

The Beginning of Abraham's Journey

Introduction & Review

- The immediate descendants of Noah's sons spoke the same language & settled in one geographic location (Gen. 11:1-2).
- The immediate descendants of Noah's sons were unified in disobeying God – pride & independence (Gen. 11:3-4).
- God miraculously & instantaneously took away the ability for one group of people to communicate with another (Gen. 11:5-7).
- God miraculous intervention caused people to stop the construction of the tower, disperse to various geographic locations & speak unique languages (Gen. 11:8-9; 10:5).
- Through the genealogy of Shem, Abram is born (Gen. 11:10-32) – Abram (exalted father) & Abraham (father of a multitude).

I. God's Call (Gen. 12:1-3)

A. The command (Gen. 12:1)

God called & commanded Abram to leave his original homeland (Ac. 7:2-4; Gen. 11:31-32; 15:7). They settled in Haran. God repeats the call & command for Abram to now leave Haran – country & family (v. 1). God calls upon Abraham to break free from the things in life that brought stability & security in order to fully trust in the Lord. Faith involves that which is unknown, unseen & unfamiliar.

B. The promise (Gen. 12:2-3)

God's promise to Abram: a new homeland (v. 1), a great nation, wealth, fame, and a great blessing to others (v. 2). God's promise to others: blessing or cursing based on treatment of Abram (v. 3) – foreshadows the Messiah. Abraham lived to see some of this promise fulfilled before his death. Abraham became a model of faith & faithfulness for a multitude – Judaism, Islam & Christianity (Is. 51:2).

APPL: God calls & commands us to obey Him even when we are under the authority of someone who may disagree. Abram submitted to his father & God directed his father (Pr. 21:1). God's call is often radical involving the unknown, unseen & unfamiliar. The fulfillment of God's promises may not be fully realized in our lifetime.

II. Abram's Response (Gen. 12:4-9)

A. Obedience (Gen. 12:4-6)

Abram responded to God's call & command in obedience (v. 4a). Abram faced challenges: his age (v. 4c) – time for a secure lifestyle & physical limitations; and dangerous opposition (v. 6) – the Canaanites. His immediate family joined him in faith with no plans of returning – wife, nephew & “all their possessions” (v. 5). Abram was blessed to have other believers in his family because some believers have to obey God alone without family support.

B. Worship (Gen. 12:7-9)

God meets with Abram to reassure him of His presence & promise – children & this new land (v. 7a). Abram responds to God's faithfulness with worship (v. 7b). Even though he has no children & cannot presently live in the land, God is worthy of worship (v. 8-9). The promise land may not look very promising & the promise of growth may seem very dire, but God is still worthy of worship (Hab. 3:17-19).

APPL: Believers must obey the call of God even when everything naturally & physically seems impossible – we live by faith, not sight. We must obey God at any age, under any circumstance and with any physical limitations. God is worthy of worship even when you don't have a place of residence, no stable income, no large congregation, no permanent place of worship, no music, officials, preacher, etc. God is always worthy of worship (Rev. 4:11; 5:12)!