

Genesis 12: The Call.

I. God Calls Abram:1-3

Acts 7:2-3 - *And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, "and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you*

Genesis chapter 11 is all about the plans of man. Genesis chapter 12 is all about the plans of God. With the call, God makes promises.

- I'll make you a great nation.
- I will bless you.
- I will make your name great-influence.
- You will be a blessing.
- I will bless those who bless you and I'll curse those who curse you.
- In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Galatians 3:8-9 - *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.*

II. Abram Leaves For Canaan: 4-9.

After stating He wanted Abram to leave his country and his relatives, God appears to Abram in Canaan, He promised Abram **land**. Abram delayed and went with extended family.

The altar was a place to meet with God, to offer sacrifice for sin, to show submission to God, and to worship God.

Abram never lived in a house - he lived in a tent. Tents are the home of those who are just passing through and do not put down permanent roots.

III. Abram Goes To Egypt: 10-20.

Abram was concerned about feeding his family, but he acted without God's instruction. Abram was wrong in thinking God would not provide for his needs in the place where God called him to live. God called Abram to Canaan, not to Egypt. Later on Jacob wouldn't go to Egypt until God made it very clear.

Since Abram went to Egypt on his own he had to maneuver life on his own; connives with his wife to fabricate a lie. Abram's reason to tell a lie was fear. Fear leads to deception, faith leads to courage. Abram was giving Satan an opportunity to ruin God's plan, but God is powerful.

God blessed Abram even when he wasn't fully obedient. God continued to protect Abram and his wife. God did not withdraw His promises from Abram because the call and promises depended on God, not on Abram.

Abram is rebuked and dismissed by the Egyptians.

Time spent in Egypt (living outside God's will) is wasted.

- i. God calls individuals.
- ii. With His call He makes numerous promises.
- iii. His call requires faith and obedience.
- iv. **Hebrews 11:8** - *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*
- v. Faith will always be tested.

But God is in the business of growing Abram into a man of great faith, and this requires circumstances where Abram must trust God. "Faith is not a mushroom that grows overnight in damp soil; it is an oak tree that grows for a thousand years under the blast of the wind and rain." (Barnhouse).

Matthew 16:24 - *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

- vi. Do not go to Egypt.

Isaiah 31:1 - *Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are very strong, but who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD!*

- vii. Even when we fail, God never fails.

Psalms 116:5 - *Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yes, our God is merciful.*