



MESSAGE/SERIES:

BIBLICAL BEGINNINGS/ Genesis 12

“Take Your Family to Worship & Be Blessed”

DATE: May 10, 2020

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

Genesis 12-13, Hebrews 7:4, Psalm 105:12-15, Hebrews 11:8, Acts 3:25, Acts 7:1-8, Galatians 3:8, 16

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[GENESIS 12]

12 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. ² And 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. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, **“To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built**

there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country 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 the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

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. ¹¹ When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, ¹² and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake." ¹⁴ When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵ And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶ And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

¹⁷ But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸ So 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 And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

[PATRIARCHS] "Patriarchs The forefathers of the people of Israel. The term can be used in a broad sense, referring, e.g., to David (Acts 2:29), to the list of eleven revered ancestors from Abraham to Daniel (1 Macc. 2:51–60), or even to the Antediluvian Patriarchs. However, the patriarchs par excellence are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph and his brothers. This article concerns these patriarchs, whose story is presented in Genesis."

F. W. Bush, "Patriarchs," ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Revised* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979–1988), 690.



OUTLINE:

I. COMMAND & COMMUNION (v1-9)

When the Lord calls us to follow Him it means leaving somethings behind and not looking back. God gives **clear direction**, but only gives Abraham enough direction to **act immediately**. Our obedience will be blessed by the same God that commanded you to go.

- A. (v1) *“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.”**”*
1. “From your country” ...
 - a) God calls us to leave what is familiar to us

- (1) *Many times it means to move on to a **new physical place***
- (2) *Many times means abandoning some earthly possessions (land/long time home)*
- (3) *Many times it means to move on to a **new challenge***
- (4) *Many times means abandoning*

2. From “your own kindred”...

a) God calls us to leave the people in which we are connected

(1) *This means there will be new people God will put in to our path*

(2) *Many times we must leave our family (Mother & Father/ Brothers and Sisters)*

(3) *This means learning and loving new people and getting out of our comfort zone*

3. From “your father’s house”...

a) Learning to trust God for yourself

b) Learning to trust your spouse as your first earthly priority

c) Learning to disciple your own family/ Spiritually lead them in the way of the Lord

4. “To a land I will show you”...

a) Many times that direction God gives us is only enough to leave the life we once lead behind us

b) But many times He only give direction as we obey and go

B. (v2) “And 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.”

1. **God would cause many things to take place** because *it was His will* and it was His will for it all to *start with Abraham*

2. “Make of you a great nation”... (Grace extended to a people)

a) Promise God made to make a nation of followers of the God of the Bible

(1) *(Initially) Nation of Israel (starting with Abraham)*

(2) *To the New Israel (with Gentiles grafted in after Christ)*

(a) *Romans 11:11-24*

- (3) *To many Jewish people who will one day be grafted into the family of God when their eyes are opened*
- (4) *The great nation would end up being all of the people of God and this covenant would be applied to the new Jerusalem*

(a) *Revelations 21:2*

- 3. "Bless you (Abraham)"...
 - a) God chooses to bless whom He wills and it has nothing to do with the individual (God is gracious)
 - b) God's blessings have been extended to the followers of Christ since Abraham

- 4. "Make your name great" ...
 - a) **Specifically to Abraham** in the sense he would become the father of the Hebrew people the original Patriarch (Grace extended to the individual/Abraham)
 - (1) *The reputation and recognition of Abraham would be one of respect and honor bestowed on him by almighty God*

- 5. "So that you will be a blessing" ...
 - a) This is the first foreshadowing of the coming of Jesus as Messiah--
 - (1) *Jesus would come through the lineage of Abraham*
 - (2) *and the world would be blessed by His coming*
 - (3) *and the plan of redemption implemented through him (the eternal blessing upon all people groups)*

C. (v3) "I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- 1. "Bless those who bless you"
 - a) God's favor would affect those who treated God's people favorably
 - b) God's punishment would be on people who treated His people wrongly
 - c) All of the earth would be blessed in the fact that Jesus would come through Abraham's seed (His humanity)

D. (v4-5) “So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan.”

1. Abram took the ones closest to Him on His journey to obey God
 - a) He made sure to take His wife
 - b) He made sure to take His extended family
 - c) He took everything with Him because there was no turning back to Haran
 - d) He was leaving his earthly father’s grave and his legacy behind in Haran to seek God’s promises

E. (v6-7) “Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.”

1. **A Theophany**- a visible appearance of the pre-incarnate Christ to Abraham
2. God promised to give Abraham’s seed the land even though Abraham never owned any of the land in his lifetime...
 - a) The land would be given to the Hebrew people
(1) (Acts 7:6-7)
 - b) They still live in that land today
 - c) Eternally this is where the new Jerusalem will be located for all eternity (the earth renewed and restored)
 - d) Abram was living as a nomad but was trusting God for what He would do in the future

F. (v7) **Abram built an altar at Shechem**- “ So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.”

1. **Shechem**
 - a) was a town built on a watershed which separates the waters that flow to Jordan and the waters that flow to the mediteranian (place where decision would matter)
 - b) Was the place of the freshest and best water springs in all of the land (Jesus would be the living water give to all who would surrender to Him as Lord & Savior)
2. Abram built an Altar because he trusted the God that made Himself known to him

3. Abram built an Altar because an altar was a place of refuge for the one offering (trusting God in spite of the unknown)
 - a) To surrender to one who can protect and provide for you
 4. Abram built an Altar because he was demonstrating he was willing to give sacrifice to God as His God
- G. (v8-9) **Abram built another Altar near Bethel-** “⁸From there he moved to the hill country 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 the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.”
1. **Bethel** means “the house of God”
 - a) After Pentecost God would come to live in man and man would be the Holy Spirit’s house or temple

II. DECEPTION & DENIAL (v10-20)

When circumstances come against us how do we respond and where do we run for refuge? Do we still trust God or try and make our own way?

- A. (v10) “¹⁰Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for **the famine was severe in the land.**”
 1. Abram was being tested
 2. He was questioning if the Land God was giving/God’s provisions could sustain his family
 3. When we make our own path we set ourselves up for further sin and a greater distance from where God wants us to be
- B. (v11-13) Abram makes his plan of deception
 1. In order to gain favor with men
 2. In order to avoid consequences to making the wrong turn to Egypt (being killed)
 - a) So Abram has Sarai claim she is Abraham’s sister
- C. (v14-15) Sarai is taken to Pharaoh’s house because of her beauty to become the pharaoh's wife

- D. (v16) Abram was given livestock because it was supposed he was the brother of the beautiful Sarai
1. Abram deceived man to receive his favor
 2. But God's favor was not on Abram as he was not acting righteously
- E. (v17) **"¹⁷But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues** because of Sarai, Abram's wife."
1. When we sin we affect everyone we come into contact with
 2. Abram's deception causes Pharaoh's family to be plagued
- F. (v18) **"¹⁸So Pharaoh called Abram and said, 'What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife?'"**
1. It's a sad day when people whom God has given direction get off course and have unbelievers questioning our decisions
- G. (v19) **"Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go."**
1. The world didn't want anything to do with him
 2. And he was still not back on track with the God who he had seen, and built altars to
- H. (v20) Abram and his family are sent away as the men he sought favor from wanted nothing to do with him
1. Many times we cause them to want nothing to do with our God because of our actions

[Interactive Application]

1. How many Altars did Abram build in chapter 12? _____
2. Why did Abram build the first Altar (what happened that provoked him building the Altar)?

3. Why did Abram deceive the Pharaoh?

4. How have we trusted God enough to begin the journey but to later abandon the plan out of fear or adversity (person reflection):
