



The Beginning

Lesson 9: God Calls Abram

(Genesis 12:1-14:24)

While Abram was in Haran, God commanded Abram to leave his country, his family, his father's house, and go to a place God would show to him. God promised that He would make a great nation out of Abram, bless him, and make his name great. And, God would make Abram a blessing to others. God would bless those who would bless Abram and curse those who would curse him. And, God promised that all families of the earth would be blessed in him.

There are three main promises that are made to Abram here. And, we will be watching how God fulfills these three promises throughout the rest of the Bible story. The promises were: (1) A land promise, (2) A nation promise, and (3) A Seed promise. The land would be the land of Canaan. The nation would be the nation of Israel. And, the Seed would be Jesus Christ.

So, having promises made to Him by God, Abram left the land he was living in and his family, only taking his wife (Sarai) and his nephew (Lot). Abram trusted in God enough to be obedient to Him, even though he was going to a new place. And, Abram and Sarai still did not have any children, though Abram was 75 years old.

When Abram was in the land of Canaan (in Shechem), God appeared to Abram again. God promised, "To your descendants I will give this land." (Genesis 12:7). Then, Abram built an altar to God at that place. When Abram moved to Bethel, he built another altar to God and called upon His name.

During the time Abram was in Canaan, a famine hit the land and Abram traveled to Egypt to find food. When they were in this place, Abram did not tell the people of Egypt the complete truth about Sarai being his wife. Instead, he only said

that she was his sister. Then, after the king of Egypt learned that Sarai was Abram's wife, he sent them both away from Egypt.

Abram left Egypt and went back to the land of Canaan. And, when he returned to the altar he had made in Bethel he called on the name of the Lord again. Now, Abram was a very rich man. He had many animals and servants. And, Lot also had many animals and servants.

Both Lot and Abram had so many animals and servants that they could not live together anymore. The fields they were in were not big enough for all of these animals. So, Abram and Lot agreed to separate to avoid any trouble between them and the people who took care of their animals.

Abram gave Lot the choice of where he wanted to live, whether to the right or to the left. So, Lot looked at the land and saw that the plain of Jordan had plenty of water and chose to live there. Then, he moved as far as Sodom. But, the people who lived in Sodom were very wicked and did not obey God.

After Abram and Lot separated, God told Abram to look again at the place he was and promised that He would give Abram and his children all the land he could see around him. God said that He would give Abram so many children that they could not be counted. And, God told him to go walk through the land. Then, as Abram traveled, he built another altar to God by the terebinth trees of Mamre.

Later, there was a war that was fought between nine kings. During this time, Lot was captured and all that he had. Whenever Abram heard about this, Abram attacked Lot's capturers and rescued him from them (as well as others).

After this, the king of Sodom and other kings went to meet Abram. Melchizedek (king of Salem and priest of God Most High) also met with him. Melchizedek blessed Abram. And, Abram offered a tithe (one-tenth) of all that he had been blessed with.

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Study Questions:

1) Who were Abram's wife and nephew?

2) What did God tell Abram to do?

3) What were the three main promises God made to Abram?

4) Did Abram obey God? If so, why?

5) Why did Abram go to Egypt?

6) Why did Abram and Lot separate?

7) Where did Lot choose to live?

8) What happened to Lot? What did Abram do?

Memory Verse:

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. (Genesis 12:1).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: