

Abraham's Call

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Hebrews 11:8-9 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

Genesis 12:1-4 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. ¶ So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

- I. After the Tower of Babel and men were scattered abroad upon the face of the earth, the focus of God's dealings with mankind turns to Abraham.
 - A. As Noah was the tenth from Adam, Abraham is the tenth from Noah.
 - B. There is much value in a godly heritage.
 1. Not all the children of the righteous love and live for God - this is obvious from every righteous man we read about in the Bible.
 2. But a righteous man DOES leave an inheritance for his children - and that is also obvious in the Bible.
 3. Although among the descendents of Abraham there were men like Ismael, Esau, the sons of Jacob, Ahab, and Mannaseh, there were also men like Joseph, Moses, Joshua, and David who changed the world far and had much more influence on humanity forever than they did.
 4. Abraham's life was overlapped by all the previous ten generations - all the way back to Shem.
 - a) Noah died 2 years before Abraham was born.
 - b) Shem lived until 27 years before Abraham died.
 - c) So their influence was surely on his life.
 - C. As Noah was the one man chosen to preserve the human race Abraham is chosen to be the father of God's chosen people, whom God will use as a testimony of himself to the world until the end of time.
 1. It was not Abraham's pedigree for which he was chosen, but his character and his faith in God.
 - D. This is the way God works with mankind - He chooses *a man*.
 1. Usually it is a man to turn people to God for his generation.
 2. But in the case of Abraham He chose a man to lead people to God for the duration of the human race on earth.
 - E. Just as we have no record of God speaking to certain men from Cain to Noah, there is no record of God speaking to a man like this from Noah to Abraham.
- II. Abraham's call consists of a command and a promise.
 - A. He is to leave his country and his father's house.
 - B. He is to separate himself from all that is dearest and most familiar to him.

- C. He is to leave the people and the places where all his memories, joys, and experiences have been for his 70 years of life.
- D. These things are the very affections of the heart of any normal person.
- E. These are the things that are normally the last to be forsaken in life.
- F. Abraham must forsake all that he has in order to follow God and be in his will - he had to be emptied of himself.
- G. But there is a promise from God that Abraham will not be left empty and alone.

Genesis 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

- H. Jesus tells us the same thing:

Mark 10:29-30 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

- I. God says Abraham will become a great nation and that God will bless him.
- J. God promises Abraham that He will make his name great and that he will be a blessing.
- K. How we, from where we sit in history, not look back at what God has done with Abraham and not think that these were great understatements?
- L. It is proof that God's promises contain more than we could ask or think – what God has in mind is far, far better than our highest imaginations.

- III. There is so much more dependent upon Abraham's obedience than he can possibly comprehend.

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

- A. Abraham's faith and obedience to God in this call will affect all of mankind forever.
- B. The part of mankind that rejects God and persecutes Abraham and his descendants will be cursed.
- C. Those who love and obey God will bless Abraham and they will be blessed.
- D. In THEE shall all the families of the earth be blessed.
- E. It is through what God is beginning to do with Abraham here that Japheth and Ham will get to dwell in the tents of Shem.