

GENESIS 12

The Call of Abram

1 Now Yahweh said to Abram:

Go forth¹ from your country, from your relatives, and from your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, and so you will be a blessing. 3 And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse.² And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.³

4 So Abram went forth as Yahweh had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his nephew, all their possessions that they had accumulated, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan. Thus they came to the land of Canaan. 6 Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land. 7 Yahweh appeared to Abram and said:

To your seed I will give this land.

So he built an altar there to Yahweh who had appeared to him. 8 Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to Yahweh and called upon the name of Yahweh. 9 Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.

Abram's Egyptian Escapade

10 Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.⁴ 11 It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife:

See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman, 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, This is his wife, and they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you.

¹ In biblical times, leaving your family was unheard of.

² **Mt 25:31-46** 31 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will put the sheep on his right and the goats on the left.

³ God's promise to Abram is seven-fold: (1) I will make you a great nation; (2) I will bless you; (3) I will make your name great; (4) you will be a blessing; (5) I will bless those who bless you; (6) I will curse the one who curses you; and (7) all the families of the earth will be blessed in you. An eighth promise is "to your seed I will give this land" (v. 7).

⁴ Abram's sojourn in Egypt prefigures Israel's sojourn in Egypt.

14 It came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh, and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. 16 Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake and gave him sheep, oxen, donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels. 17 But Yahweh struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. 18 Then Pharaoh called Abram and said:

What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?
19 Why did you say, She is my sister, so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go.

20 Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him, and they escorted him away with his wife and all that belonged to him.

Biblical Worldview

- 1. Genesis at a Glance.**
 - a. The context of Abram's life is the Flood and the Tower of Babel.
 - b. Many of his ancestors are still alive.
- 2. The Abrahamic covenant, first stated in Ge 12, is key to the biblical story.**
 - a. As Abraham grows in faith, God promises him more and more. The promises of the Abrahamic covenant become more specific and detailed.
- 3. In every age, God challenges believers to go on mission for him.**
- 4. To answer God's call, there are things we will have to leave behind.**
- 5. God determines the mission.**
- 6. God promises to bless those who go on mission for him.**
- 7. God blesses believers so that they may be a blessing.**
- 8. God blesses and curses people based upon their treatment of his servants.**
 - a. **Mt 10:40-41** 40 Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. 41 The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward.
- 9. Israel is the 71st nation through which God will bless the 70 nations.**
- 10. When we go on mission, we will be surrounded by unbelievers. Our allegiance to God will be tested.**
 - a. The Canaanites were very religious people. Abraham's altars to Yahweh would have been provocative.
- 11. Sarah is also important in the biblical story.**
 - a. The line of Messiah must go through Sarah.
 - b. God protects Sarah's womb from Ge 12 to Ge [].
- 12. We will experience failures of faith on our mission for God. But God will bring us through.**

Notes