

A Word from Kathy

We have come to a turning point in the book of Genesis. In these first eleven chapters of Genesis (some 2000 + years of history), we have seen God 's creation as it came into being - man's fall and his ever downward spiral from what God had intended, God's judgment on the earth and its inhabitants, and His promise made to all men everywhere, that He would never totally destroy the earth again. Now we will spend some time looking at God's call to Abram and the covenant He established with him.

Abram was used to carry out God's unique plan for his life. All of us who are God's children have a unique plan and call on our life. Keep that in mind as you study Abram's call. Please read this chapter at least twice before starting to answer the questions. Ask God to open your eyes to- the how and why of His call and the blessings for obedience to His call.

Observation

It will be helpful to have the scripture printed out this week. We have posted it on the website along with the study guide for your convenience.

1. What is God's clear instruction to Abram in Genesis 12:1?
2. If we allow scripture to build upon itself, we will be able to see truth clearly. Read the verses below. Where was Abram living when God first appeared to him?

Gen. 12:1 *"The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."*

Look at **Acts 7**, Stephen had been chosen to minister to the needs of the early church. He was a man full of faith, the Holy Spirit, and power. (Acts 6:5, 8) He faced opposition to his preaching because many of the priests had come to a saving faith in Christ. He was accused of blasphemy and taken before the Sanhedrin (the council of religious leaders). **As he made his defense, he gave us more details as to Abram's call.** The leaders ask "Are these things true?"

Acts 7:2 *"To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran."*

3. Why did God call Abram out of Ur? Have you ever wondered why God calls some people to go to distant lands to share the gospel and some He uses right at home? The reasons are as diverse as His people. But you can be sure God has a plan and a purpose in all He is doing.

Why would God not simply use him where he was living? It might be hard to answer these questions if we did not have other scripture that spoke specifically to these people and this time. Just before Joshua's death, he calls all the leaders of Israel together and gives them a brief history lesson.

What do you learn about Abram's family that would help you understand why God wanted him to separate from them?

Joshua 24:2-3 *Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshiped other gods. 3 But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the River and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac,*

4. God made Abram some promises in Gen. 12:2-3. Underline them in the text then make a list of the promises God made him.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

5. What character qualities do you see in verse 4 that give you insight into this man Abram?

6. Mark Abram's age with a highlighter, so, as we study the next few chapters, we can easily trace the timeline of events. How old is Abram when he leaves Haran?

7. Who had gone with him when he left Ur?
Gen. 11:31-32
Who and what went with Abram on this journey?
Gen 12:5

"Everyone who quotes
proverbs will quote
this proverb about
you: "Like mother, like
daughter."
Ezekiel 16:44

8. Where have we seen the name of the Canaanites before? Whose descendants were they? Does knowing their family line give you any insight into these people?
9. What does God add to His list of promises to Abram? Vs. 7
It is important to be specific with your answer in order to understand the events that follow.
10. What is Abram's humble response to God?
In verse 6 while camped at Shechem?
In verse 8 while camped between Bethel & Ai?
11. I am sure there had been many challenges since Abram left Ur. What new challenge does Abram face in Gen. 12:10?
12. How could rehearsing the promises of God help Abram stay in the land where God had led him? Go back and look at the promises God had made to him.
13. As they are about to enter into Egypt, what was Abram concerned about? What did he instruct Sarai to do?

Interpretation

14. What insight into this man Abram do you see from his actions in Gen. 12: 6 , 8?
15. In verse 10-20, we see a side of Abram that we have not previously seen. How would you describe it?
16. What motivated Abram to only tell half of the truth when he entered the land of the Egyptians?
17. If we are followers of Christ, how are we to respond when tempted to lie?
18. Abram feared the Egyptians and what they might do to him because of his beautiful wife. Had he been a man of fear up to this point?

19. Abram ask Sarai to only say that she was related to him. Was it a lie? Was it a half-truth? Is leaving out crucial facts the same as a lie? Have you considered telling a half-truth lately? In what way would remembering the promises of God been helpful to Abram and protected others?
20. Let's look at Sarai for a moment. Did she do what she was asked to do? What happened to her? Vs. 15
21. How did God motivate Pharaoh to return Sarai to Abram? Are you amazed that even this one, who was not a worshipper of the one true God, was able to discern the situation correctly.

Digging Deeper

If you would like to dig deeper into this section of scripture, here are some suggestions.

1. *Look up the word "altar" from verse 7 and define it. Look back to its root word to get a clear understanding of what is to happen at an altar.*
2. *Locate Ur, Haran, Shechem, Bethel, Ai, and Negev on a good Bible map.*

Application

22. We saw Abram facing the challenge of famine in Gen. 12:10. There are differing schools of thought on this move of Abram to Egypt. Some say he is reasoning and looking for the best way to care for his family in a time of trial. At least he did not return to Ur. I do not want to minimize the magnitude of this challenge – he was a man with many mouths to feed, large family under his care. But where had God called him to live? If God is truly sovereign, then had this famine caught him off guard? What can we learn about hard and difficult situations in our own life as we look at the life of Abram? Does the scripture say that God told him to go to Egypt?

23. Abram looked to Egypt for help. Where did you look the last time you were in a famine-type situation?
24. One of the best forms of protection from trouble is the response to “fight or flight”. But what key ingredient of a true relationship with God does this leave out?
25. The last time you found yourself in a difficult, long-term trial, how did you handle it? What valuable lessons did you learn from it? How would you like to handle the next one? It has been said that you are either just coming out of a trial, in a trial, or headed into one. If this is true, then we would be wise to consider how we will handle them.
26. It is God’s desire to use each of us. Is there anything hindering you at this time?
27. Who cared for Sarai while she was in Pharaoh’s palace? As a child of God’s, are we ever really left on our own? Do you allow God to be your protection?
28. Are there any verses you recall that might help someone who is facing a “no hope in sight” situation?
29. What promises has God made to those who follow him? 2 Cor. 9:8



...like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.
1 Peter 3:6

