

“The Call of Abram” Genesis 11:27-12:3

THE FAMILY OF ABRAM. Genesis 11:27-32

1. The sons of Terah. v.27-30.

- Abram's father, Terah, had three sons: Abram, Nahor, and Haran. **v.27a**
- Haran had a son named Lot (Abram's nephew). **v.27b** (Ref. 12:5; 13:1-14:16; 19:1-38)
- Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans. **v.28** (Ur was a city in southern Babylonia or Mesopotamia.)
- Abram married Sarai. **v.29a** Ref. Genesis 20:12
- Nahor married Milcah, the daughter of Haran (who died). **v.29b**
- Sarai was barren. **v.30** Ref. 25:21; 29:31

2. First steps toward the land of Canaan. v.31-32

- Terah and family leave Ur of the Chaldeans heading toward the land of Canaan. **v.31a**
- On the way, they stop in Haran and end up settling there. **v.31b**
- Terah died in Haran at age 205. **v.32**

GOD'S SOVEREIGN CALL OF ABRAM. Genesis 12:1

1. Abram's personal situation when God called him.

- His bother Haran died—and Abram was raising Lot.
- He and Sarai had no children. Note: Abram = 'exalted father'
- Abram was 75 years old. Cf. 12:4

2. Abram's spiritual situation when God called him. Ref. Joshua 24:2-3; Acts 14:16-17

- Abram came from a family that followed false religion and worshiped other gods. Joshua 24:2-3
- Like the other families and nations of the world, Abram was lost and not looking for God. Acts 14:16-17

3. The LORD spoke to Abram. 12:1

- God dramatically speaks to Abram: Go from your country to the land that I will show you.
- God commanded Abram to leave some very important things—from largest to smallest...
...your country (land), your kindred (clan, relatives), your father's house (immediate family)

GOD'S SOVEREIGN PROMISES TO ABRAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS. Genesis 12:2-3

1. I will make of you a great nation. v.2

2. I will bless you. v.2 (5 Xs in 2 verses)

- “Bless” = ‘to confer abundant and effective life on someone’. Ref. Numbers 6:24-26

3. I will make your name great...so that you will be a blessing. v.2 Ref. 11:4

4. I will bless those who bless you. v.3a

...and him who dishonors you I will curse.

5. In you all the families of the earth will be blessed. v. 3b

- It does not mean all people without exception, but rather all people without distinction.

APPLICATION

1. Abram's salvation was by God's initiative alone. I.e., “grace”

2. Abram's salvation was through faith in God and His promises. Ref. Hebrews 11:8-9; Genesis 15:6

→ obedient, imperfect, growing faith...

3. Abram's salvation is just like your salvation. Galatians 3:5-9

Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.