

ABRAHAM: THE FATHER OF FAITH - GENESIS 12

INTRODUCTION

Our Bible is a record of human history. Not all human history, but the history of redemption as God focuses on the line of Shem through Eber to Abram, then on through David to Jesus, the Savior of humanity.

Abraham (Abram) is a major Bible character - 14 chapters in Genesis cover his life and 11 New Testament books mention him. Jews (Isaiah 43:1) and Christians (Galatians 3:7, 26-29) consider Abraham the father of their faith. Muslims believe in a different version of Abraham.

In Genesis 12, we begin a study in the life of Abraham. In this chapter, we will read God's covenant with Abram. Through his long travels, we will observe Abram's flawed and fearful thoughts and struggles. Yet, through it all God's great love shines through.

DIGGING DEEPER

I. Digging Deeper - Read Genesis 12 several times. Look for personal application from Abram's life through this text. How does the Lord communicate with and protect His chosen one? How should we respond to His voice? How do these lessons in Abram's life apply to us today?

Pray for wisdom & understanding, and let's begin.

II. Verses 1-3. God speaks. In this covenant (spiritual agreement), God makes wonderful promises we will consider at the end of this study. But He also had also given instructions in verse 1 that were difficult. In following the Lord, we may offend or have to leave those closest to us. Selah

III. Verses 4-6. In response to the Lord's voice, Abram and his extended family moved into Canaan, in the Jezreel Valley, near Mount Tabor. This entourage had great possessions and a many servants.

IV. Verses 7-9. On to Bethel, Ai, and south. God speaks to Abram and confirms His word. Abram built altars. Hearing from God, our natural response should be consecrated worship. Is your life one of a worshipper – demonstrated by obedience to His will? (Romans 12:1)

Consider this picture - Bethel means House of the Lord & Ai means house of ruins. As a pilgrim, do you struggle in living between Bethel and Ai? How do you stay focused & redeem your time? Selah.

IV. Verses 10-15. Fear & flight to Egypt. Famine comes. God knew it, but Abraham was not expecting it. He thinks with a natural mind, and looks to Egypt for help. Now, Abram becomes fearful. Forgetting God's promises, he lives a lie for his self preservation. Consider his witness. Have you ever made decisions like Abraham? Yet God will not forsake him!

V. Verses 16-20. God's response. Be careful here. In blessing Abram, God is not rewarding sinful behavior. What we learn in this lesson is God's patience, longsuffering, and willingness to work with flawed and weak men. Hallelujah!

CONSIDER

* Consider & pray..... Return to Genesis 12:2 and meditate on these promises - they are for you too.

* I (the Lord) will make your name great Why? For others to know you. Why? To promote His name! So, how are you using the platform He gives you to make His name known?

* I (the Lord) will bless you... Why? To bless through your generosity in order to glorify Him! So, how are you blessing others and making His name known?

PRAY

- Upcoming CCFL events – Baptism Picnic 9/4, NE Pastor's Conference 9/26-28
- School of Ministry – new students coming this semester, teachers, housing needs
- Bible studies beginning soon – Foundations Class, Inductive Bible Study Class, Women's Study
- Calvary Chapel Christian School - Pray for new & returning students and their teachers
- Home Fellowships resuming in September - that discipleship and fellowship would flourish
- Agape' Lifeline in Chennai, India – Sam, Beena Gilbert and their many children.