

Genesis 12

1 The word does not tell us how Abram heard the voice of God, audible or in his heart. This is the call of God on Abram. He is not called to go to a specific place, but to separate from his household and land. As we all sinned in Adam, so we are all called in Abram. This call is a spiritual call to all people. Leave your country. Hebrews 11:8-10 We seek a heavenly city. In our hearts we cannot be too attached to location. Leave your people. Nor can we be too attached to a group of friends or relatives. Abram's security was his clan and their alliance. America is seeking security in the like-mindedness of its people. But God calls us away from those things to trust in the security of being in Christ. Leave your father's household. We have a new family, the family of God. Matthew 12:48-50 Luke 14.

2 This is a God made man versus the self made man. Five 'I wills' in these two verses. Five is the number of grace. Just as the call is to us, so the promise is to us also. Acts 2:35, Romans 4:13, Galatians 3:8,29 He will make us a great nation. The Kingdom of God is the greatest nation. I will make your name great. What greater name could we have than Christian? You will be a blessing. Where ever we go we display the fruits of the Spirit that is the life of Christ manifest in the world. I will bless those who bless you. Matthew 10:42 People receive heavenly rewards for giving aid to people because they belong to Christ. All people of the world will be blessed through you. This is the Seed that was to come through Abram, Christ Jesus. We to bring Christ Jesus to the world. Mark 16:15

3 We certainly are blessed through him, for it is through his lineage that Jesus came. The heirs of this promise are spiritual Israel. The descendants of faith are the ones that are blessed, made a great nation, have a great name "Christian". Whoever blesses us is blessed (whoever gives a cup of cold water to you because you are mine will not lose his reward) and who curses us is cursed. We are a blessing to the world for we show the fruits of the Spirit, the life of Christ and bring them the Good News.

4 Called at the age of 75 and though he lived a long life the call is still relatively late in life for being as great a Bible character as he is and having the title, Father of the faithful.

5 –7 This is the land inhabited by the descendents of Ham. One phrase from Jehovah was enough to cause Abram to build an altar and worship. He heard in verse one and now sees in this passage. What does 'appeared' mean in Hebrew? To 'see or perceive', which leaves room for mental cognition without actual sight.

8-10 God called Abram to a place where severe famine was occurring. Abram didn't say, "Gee thanks God, great place you called me to." See vs 7 - he worshipped. God often calls us to difficulty to bless us. When we see whatever it is He has planned for us, we should worship. Then we will see His way through the difficulty.

11,12 Fear is often a tool of the enemy to cause us to compromise.

13,14 She is really his niece - brother Haran's daughter. They called nieces sisters and nephews brothers. It is still deception. Since she would be 65 at this time she must have looked very good for her age. People are still living about twice as long as today.

Abram knew the reputation of Egypt. Did God lead him here or is he finding his own solution to famine, unwilling to have a loss of wealth (livestock)?

15 From the pictures in ancient monuments we know the Egyptians definitely had their idea of what beauty was and valued it highly.

16-18 His self-protective plan seems to work and leave him wealthy but minus a wife. How did Pharaoh know Abram was the cause of the curse on his household? Did his sorcerers tell him? Perhaps he made the connection himself.

19-20 God forces Abram to return to the land of promise. Abram lied and did not trust God to protect him, yet still God blessed him and he came away with more than he arrived with. Sometimes God has plans for us that over ride our just deserts because of his grace and mercy. This was a valuable lesson for Abram.