

The Intermission Is Over

Genesis 12:1-5, 6

Supporting Text: Gen. 11:31; 13:14-15; Acts 7:2-4; Joshua 24:2; Isaiah 25:7; Luke 17:28-32; 2 Peter 2:7-8

Big Idea: There's a difference between knowing and moving. The challenge is not knowledge - it's movement.

Ten generations after Noah's radical obedience, Abram's family has drifted into idolatry on the other side of the Euphrates River. God speaks again, but not as Elohim, the distant Creator, but as Yahweh, the one who gets personal. He tells Abram to go. No map. Just a direction. But Abram gets stuck in Haran under his father Terah's leadership, and when he finally moves, he brings Lot with him – these two unauthorized weights delay his destiny and cloud his vision.

Point 1: When God Speaks, You Move, Then He Reveals

- God spoke to Abram in Ur (Acts 7:2-4) before Haran. Abram's call predated the delay in Haran.
- God gave direction, not a map. Stop waiting for God's Google Maps. Go, and He'll show you.
- Solely seeking signs is dangerous. Jesus called sign-seekers wicked and adulterous (Matthew 16).
- The promise was never canceled in Haran. It was suspended and waiting on Abram's obedience.

Point 2: Don't Bring What God Didn't Call You To Carry

- Terah (delay, loiter, station) stopped at Haran (crossroads, parched) - a man named delay stopped at a place named crossroads and called it home.
- Terah is anything that delays you - a person, system, institution, family expectation, or theology with a ceiling.
- Between Genesis 11:31 and 12:1, God did not speak. The author uses a literary and rhetorical device where the absence of something in the text is used to make a point. What the author chooses NOT to say is just as important and significant as what they did say.
- Lot (veil, covering, to wrap closely, to conceal) - righteous but not authorized to go with Abram. Every time Lot appears, something is obscured.
- Not everything blocking your vision is evil. Some of it is good, beloved, and justified. But the unauthorized weight is still a veil that clouds Abram's vision and so much more.

Point 3: God Wants You To Lift Up Your Eyes

- Abram builds altars and makes bad decisions, and Lot's veil is still present. Own your decisions - both things can be true.
- The fog or cloud's cost: Egypt panic (Gen 12:10), the Sarai lie (Gen 12:11-13).
- God blessed Abram until the land couldn't hold them both.
- Lot leaves after their herdsmen fight. After he left, God said: "Lift up your eyes and look" (Gen 13:14-15). Not before. Not during. After.
- God wasn't withholding. The veil was blocking. The promise didn't get bigger, Abram was finally able to see it.

The intermission is over. The promise didn't pause. The movie kept playing. It's time to put something down, lift up your eyes, and get back to your seat.

"But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed." - 2 Corinthians 3:16

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