

REGAM

(THE JOSHUA FINACIAL ARMY)

DR. TOR TERRY SHAGUY

REGAM
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TERRY SHAGUY MINISTRIES
#2 Faith Bible Way, Akobo
Box 19824, UI.
Ibadan, NIGERIA.
Email: terryshaguy@gmail.com
Tel: 234 (0)7030308123
www.terryshaguy.org

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THANKS

*I must always appreciate the Holy Ghost my most senior Mentor
who among other things is:*

*Still making a Christian out of me,
Helping me in the Ministry and
Writing through me.*

DEDICATION

Pastor Abosede Debbie, Shagun my dear wife, friend and partner.

Our four children Iveren Favour, Sewuese Praise, Tor David and Sina Mimi for: bearing the brunt of my many errors and enduring periods of avoidable scarcity while we practiced beating our plowshares into swords and the interpretation of the dreams of others.

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The God of covenant reward you all. Amen.

Introduction



REGAM is coined from the first 2 letters of Reuben & Gad and the first letter of Manasseh because it was half the tribe. These two and half tribes, by sheer providence, got their inheritance first when Moses and later Joshua led Israel into the promised land. They pledged to and actually helped their other brethren until everyone was settled. They had that community spirit and oneness so vital it was the last thing Jesus prayed the Father to make the Christian Family. This love, unity and community or family spirit was what the Acts Church celebrated and it was recorded that they had all things common and there was none that lacked.

Through the Moses generation, God has delivered the Church from financial Egypt. The Church is now at the border of the financial promised land. The Joshua generation is being raised to lead the Church into the

era of such financial abundance where nations will borrow from individual Christians and only saints who have deliberately elected poverty will remain poor in the Church.

This book, named after the ministry of the writers, teaches clearly God's purpose for wealth and how the Church as a community can thrust poverty out of the body. The book teaches how the few mega millionaires in the present Church can translate to a universal body of wealthy Christians whose wealth shall accomplish omega or lasting things for our Christ. The book explains the import of the Abrahamic covenant of wealth and how the Church as a family and not just a few individuals can access this wealth. It further reveals how every local assembly can break the scourge of poverty and connect every member to the abundance promised and provided by El-Shaddai our Jehovah Jireh.

Finally, the book suggests that Church prosperity is better appreciated when the individual Church member who is walking in obedience is assisted to defeat poverty in his personal life and contribute to the divine strategy to use the wealth of this world to preach the Gospel. It is not enough to have 5 millionaires in an assembly of 500 members if up to 25% of that figure are not able to meet their essential needs. It is also folly when the CEO has 2 or more personal cars if all or some of his associates have none. This book shows how to bridge the gap in a practical suggestion.

When the John Avanzinis and the Kenneth Copelands

began to venture that the immeasurable wealth of this vast earth was put here by God for His people (the Church), some ignorant believers and non-believers alike sought a quiet place outside the city to stone them.

Those good natured ignoramuses looked over the top of their gold-framed-eye glasses having consulted their 22 carat gold wrist-watches and declared to a congregation of partially enlightened listeners that money was the beginning of evil. Thank God the Bible never said that.

Still they declared that wealth (of any kind) was worldliness and would lead to hell. A million thanks to God that the Bible never said that either.

Those people gathered to raise funds for multimillion-dollar Church edifices on the one hand and labeled the “prosperity message” the devil’s doctrine on the other. A perfect irony. I suppose after they drove home in their state-of-the-art cars and dined with the most expensive wines and delicacies, they must have been very proud of their own theology. Of course, they all paid for their deliberate disrespect for logic. You know, most of those edifices whose project committees they presided over/participated in since the early 1900s to 1960s are just being completed and commissioned in the 1990s and 2000s (usually in their absence).

Nevertheless, that confusion was a long time ago. After the Oral Roberts, Benson Idahosas, Myles Monroes and David Oyedepos latched on to the truth that wealth was a vital condiment to the Gospel of a glorious God whose streets are made with gold and who states explicitly

that His cities through prosperity shall be spread abroad, they introduced a new dynamic angle to the prosperity message. These great apostles of our times practiced and lived what they preached. They glamourized the message. They did not only prosper, they made their faithfuls prosper. Predictably, they put in place such awe inspiring Kingdom facilities within such record breaking time that those who were still brave enough to criticize them went at night (like Nicodemus) to witness such accomplishments.

No wonder, it was reported that the late Archbishop Benson Idahosa lived so opulently and generously that his household killed cows on daily basis and that it was an offence to visit him fasting. Less wonder still, Bishop Oyedepo as at 2006 is presiding over the biggest and most aesthetic architectural master-piece auditorium on earth, accomplished within nine months without seeking financial assistance from any bank. His favorite phrase is that black is not synonymous with lack.

From his headquarters in what is known as Canaan land, the Oyedepo Ministries along with the Living Faith Ministries, are reaching millions of people on daily basis either through their churches which are in most major cities in more than two continents or through their books and tapes ministry. How about the phenomenal and spectacular Covenant University? All these and more have been possible because God put wealth upon the earth.

What's more, Christians are now freely searching

those scriptures that their leaders had forbidden them to explore in the past. They have realized that from book to book, God is not only portrayed as being opulent but indeed glad to see His children enjoy the resources He put upon this planet. The Bible is replete with scriptures that support this position. True, some businessmen may have manipulated the prosperity message for personal gain. Yet, a sweeping condemnation of this vital truth is equally as destructive. Fake 'Prosperity Ministers' are the evidence that there are indeed genuine Ministers the Father has commissioned to help the Church of Jesus Christ employ the vast resources of this earth to hasten the spread of the gospel.

Now those who criticized the prosperity message have buried their pride. When they need to go, say, from Nigeria to England, they don't ask for a donkey. They go by air. Not many preachers have the faith of Philip whom the Holy Ghost transported. When they make a statement, they want the world to hear. If the Press does not seem impressed, they pay for air time or Newspaper space. No, none is quarrelling with money now. That is a rested issue.

Even the most conservative have learnt that no matter how much you speak in Tongues, if you don't bring out your purse, your family will sleep under the rain and most likely starve to death. If you don't bring out your cheque, any musical instrument that arrives your church overnight will most probably be accompanied by the police. Except of course, someone else has already

paid for it. Even sworn conservatives seem to have this parlance: let's not speak about money; let's just spend it.

Sure the indispensability of money is rested. The Moses generation of Financial Generals have brought the Church out of financial Egypt.

Nevertheless, whereas the Church has long departed from the financial bondage of yester decades, the Church is still in the financial wilderness. We are preaching much prosperity everywhere but the money is still in the hands of the heathen.

Now God is raising the Joshua Financial Generation. This financial army will bring the Church into the promise land of abundance. The Joshua financial generation will settle the issue of if indeed and in truth, there is a place in God where sufficiency is available for every Christian and if one can have more money than the Bank Vaults. Is Malachi Three verse Ten a reality or parable?

True, God does not open the windows of Heaven to pour out Naira, Dollars, Pound Sterling, Rand, Euro, Gold, Diamond, Crude Oil or what have you. An open Heaven will release the showers of anointing, wisdom, favour and grace to create wealth. But is it still not possible for millions and millions of God's children upon the earth in this generation too, like King Solomon, to make gold and silver to become like stones for abundance, or at least live reasonably above poverty? Is it God's plan to make this state of abundance the exclusive rights of Kenneth Copeland in the USA, David Oyedepo in Nigeria and a few other Christians littered across the globe? Or do they

know something the majority of Christians don't?

Is abundance and sufficiency not intended for all saints? So has any group of Christians accessed this provision in any generation?

Has God indeed kept His word to open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it?

Can God?

Chapter One

Yes, He Has & Can



And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make. And Moses gave command-ment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much. Exodus 36:5-7.

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And when they had this done, they enclosed a

great multitude of fishes; and their nets brake; and they beckoned unto their partners in the other boat, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. Luke 5:4-7

WHILE conceding that abundance or sufficiency is relative, it is comforting all the same to assert with even greater conviction that yes, God has blessed people in the past beyond their ability to cope with the increase. Yes, God can and wants to do the same in this generation providing the necessary understanding is in place. And yes, reasonable sufficiency was achieved in the Biblical Church in Acts.

Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. Acts 4:34-35

This was perhaps the most harmonious period in Church history. Constantly faced with persecution and perhaps hardly able to enjoy the commercial liberty we have in our days, these Christians were 'Christian' enough to consider each a part of the other. The account says in the preceding 32nd verse that they were of one heart and one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the

things which he possessed was his own: but they had all things common.

What a really beautiful congregation!

As I write this book, my wife and I recently left pastoring in a Church where somehow, for a long while, all the cars were in the hands of that beautiful congregation. Less than a quarter of the nearly fifteen pastors had any cars. At one point God opened the flood gates of cars and boy! There was a stream of cars. Sunday after Sunday we dedicated cars. And what a joy it was to dedicate those cars! Nevertheless, each time any of the pastors needed a car for an outing, we had to beg from one person to another. Often, we were obliged. Several times, we were refused. The excuses were usually tangible but that's all they really were: just excuses.

It was a common sight to see the brethren drive off after service leaving the pastors behind to find their way. God help you if you had been a little too zealous and had emptied your pockets at the offering. A number of times before God gave my family a car, some brethren had overtaken me on the way, had cheerfully explained to me they were not going my direction and had zoomed off leaving me and my family to manage as best as we could. After all had I not just finished screaming my lungs hoarse preaching faith to and praying for them? I should be able to do quite all right, by faith. As a matter of fact, there were certain brethren you dared not ask for their cars under any condition. Looking back now, I believe there was one particular brother I never saw any

body sit in the driver's seat of his car the entire time we served together.

Do you see the problem? Yes, we dedicated the car but it was not God's car and it certainly wasn't our car. It was his or her car all by himself/herself.

Ok relax. It really wasn't all so terrible. There were still some who would make all manner of sacrifices either to give you a lift or the car itself depending on the situation. One particular time, my wife had an accident with our only car at the time and one particular family loaned us one of their cars as long as we were willing to keep it. Only I am ashamed to confess such brethren and gestures were very few.

Now you think my brethren were impossible? You have three cars. You drive one. Your wife drives the second and the really big one is for special occasions. On Sundays your family brings two cars to Church although one would have conveniently been enough. How many of your pastors still go around in taxis? How many of your brethren in the local assembly still walk long distances to and from Church?

Your wife, she has all that jewelry, those shoes, bags, suits and what have you. How many of the sisters in your Church still patch their black skirts with white thread? For that matter, all those your designer suits and shoes, how many of the brothers in your local assembly still have their one pair of jeans and two T-shirts?

Now you are getting offended. Please don't be sir. Let's face it. The Bible says we are members of the same

body and if one member suffers all the body suffers. (1Cor12:25-27).

But I suppose it is because you work so hard and all others are so lazy? Don't be deceived. the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. Eccl. 9:11

The Church in Acts understood this. The Church in 2000 and beyond should too.

Perhaps in your own case you were actually distributing but you later discovered that the leadership does not appreciate you. You know, that position you were clearly the most qualified for, the leadership schemed you out of it. That's why you either stopped distributing or left for another Church altogether.

I appreciate your hurt, sir. Therefore let's learn a lesson from the experience of Brothers Barnabas and Matthias in Acts. You remember after the suicide of Judas Iscariot, Peter reasoned it was necessary to elect a replacement. Brothers Barnabas and Matthias were presented. The Holy Ghost as Chairman of the Church knowing He had a greater assignment for Barnabas made sure he was not picked. You see, any position men rather than God create for you, will only cause your divine destiny to be scuttled or at best, slowed down.

Do you notice the only time you read of Matthias was at the elections where he replaced Judas?

Many times when the Holy Ghost has a divine

appointment for you, He will let men disappoint you.

When He plans to set you up, He will allow men let you down.

You must be comforted by now. If you have not been appointed to a position you feel clearly qualified for, don't run away from the assembly. Wait for God. He is up to your good. He plans to get you glory in the same place you have been despised.

*...and I will get them praise and fame in
every land where they have been put to
shame. Zeph 3:19*

Now please get back to where you began with your God, sir. No man is big enough to provoke you into aborting divine destiny. Stay focused on the reward that emanates directly from the throne of grace and position yourself for this explosive financial baptism of abundance.

During the time of Moses, as the people were committed to Kingdom establishment, the supply was abundant. There was hardly room to accommodate the provision. They were restrained from bringing more. How could they bring except of course they first had?

In 2Kings 4:1-6, when the debt-threatened widow obeyed Prophet Elisha and practiced the distribution principle faithfully, supply superseded vessels.

Professional fisherman Simon Peter, spent a fruitless night trying to catch fish. In the morning, he accepted his fate and was preparing to quit when it happened. The heavens beamed the searchlight and found Peter had both

a compassion for souls and a generous heart. The Lord thus took over Peter's boat and conducted a waterside crusade. After that, He broke both Peter's fishing record and nets. A generous Peter promptly beckoned on his other neighbours to come and share in the spectacle.

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, ... And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from hence-forth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

Luke 5:4-11.

A commitment to Kingdom advancement, selflessness and a generous heart that readily shared his wealth with others, had given Peter a breakthrough beyond his ability to cope with.

Is it not amazing that Peter not only demonstrated a generous attitude and commitment to the expansion of the Kingdom but that he was willing to give up all that wealth and the inherent fame, to follow the Lord? I suggest that many people would rather have begun to 'worship' their breakthrough and would have been so swallowed up in their sudden elevation and business, it

would have been very difficult to draw them away long enough to be at the next Church service. Not Peter.

It was this same commitment to the distribution principle and the expansion of the Kingdom that culminated in sufficiency for all in the Church in Acts.

When and if the purpose of wealth which is: covenant orientation and selflessness are in place, the Church will not only get to a point where poverty shall be kicked out but indeed, some Christians will not have enough room to accommodate their harvest.

I believe the Father is poised to visit this state of abundance upon His Church. The entire Church is potentially eligible but those who will practically key into this coming glorious financial state, nay, those who will make up the Joshua Financial Army must be consecrated.

When God was going to initiate the covenant of wealth with Father Abraham, the first requirement was for the father of faith to be separated from the systems of the world and be consecrated to the divine pleasure.

Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: Genesis 12:1.

Under the subtitle: The Covenant, we have discussed the implication of Genesis 12:1 extensively.

Suffice it thus to mention here that those who will experience this financial rain must like Father Abraham, be separated from all that traditional bribery, corruption,

manipulation, tricks, fraud, greed and selfishness that are common place with the business environment of the heathen. They will need to walk before me, and be perfect-Genesis 17:1. They must be sold to absolutely obeying and pleasing the Father.

Once this consecration is in place, the army of Joshua must then observe the following:

- Understand and be willing to fulfill divine purpose for wealth.
- Cultivate a community/family spirit.
- Do business in great waters.
- Not 'arrive' too early.
- Respect the Law of a Seed.
- Beat their plowshares into swords

Chapter Two

The Purpose of Wealth



But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. Deuteronomy 8:18.

Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem. Zech1:17.

Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field. Eccl5:9.

FOR THE purpose of this book we are looking at wealth, primarily as money, goods and material

possessions.

If you ask most men who have cut it big why they work so hard, over 95% will respond extempore, that it is because of their families. They will most likely explain that they want their kids and spouses to have a good life. Is it not interesting that no one ever says he is making so much money so that his enemies will spend it and perish? Anyway Psalm 104:24 says that ...the earth is full of thy riches. Eccl 5:9. Moreover the profit of the earth is for all...

If men in their limited wicked nature think to seek the security of their children, much more does God desire and indeed provide security for His own. He put the riches on this planet for man generally but especially for His children (the church).

Rev. David Olu David my spiritual mentor says that wealth is not a function of hard work but a gift from God.

This is collaborated by scripture which states that God gives all men power to get wealth. To the sinner his riches are just baits for him to travail. Ultimately, he passes those riches to the righteous (Eccl. 2:26 & 6:2). Somewhere down the line the wealth of the wicked is transferred to the righteous. If not during the life time of the wicked, it can not go beyond his 2nd generation.

Check out all wealthy families in the non-Arab world whose wealth has survived the third generation. They must be Christians. Or at least such wealth must have been secured in humanitarian foundations governed by

Christians.

Wealth is a gift from God.

The question is why? This very important question demands an answer because even some Christians have touched wealth but it kind of seems to have made wings and flown away.

The opening scripture in this chapter provides all the light.

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth that He may establish His covenant which He sware unto thy fathers as it is this day Deut. 8:18 Emphasis added

The reason God empowers you to get wealth is so that He the covenant keeping God may prove His faithfulness which He swore to Abraham-Gen 12:1-3, confirmed in Isaac- Gen 26: 1-5 and reiterated in Jacob or Israel-Gen 28:2-4.

It is imperative you understand that when God was speaking to Abram (Abraham) in Genesis 12, He was addressing a nation. God was addressing billions of people through Abraham. Consequently, Abraham had to walk with God by faith so he would double as the father of both the physical and spiritual Israel.

God was telling Abraham, 'I have a special package for a peculiar people. I will entrust this package to you Abraham, if you will learn to trust me. Your first test will be for you to give up your familiar methods and

company'. Once Abraham was willing to Obey, God then spelt out the details of the covenant.

- I will make of thee a great nation
- I will bless thee and
- Make thy name great and
- Thou shalt be a blessing
- I will bless them that bless thee and
- Curse he that curseth thee and
- In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

God or for that matter, humanity benefited nothing if God stopped at making Abraham a great nation, blessing him and making his name great. What was vital in the arrangement was if Abraham understood and was willing to be a blessing. That was the center of this arrangement. God would make Abraham a great nation, bless him and make his name great so that he would be a blessing.

God would bless those who bless Abraham, curse he that curses Abraham and in Abraham would all the families of the earth be blessed because Abraham was to be a blessing.

As God was addressing Abraham, He was looking through to me a Nigerian here in Africa. God was looking through Abraham to those Christians in Afghanistan, Peru, England, Korea, Russia, Sychelles, Kenya, India, U.S.A, Israel, etc. God said in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

God intended for all of humanity to be blessed but He needed someone with integrity who would bear the blessing. He needed a caretaker who would watch over

and distribute the blessing. He was enlisting Abraham as a steward. A conduit for the blessing. The blessing would run through him. He would indeed be thoroughly blessed but it would not stop there. He would convey this blessing to others. As long as he was willing to pass some of the blessing on, he would be so blessed his name would be great upon the earth.

His greatness resulted from a bi-directional responsibility namely;

- He operated as a faithful steward of God's plan to bless humanity and;
- He ministered to men whose glad and succoured souls glorified God. (2Corinth 9: 8-14).

In consequence, his greatness stemmed not from being served but instead, in being a servant both of God and men.

He faithfully received from God (the source) and distributed to man (the target).

Abraham became a channel through which God sustained integrity as a covenant keeping God. He remembered the Lord God...for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth that He may establish His covenant...

He was a natural distributor. His entire house-hold was sold on this mentality. They competed with each other to minister nourishment to both their neighborhood and even strangers. Predictably, when God camouflaged as travellers arrived that fateful hot-eastern-afternoon in Genesis 18, Abraham's entire household hastened to cheerfully serve the "Guests". This generosity cut

Abraham and Sarah's barrenness short as God arose from that meal and pronounced Isaac's birth within one year.

When you consider that the wealthiest man in the East during his days was running around as a waiter in his own house for strangers, you will wonder whether some are going to the same heaven with Abraham.

You know, those pennies have made some people so pompous God is having a difficult time calming them down long enough to empower them to touch the pounds.

Calm down, man. Real wealth, Godly wealth, will bring humility out of you. It will make a servant out of you.

*... let the Lord be magnified which hath
pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.
Psalm. 35:27.*

Godly wealth is a weapon. It is entrusted to those who will understand God's plan of reaching every creature with practical love.

Godly wealth is a responsibility. It is reposed in responsible covenant stewards. These are those who will remain servants no matter how stupendous their wealth is. With a firm understanding of this fact the Apostle Paul was to instruct the church in Ephesus;

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hand the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needed Eph 4: 20. Emphasis added

Paul understood that we need to create wealth to

meet the needs of others.

He admonished:

*Let no man seek his own, but every man
another's wealth. 1Cor 10; 24*

He was also to instruct his ministerial son, the younger Timothy to:

*Charge them that are rich in this world
... that they do good that they be rich in
good works, ready to distribute, willing to
communicate... that they may lay hold on
eternal life. 1Tim 6:17-19. Emphasis
added*

It could be seen from this particular scripture that the issue of distribution of worldly goods is linked to eternal life. I mean, it is that serious. To the Romans, Paul wrote:

*Be kindly affectionate one to another with
brotherly love...not slothful in business...
distributing to the necessity of saints:
given to hospitality Rom 12: 10, 11, 13.*

In his days John Baptist was to charge his congregation:

*...He that hath two coats, let him impart
to him that hath none: and he that hath
meat, let him do likewise. Luke 3:11*

He was responding to their question of how to guarantee salvation and the eternal life.

The prophet Ezekiel revealed to Jerusalem that among other sins that brought God's wrath upon Sodom:

*Pride, fullness of bread, and abundance
of idleness was in her and in her daughter,*

neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. Ezekiel 16: 49.

Mordecai a saint of the dispersion or put more plainly, an exile, secured a place in history and even rose to become the second in command to King Ahasuerus not for his ability to interpret dreams like Joseph nor was it for his divine wisdom like Daniel but he was had in reputation for seeking the wealth of his people – Esther 10: 3.

Eventually, a man who should know: even King Solomon of a thousand wives and inexhaustible wealth, had this interesting Arithmetic:

Distribution + liberality = increase.

Hoarding + miserliness = poverty.

*There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth;
and there is that withholdeth more than is
meet, but it tendeth to poverty. Prov. 11:
24:*

He says further in Eccl.5:11 that when your goods increase, there should be a commensurate increase of those who should benefit from same. Why? The answer is in verse 9:

Moreover, the profit (increase, fruit) of the earth is for all... amplification added.

The Preacher reveals a number of vital truths in this Ecclesiastes chapter 5 verse 9, namely;

- All the wealth of the universe is from the earth.

It is either underground such as ore, petroleum, precious stones etc or on the ground such as trees, livestock, plants etc. So they are constantly under your foot and should never command your worship. At most, they are on the same level with you.

- The product of these harnessed abundant resources of the earth should and is meant for all. This 'all' includes everybody. It includes that beggar down the road and that widow on the next street and the presidents of Nigeria, USA, etc. It includes the refugees in Rwanda and the aristocrats of the good old England. It includes those orphans in Orphancity and the silver-spoon-kids in Billionaireville. It includes the illiterate and the bookworm, the tall and the short, the Black, White and Coloured. It includes man and woman. It includes you and me.
- Since this wealth is for all of us, it is your godly right to take your portion through honest endeavours.
- Should any seem to be failing to get their portion, it is your godly responsibility to share with them.

The preacher concludes in Verse 11 that God allows some people special grace to draw more than they personally need from the vast resources of the earth so

that they may accomplish the added responsibility of looking out for those who are yet to access theirs.

*When goods increase, they are increased
that eat them... Eccl 5: 11*

We are left no doubt throughout scripture that the purpose of Godly wealth is to reach every creature with God's goodness and the Good news.

A close up on the covenant of wealth that God enacted with our father Abraham will further buttress our understanding of the purpose of wealth.

THE COVENANT OF WEALTH

*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 shew thee: And I will
make of thee a great nation, and I will
bless thee, and make thy name great; and
thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless
them that bless thee, and curse him that
curseth thee: and in thee shall all families
of the earth be blessed. Gen 12:1-3*

God commanded in Deut. 8:18 that men should remember the Lord God for it is He God that gives the power to get wealth that He God may establish the covenant which He swore unto our fathers.

Since an experience of this desirable life of abundance

is contingent upon an operation of the covenant, it behooves us all to dissect the covenant from two basic perspectives, namely: God's and man's.

A covenant by the way, is a sacred agreement or contract between at least two parties. Such sacred agreement usually has 6 principal elements namely:-

- The Parties to the covenant.
- The Requirements upon both parties
- The Benefits
- The Seal
- The Mediator and
- The Witness.

Usually, the highest form of this sacred agreement is the blood covenant. Now, this is exactly the covenant that God entered into with our father. It is the same covenant that is passed down to us in its perfected New Testament form.

Since God commanded that we should ...remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth that He may establish His covenant which He sware unto Thy fathers, as it is this day, there is need for us to get a firm understanding of this covenant along the lines of its 6 principal elements.

(i) The Parties

In Genesis 17:2, 7 & 9, we find the parties to this covenant as God on the one hand and Abraham on the other. Needless to emphasize that Abraham here was

symbolic of the entire Abrahamic race which includes Jews after the flesh and Jews after the faith.

(ii) Requirements (Abraham-ward)

- The requirements of this covenant cut across political traditional and ancestral boundaries.
- Abraham was to get thee out of thy country... this was political oblivion.
- And from thy kindred...traditional irrelevance
- And from thy father's house...ancestral obliteration.

Now don't belittle the consequences of these requirements. I want you to remember that Abram as he was then known, was so greatly attached to his father that at age 75, he was still following his father about. It was not a small thing therefore to demand that he forsook all he had ever known and been used to.

Nevertheless, the bottom line was that God was demanding Abraham becomes a "nothing" a "nobody" before God could make him a "somebody" The aim was to get Abraham to a point where he could 'walk before Me, and be thou perfect'-Genesis 17:1. Abraham had to be separated from his former methods to walk acceptably with a perfect God.

Custodian of divine wealth, the same demand will be made of you. Like He did to Abraham, God will require that you forsake the political, traditional and even ancestral fashions you were used to. You will be required to consecrate yourself to Him.

- Another vital requirement is trust or Faith. Abraham was commanded to get thee... into a land that I will shew thee.

It entailed a lot of trusting for Abram to desert the known for the unknown; the visible for the invisible; the certain for the uncertain. Yet this is a vital condition for kingdom wealth. Those God will entrust wealth must themselves exhibit absolute trust and confidence in the ability, willingness and methods of God. This is faith. No wonder, Abraham is referred to as the father of faith.

- A crucial condition of this relationship was obedience. The evidence of our trust of the Father is the willingness to obey. Speaking of Abram or Abraham in verse 4 and 5 of Genesis 12, the Bible says So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken unto him: ... and into the land of Canaan they came.
- The final condition of this arrangement was that *...and thou shalt be a blessing. Gen. 12:2d. ...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Gen. 12: 3c.*

This is perhaps the most important requirement. It was vital that Abraham understood he was to be a blessing. A distributor. A channel through which others would be blessed. For this was God's main benefit in the entire arrangement viz; to find a faithful steward through whom the families of the earth would be blessed.

Our God does not shop at the fast food restaurants. He does not shop at the 'Readymade' boutiques. He does not look for made vessels. He makes His vessels. He is not looking for the able; He enables the available.

As it was with Abraham, so it is with you child of Abraham. The requirements/conditions are still the same.

If you step off your political high horse, If you cast off your traditional pride,

If you lay aside your ancestral, educational and social status and embrace godly sanctification, if your confidence is not in your education or beauty or intelligence or connection but in the Almighty God, if He knows you will obey Him whether or not it makes sense, if He can trust you to distribute, then indeed you can sing; Abraham's blessings are mine.

(iii) The Benefits

Abrahamic covenant is replete with every conceivable benefit or reward that men could possibly hope for.

In Genesis 12: 2, we are told Abraham would be made a great nation. Great here would mean all of the following:-

- He would enjoy such numerical fruitfulness that he could only be described as a great nation.
- He would be great in the sense of being an excellent and qualitative nation.
- He would be delectable and admirable.
- He would be great in the sense of being very vital

in God's walk with humanity henceforth.

- A great nation because of his enjoying good physical and mental health.
- Very influential, very powerful, very unique.
- Full of abundance.
- Skillful, valuable, suitable, favourable.

Just think of it. Whatever possible connotation the word great evokes in you. All those good and favourable implications of greatness were packed into that all-encompassing adjective.

He would be blessed. This means Abraham would be endowed with every conceivable ability and provision. He would be specially favoured. He would enjoy divine indulgence. He would be prospered. He would be rewarded. He would enjoy divine backing, approval, assistance and protection. His labour would yield profit. He would be wealthy.

Eventuating or resulting from the two benefits above, his name would be great. He would be famous.

He would be God's channel to bless humanity
...and thou shall be a blessing.

In verse 3, we are told that God would recompense benevolence to all those who treat Abraham with favour, kindness and generosity. I will bless them that bless thee.

In other words, God would follow in Abraham's wake, repaying the father of faith's debts.

Furthermore, God would also fight Abraham's

battles....and curse him that curseth thee. Talk about divine defense.

...and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed. What a privilege! What ineffable honour! God says to Abraham: from this point, I will deal with the families of the earth primarily on the basis of their relationship to you. Yes people of all nations may enjoy the sunshine and have rains. They will still not be charged a fee for the fresh air. If they watch their hygiene, they may lead healthy lives and even grow to be reasonably old.

However when it comes to relating father and children, they will have to bear the name of Abraham or God wouldn't bat an eyelid.

Now please take note that the benefits in any covenant must be mindful of all the parties concerned. Every covenant must be symbiotic.

In the case of Abrahamic covenant or what we have come to acknowledge as the covenant of wealth, you will notice that there are seven benefits. As you may agree with the itemization above, you will notice that benefit item 1-3 and 5-7 are all in Abraham's (and by implication man's) favour.

The single benefit that advances God's part is the one in item 4. Do you see the point? God says to Abraham (or Terry, or Mimi, or whatever your name is); I will do items 1-3 and 5-7 so that you will be enabled to do item 4. You know, item 4 is the median of all the benefits. It is the centre of all the benefits..

God says to man, or Abraham, or George, or Betty, or Lee, or Nike, or Khan, or Buthilezi, whatever your name is. God says, ‘see, we have this covenant and there are seven benefits or rewards at stake. I will do for you all of six benefits. I only demand that you do one for me. Take all of the six but leave for me the middle benefit’.

Do you know why? Because God is determined and on oath to bless humanity. He says I am doing for you all I am doing, Debby, so that you will be empowered to be my channel to bless humanity. God tells Israel in Deut 8: 18,

...remember the Lord thy God; for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He sware unto thy fathers;...

Do you see who is under obligation to establish the wealth covenant? God. He says the reason He will make of you a great nation, bless you, make your name great, bless them that bless you, curse he that curses you and all of that, is so that He will position you propitiously to distribute the blessing.

Do you know that the fourth item in the covenant benefits not only underscores the centre of the entire covenant? It is spiritually strategic. It suggests that for you to fulfill God’s purpose for the wealth, you need to walk in love. Figure 4 you remember is symbolic of love. It would be impossible without love to understand why anyone would be required to distribute what he seemingly acquired or gathered through his “hardwork”, “intelligence”, and/or “connection”.

Paul admonishes:

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.
Ephesians 4:28.

Now, isn't it instructive that the reason we are enjoined to labour and work with our hands is for the primary purpose of distributing to those who are in need? Ordinarily, this would have made the creation of wealth very unattractive. But when love is seated, distribution becomes a pleasure. That is why love is so vital. When there is love, the vessel of such distribution considers himself privileged.

I mean do you have any difficulty sharing your wealth/property with your spouse or children? All things being equal, I should think you do it gladly. Why? Because you love them, that's why.

Regarding the distribution of Kingdom wealth, love is also the foundation. And what a privilege to be such a vessel of distribution! Look at all such inimitable honour and fame. Consider all the benefits of the covenant. Just check them out.

Who gets to become a great nation? The vessel of blessing.

Who gets the blessing? The vessel of blessing. Whose name becomes great? The vessel of blessing. Whose debt does God repay? The vessel of blessing. Whose battle does God fight? The vessel of blessing. Who is God's

standard of relating with men? The vessel of blessing.

Then, ultimately, Abraham becomes God's friend. Why? Because like God, who loves and gives, Abraham is also a giver. He does not only distribute, he has also taught his entire household to give. He ministers to his household and community. He ministers to strangers. This Abraham, he is so concerned for the welfare of those around. He will not go to bed if anyone of them gets into bad waters. He will mobilize his domestic army to rescue a seemingly stubborn Lot. He will not sneer and say, "I told that Lot many years ago but he would not hear. It serves him right. He knows too much, that boy."

Abraham will not say that. He will not even make excuses that it all happened far away and by the way, pursuit and recovery were hopeless. No, Abraham will not make excuses. He will arm a pursuit party and redeem his brethren. At all cost. He loves so much.

Keep also in mind that 7 stands for perfection. God therefore says to Abraham, you or me; your willingness to be my channel to bless others, perfects this covenant.

The father wants to use the same principle of multiplication that populated the whole earth from one couple, to enrich the church. The idea is to communicate the blessing to key vessels in different assemblies and have them distribute to others. In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed; in thee shall all the members of your local assembly/family/congregation be blessed.

(iv). The Seal

This is the official mark or stamp that authenticates a covenant. Secularly, business transactions and agreements are concluded and deemed legally binding on both or all parties as the signatories append their official marks or stamps. The seal makes the agreement or covenant sacrosanct.

Different biblical dispensations had varying forms of seals. For example Nohaic covenant had the rainbow as seal. Abraham had circumcision. However the better covenant in Christ has introduced a more permanent and living seal, The Holy Ghost.

...in whom also after you believe, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise...Eph. 1: 13

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption. Eph. 4: 30.

Nevertheless, we are still required to be circumcised in our hearts.

But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter;... Romans 2:29

(v). The Mediator

This is the adjudicator. The one who makes peace or

intervenes should disputes arise between the covenanting parties. He is the intermediary and advocate.

Christ is graciously our mediator in the New Testament.

And to Jesus Christ the mediator of the New Covenant...Heb. 12: 24

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. I Tim 2: 5

(vi).The Witness

He is the party that stands-by and consents to the fact and existence of the covenant. Should either of the parties attempts to become smart, the witness will be required to give evidence that indeed an agreement does exist.

Christ doubles in the New Testament as both mediator and witness

And from Jesus Christ who is the faithful witness...Rev. 1: 5

Conclusively, we see that the covenant of Abraham to which all Christians are signatories, carries with it the responsibility, of being God's steward for the benefit, more of all humanity, generally, than just the private household of Abraham.

God's covenant idea is usually for a people and not an individual. Yet, God must find one faithful. One so broken and so poor he will not covet personal enrichment.

One so broken and so poor he will release his Isaac. One so thoroughly delivered of the deceitfulness of riches that after every major financial victory he will be seeking the welfare of those with him rather than himself.

When Abraham returned from delivering Lot and the others, the King of Sodom was so grateful he offered all the spoils to Abraham. A broken Abraham, a “poor” Abraham declined profusely, only remembering to make a case for the young men that went with him. This was in Genesis 14. Would you be impressed if reminded that in Genesis 13: 2 ... Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver and in gold?

No more room to accommodate the blessing? Yes, when God finds a compulsive-spirit-led-distributor. One more concerned with the welfare of others than self. One who understands that he is blessed to be a blessing.

Will He find you?