

# **Genesis 11:27-12:5**

**The Choosing of Abraham:  
(God is a Missionary God)**

# Introduction

- In our last message we learned that the descendants of Noah's three sons, because of God's judgment at Babel, became 70 nations.
- In this message we see how the Biblical focus narrows to the line of Shem and then to one man: Abram.

# Scripture

**Genesis 11:27** Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered **Abram**, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. <sup>28</sup> Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans.

# Scripture

<sup>29</sup> And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. <sup>30</sup> Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

# Scripture

31 Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there.

# Scripture

<sup>32</sup> The days of Terah were 205 years,  
and Terah died in Haran.

**12:1** Now the LORD said to Abram,  
"Go from your country and your kindred  
and your father's house to the land that  
I will show you."

# Scripture

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

# Scripture

<sup>5</sup> And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.



# The Focus Narrows

**Out of the prevailing godlessness, God called one man and his family and promised to bless not only them, but through them, the whole world.**

The scattering of the peoples of the world would not proceed unchecked; a grand process of spiritual ingathering would begin.

# The Abrahamic Promise

**God made a promise to Abraham:**

“I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

# Abraham's Background

God chose one man and his family in order, through them, to bless all the families of the earth.

**Abram's background:**

**Acts 7:2** And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he

# Abraham's Background

was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran

**Joshua 24:2** And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.'

# God Calls Abraham

God first appears to Abram when he lived in Mesopotamia.

He comes from a pagan family who served other gods (idolatry).

He, and his father Terah, moved from their home at Ur of the Chaldeans and came to Haran on their way to Canaan. It is at Haran that Terah died.

# God Calls Abraham

**God appears to Abram the 2<sup>nd</sup> time at Haran after Terah died and said:**

**Genesis 12:1** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

# God Calls Abraham

**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.

- He knew God wanted him to go to the land of Canaan, but not the location in Canaan.

# The Abrahamic Promise

**God made a promise to Abraham:**

**Gen. 12:3:** “I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”



# Abraham's Conversion

**Genesis 15:1** After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."  
<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

# Abraham's Conversion

<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."

# Abraham's Conversion

<sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

# Galatians 3:6-8

**Galatians 3:6** just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"? <sup>7</sup> Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel

# Galatians 3:6-8

beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."<sup>9</sup> So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

# Galatians 3:14, 16

<sup>14</sup> so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

# Galatians 3:14, 16

<sup>16</sup> 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.

# Summary

God's promise to Abraham receives its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

All the nations of the earth are **now** **blessed** because they all are invited to receive God's solution to the human sin problem.



# Summary

Through Abraham's descendants came Jesus Christ whom God sent to bless all the people's of the earth by turning everyone, who would believe in Him, from their iniquities.

# Summary

Everyone who puts their faith in Jesus Christ becomes a spiritual descendant of Abraham.

The Bible teaches that Abraham is the spiritual father of all who put their faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 4:9-12).

# Summary

What then is the blessing with which all the nations were to be blessed?

It is the blessing of salvation!

In the book of Revelation we see a final picture of the fulfillment of the ancient promise to Abraham.

# Summary

Rev. 7:9-16 describes “a great multitude which no man could number. It is an international throng, drawn from “every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues.” They are standing before God’s throne, the symbol of His kingly reign.

# Summary

They too are spiritual descendants of Abraham, for they have washed their robes clean of sin in the blood of Jesus Christ – the one who fulfills God's promise to bless all the families of the earth.

# Conclusion

Our God is a missionary God. A God of love and mercy who is not willing that any perish.

Our gracious God gave His only Son as the cure for sin. Anyone and everyone who repents of their sin and puts their trust in Christ may be saved.

# The Abrahamic Promise

**God has beautifully and completely fulfilled his promise to Abraham:**

**Gen. 12:3:** “I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

**The fulfillment came through Abraham’s descendant, Jesus.**

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