

The Call of Abraham (Abram)

Genesis 12:1-20

- I. A DIVINE CALL (Genesis 12:1-9)
 - A. The Fourfold Call (Genesis 12:1)
 1. Get thee *“out of thy country.”*
 2. Get thee *“from thy kindred.”*
 3. Get thee *“from thy father’s house.”*
 4. Get thee *“unto a land that I will shew thee.”*
 5. Note: It was after Abram completed the first three commands (separating from Lot), God showed him the promised land (see Genesis 13:14-15).
 - B. The Sevenfold Promise (Genesis 12:2-3)
 1. *“I will make of thee a great nation”* (Genesis 12:2)
 2. *I will bless thee”* (Genesis 12:2)
 3. I will *“make thy name great”* (Genesis 12:2)
 4. *“Thou shalt be a blessing”* (Genesis 12:2)
 5. I will *“bless them that bless thee”* (Genesis 12:3)
 6. I will *“curse him that curseth thee”* (Genesis 12:3)
 7. *“In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”* (Genesis 12:3)
 8. Note: This promise has never been disannulled (Galatians 3:15-18).
 - a. Reconfirmed in chapter 13 (Genesis 13:14-17).
 - b. An unconditional covenant made by God (Genesis 15:1-21).
 - (1) Unlike a conditional contract/covenant made between two parties – A heifer – cut in two pieces – the parties walked between the pieces.
 - (2) An unconditional covenant/contract given here (Genesis 15:8-17).
 - (a) Abram’s question – *“whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?”* (Genesis 15:8).
 - (b) Only God Himself went between the pieces (Genesis 15:17-18).
 - (3) The land of the covenant (Genesis 15:18). – (See Appendix 1, page 4).
 - (a) From the river of Egypt
 - (b) Unto the great river, the river Euphrates.
 - (c) The populace replaced (Genesis 15:19-21).
 - (4) The covenant made everlasting by God (Genesis 17:6-8; Note: Genesis 22:15-18).
 - (a) Continued in Isaac (Genesis 26:1-4; Genesis 27:29).
 - (b) Continued in Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15).

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- c. The blessing or cursing on any individual, family or nation holds good today and in the future.
 - (1) Ancient history
 - (a) The Babylonian Empire – invaded and brought into captivity the southern kingdom of Judah. – Would go on to be conquered by the Persian Empire.
 - (b) The Spanish Empire – Inquisition began in the 1400's in Spain with the Spanish royalty and Roman Catholic church associated with one another. This inquisition persecuted Jews, Muslims, and true Christian believers.
 - i. The Spanish Armada – In 1588 a Spanish fleet (Armada) was assembled to invade Protestant England, this fleet set sail and was confronted by a much smaller and outgunned fleet of British naval ships in the English channel, just when the British naval force thought that all would be lost a huge storm rolled in and blew the Spanish Armada away from the English shore and broke many of them on the European shores. Facing defeat, the Spanish Armada had to take the long way home up and over Scotland, passing back around Ireland. As they made their way out into the Atlantic ocean another storm would blow in and break up many of their ships that were left. Out of the 152 ships that had started out from Spain it is estimated by sources that less than 20 made it back to their home port.
 - ii. Spain's new world – Would lose its grip over two continents – being reduced in power by 1800.
 - (2) Modern history
 - (a) Germany – Nazi Germany killed 6 million + Jews.
 - (b) Germany – Today a shell of what it was over 100 years ago.
 - (3) Future history – The Judgment of the Nations (Matthew 25:31-46).
 - (a) Sheep nations (Matthew 25:32-40)
 - (b) Goat nations (Matthew 25:41-46)
- C. The Divine Journey (Genesis 12:4-9)
- 1. He came to Canaan (Genesis 12:4-5)
 - 2. Unto the place called Sichem or Shechem (Genesis 12:6-7)
 - a. The Lord appeared unto Abram (Genesis 12:7)
 - (1) This is the second time that the Lord had appeared to Abram (Abraham).
 - (2) The first appearance was while he was in Ur of the Chaldees (Acts 7:1-4).
 - b. The delay in getting to Canaan
 - (1) He was to leave his father's house and all his family and go to Canaan (Genesis 11:24-31). – He did not.

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- (2) Terah had served other gods (Joshua 24:2-3).
- (3) Terah needed to die for Abram to fulfill God's command.
- (4) Lot will need to separate from Abram for God to continue with Abram (Genesis 13:5-12, 14-18).
 - (a) In application – there are many things that the Christian needs to let go of (Matthew 10:37-38).
 - (b) There are many things that the Christian needs to separate from (2 Corinthians 6:17).
- c. Abram built an altar there (Genesis 12:8)
- d. Abram called on the Lord there (Genesis 12:8)
 - (1) Abram (Abraham) will offer here in the future.
 - (2) Abram (Abraham) will call on the Lord here again (Genesis 13:1-4).
3. Between Bethel and Ai (Genesis 12:8)
4. He journeyed on to the south (Genesis 12:9)

II. ABRAM'S DETOUR INTO EGYPT (Genesis 12:10-20)

- A. Abram Journeyed into Egypt (Genesis 12:10-13; Isaiah 31:1)
 1. The cause of his journey – a famine in the land (Genesis 12:10)
 2. The fear of his journey – that he would be killed for Sarai (Genesis 12:11-12)
 3. The instruction of his journey – that Sarai would tell the Egyptians that she was his sister (Genesis 12:13).
 4. The rebellion in his journey
 - a. Abram knew the Lord wanted him in Canaan, yet he allowed the troubles and trials of the situation to remove him from the will of God.
 - b. Abram was so gripped with the fear of man that he allowed it to cloud his judgment and from that he allowed the fear to drive his decision making.
 - (1) The fear of man brings a snare (Proverbs 29:25; cp. Galatians 2:11-13).
 - (2) This is not associated with being in the will of God (Matthew 10:28; 2 Timothy 1:7).
- B. Abram's Troubling in Egypt (Genesis 12:14-17)
 1. Pharaoh took Sarai into his house (Genesis 12:14-15).
 - a. Abram's fear apparently was never whether Sarai would be left alone, rather that he himself would be hurt by the Egyptians for her.
 - b. When a man departs from the known will of God, his other areas of life will suffer, in the case of Abraham it was his relationship and love for his wife (Ephesians 5:28-29).
 2. Abram was well entreated for Sarai (Genesis 12:16). Note: This is likely where Hagar (the maidservant) was added to the household of Abram (Genesis 16:1).
 3. Pharaoh and his household was plagued as a result of Sarai (Genesis 12:17).
- C. Abram's Departure from Egypt (Genesis 12:18-20)
 1. Pharaoh's rebuke of Abram (Genesis 12:18-19; cp. Genesis 26:9)
 2. The sending away by Pharaoh (Genesis 12:20)