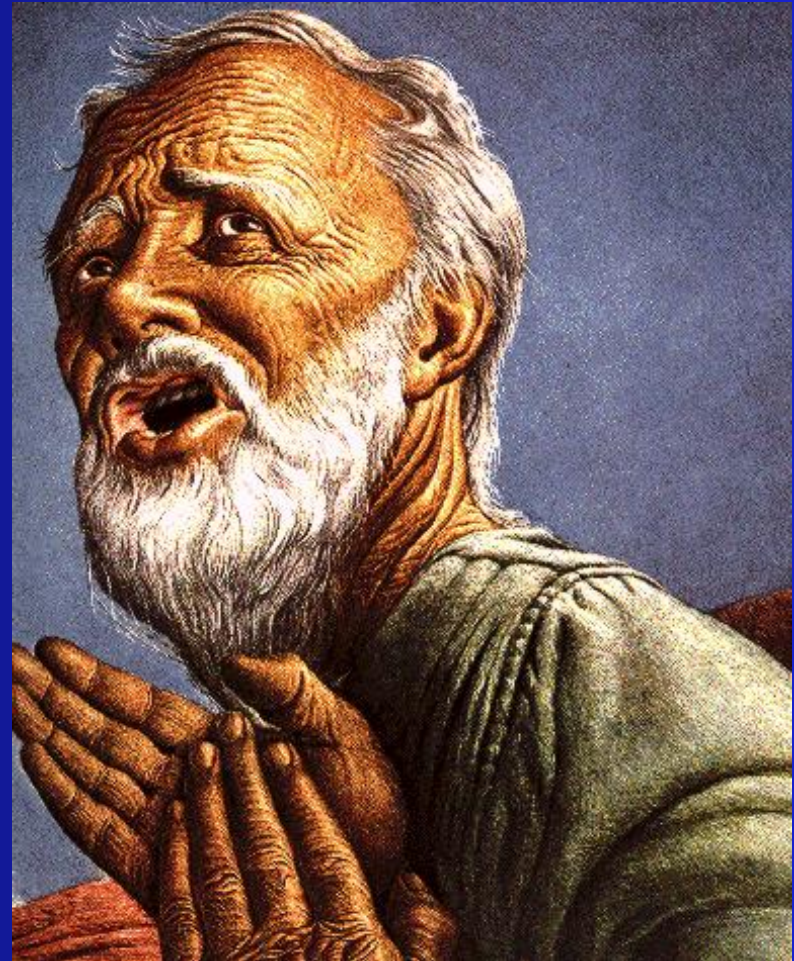
Twelve Tribes of Israel

Manasseh	Asher
Naphtali	Zebulun
Issachar	Gad
Ephraim	Dan
Benjamin	Reuben
Simeon	Judah

“Knowing” the Lord of Mercy

Through the sojourn one
even as sinful as
Paul could see God’s
overruling mercy

Rom. 8.28 ¶ *And we know
that God causes all
things to work
together for good to
those who love God,
to those who are
called according to
His purpose.*



Sojourn principle # 7

A unique testimony is
established in every
sojourner's life


Testimony of the sojourner

1. Each one has not only his experience of life but his experience of the God of mercy

2Cor. 4.7 ¶ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves

2. Two things are made clear through the sojourn:
 - The vessel and the 'treasure' are clarified
 - The vessel and the treasure have been united

Next Time



Part Two:
Sojourning the way of the cross
for the sake of others