

GENESIS 12: A FAMILY IS CHOSEN

I. OVERVIEW

A. Abram is called by God

- i. God promises blessing on his seed
 - a. I will show you the land
 - b. I will make of you a great nation
 - c. I will bless you
 - d. I will make your name great
 - e. I will make you a blessing
 - f. I will bless those who bless you
 - g. I will curse those who dishonor you
 - h. I will bless all families of the earth through you
- ii. Abram took Sarai, Lot, possessions, servants to Canaan
 - a. Built an altar at Moreh and east of Bethel

B. Abram goes down to Egypt

- i. Because there was a famine
- ii. Pharaoh saw Sarai, and took her
- iii. God sent plagues on Pharaoh until Abram left to go up from Egypt (13:1)

II. THE LORD SAID – V. 1

A. Or, the Lord had said

- i. As in, before they left Ur
 - a. Acts 7:2-4 *And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’ Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living.*

B. But he took his father and nephew and stopped in Haran

- i. It seems as if he disobeyed but Hebrews disagrees

- a. Hebrews 11:8 **By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.**
- b. The Bible takes a big picture view of Abraham's journey
 - i. Not distracted by his missteps
- C. God repeated the promise after Abram's father died
 - i. Abram grew in faith
 - ii. Didn't invalidate the promise
 - iii. God's promise was more important than Abram's faith¹
- D. However, immediate obedience produces better results
 - i. Bringing Lot caused Abram nothing but trouble

III. YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE – V. 1

- A. Just like a man leaving his father and mother for his wife
 - i. Genesis 2:24 **Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

IV. GOD'S EIGHTFOLD PROMISE TO ABRAM

- A. I will show you the land – v. 1
 - i. The land of Canaan
 - ii. If Abram leaves his country, God will show him a new country
 - iii. Requires trust in God
- B. I will make of you a great nation – v. 2
 - i. Through his seed
 - ii. Includes Israel and Gentiles grafted in
 - a. Galatians 3:14 ...so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.
- C. I will bless you – v. 2
 - i. Related to giving a purpose
 - a. Genesis 1:22 **And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”**

¹ Guzik, David. "Study Guide for Genesis 12." Blue Letter Bible, 2018, www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-12.cfm. Accessed 13 May 2023.

- b. Genesis 1:28 ***And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”***
- c. Genesis 2:3 ***So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.***
- d. Genesis 9:1 ***And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”***

D. I will make your name great – v. 2

- i. Abraham is honored by Christians, Muslims and Jews²

E. I will make you a blessing – v. 2

- i. Through the chosen Seed – Messiah

F. I will bless those who bless you – v. 3

- i. Applies to nations and the Church

G. I will curse those who dishonor you – v. 3

- i. Nations and empires have fallen after persecuting the Jews

H. I will bless all the families of the earth through you – v. 3

- i. Even the ones who had just been scattered because of their rebellion
- ii. Global promise fulfilled in Jesus
- iii. Not just for Jews but for Gentiles
- iv. After the constant degeneration of the human race in ch. 1-11, here we have hope

V. OAK OF MOREH – V. 6

- A. Always appears in context of Israel invading Canaan³
- B. Moreh – teaching⁴
 - i. Tree of teaching/knowledge/wisdom
 - ii. Probably center of pagan instruction
- C. God appears
 - i. Offers land to Abram's offspring (seed)
- D. Abram had to choose between two trees

² Guzik

³ Armstrong, Stephen. "Genesis 2011 - Lesson 12B." Verse by Verse Ministry International, 22 Aug. 2011, versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_12b1. Accessed 17 May 2023.

⁴ Armstrong, Stephen. "Genesis 2011 - Lesson 12B." Verse by Verse Ministry International, 22 Aug. 2011, versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_12b1. Accessed 17 May 2023.

- i. Knowledge
- ii. Seed of life

VI. TENT – V. 8

- A. Abram became a nomad
 - i. Looking forward to a promised country

VII. ALTAR – V. 8

- A. Place of sacrifice

VIII. FAMINE – V. 10

- A. Test of Abram's faith
- B. Probably used to having plenty
 - i. Ur – prosperous city⁵
 - ii. Gained many possessions in Haran

IX. EGYPT – V. 10

- A. Had to “go down”
 - i. Picture of the grave, slavery
- B. Took matters into his own hands
 - i. Encountered trouble there
 - ii. Sarai acquired slave girl – Hagar
 - a. Resulted in long term trouble for his family

X. SISTER – V. 13

- A. Half-truth
 - i. Intent was to deceive, therefore a whole lie⁶

XI. SAW – V. 14

- A. Just as the woman saw the fruit was good and took it
 - i. Pharaoh saw the woman was beautiful and took her

XII. DEALT WELL WITH ABRAM – V. 16

- A. Abram gained sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, camels
 - i. 7 categories of wealth

⁵ Armstrong, Stephen. “Genesis 2011 - Lesson 12C.” Verse by Verse Ministry International, 29 Aug. 2011, versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_12c. Accessed 17 May 2023.

⁶ Guzik

- ii. God still had a hand in blessing Abram despite his sin
 - a. His work of creating blessing would be completed⁷

XIII. PLAGUES – V. 17

- A. God is protecting Abram from those who would curse him
 - i. Even though his sin brought on the curse⁸

XIV. POINTS TO JESUS:

- A. Fulfillment of promise to Abram
- B. Jesus is Abram's offspring
 - i. Galatians 3:16 ***Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.***

XV. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- A. How does God solve the problem of humans falling further and further into rebellion? How did He solve the problem of needing a seed to crush the head of the serpent?

- B. Why did God choose Abram?

- C. What should our disposition be toward Israel?

⁷ Armstrong, Stephen. "Genesis 2011 - Lesson 12C." Verse by Verse Ministry International, 29 Aug. 2011, versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_12c. Accessed 17 May 2023.

⁸ Armstrong, Stephen. "Genesis 2011 - Lesson 12C." Verse by Verse Ministry International, 29 Aug. 2011, versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_12c. Accessed 17 May 2023.

D. How do we identify with Abram as pilgrims? What country are we looking forward to?

E. How do we respond when we obey God and it doesn't look the way we expect?

F. When God tests our faith, do we run to answers the world provides? Or do we look to God for answers?

G. What happens when we take matters into our own hands?

H. Is a half-truth a lie?

I. What does the overall trajectory of our life look like? Are we growing in faith over time, even though there are missteps? Or are we stagnant in our faithfulness and trust in God?

XVI. FURTHER STUDY

A. In light of Genesis 12:1, what kind of relationship is Jesus calling us to in Matthew 10:37?

B. What is the city that Abraham was looking forward to? See Hebrews 11:8-10 and Revelation 21-22.

C. What is intended to take the place of the altar after the finished work of the cross according to Romans 12:1-2?

D. This is the first of three famines in Genesis. The other two occur in chapters 26 and 42-43. What are the similarities and differences in these three famines? What message is the author trying to convey through the responses from Abraham, Isaac and Joseph's brothers?

E. How will all families of the earth be blessed through Abraham's seed? See Isaiah 66; Jeremiah 16:19-21; Zechariah 2:9-12; Zechariah 6:12-15; Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 20:9-16; Acts 10:45; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Revelation 11:15; Revelation 22:1-5
