

Call of Abraham

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Context of Genesis 12

- Genesis:
 - Part 1 - Genesis 1-11: big stories (Creation, Noah's Ark, Tower of Babel, etc.)
 - Primeval History: origins of the world, cosmic in scope
 - Part 2 - Genesis 12-50: Abraham cycle

Context of Genesis 12

- Abraham/Abram
 - Genesis 11:26: son of Terah
 - Genesis 11:27-32: Account of Terah's family
 - Terah has three sons: Abram, Nahor, Haran (who has died, Lot's dad)
 - Abram's wife, Sarai, no children
 - Tried to get to Canaan

Genesis 12:1-9

- v.1: "The LORD had said to Abram: "Go..."
- "Go from your country, your people, and your father's household to the land that I will show you..."
- Become a sojourner (alien, unhomed, unpeopled)

Genesis 12:1-9

- vv.2-3: “I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:1-9

1. Land: v.2: land God will show him;
v.7: “To your offspring I will give this land”
 - Promised Land
2. Descendants: v.2: “I will make you into a great nation”
 - v.2: “I will make your name great” - a large kinfolk

Genesis 12:1-9

3. Blessing: v.3: “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”
 - V.2: “you will be a blessing”

Genesis 12:1-9

- Rebecca Abts Wright: “God promises [Abraham] three things: a place, a people, and a job. These are the basic necessities of every human. God seems here to be working with a stripped down version of the mid-twentieth century psychologist Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of human needs, covering safety, belonging, and esteem/self-actualization.”

Genesis 12:1-9

- Safety: leave your land, trust God to provide land
- Belonging: leave your family, trust God to provide offspring
- Esteem/self-actualization: leave your current vocation, trust God to enable you to do this huge mandate

Genesis 12:1-9

- vv.4-9: Abraham is on the move to do what God has asked
 - Able to finally get to Canaan
 - The LORD appears to Abram (v.7), Abram builds an altar
 - Builds another altar (v.8), another journey (v.9) - nomadic

Genesis 12:1-9

- Why Abraham?
 - Abraham is largely insignificant
 - God takes someone unassuming and does great things
 - Abraham and Sarai/Sarah's displacement

Genesis 12:1-9

- Why Abraham?
 - Abraham and Sarah are known for faith and obedience
 - Hebrews 11:13: "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance..."

Genesis 12:1-9

- The story is about God's faithfulness
- God does not abandon his promises
- Where God calls, when God calls, God also equips and God remains faithful

Takeaways

- Be encouraged by the ongoing faithfulness of God
- Jesus Christ is ultimate blessing to the whole world
- We should be a blessing
 - Prayerfully consider how we may be a tangible blessing to another person around us