



Our Journey of Faith

Genesis 12:1-9

Rescuing man from the world

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Overview of Genesis: two sections

God & Society (Gen 1-11): Humanity in the Hands of God

God's New Family (Gen 12-50): Individuals in the Hands of God

Conditions and Promises

The Condition: It's demanding

Personal Challenge: Which do I love more– the world or God? The test forces a decision between the two.

The Promise: It's shaping

Personal Challenge: Is God's will so wondrous that I would leave all in order to gain it?

A) Becoming God's Person (12:1-3)

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- Blessings are from God (Gen 12:2a) => Dependent on Him => Receive His blessings
- Blessings are to be shared (Gen 12:2b) => Accountable to Him => Fulfill His purpose
- Blessings are to be multiplied (Gen 12:3) => Expectant upon Him => His abundance

1) I will make you a great _____ (12:2a)

2) I will _____ you (12:2b)

3) I will make your _____ great (Gen 12:2c)

4) You shall be a _____ (Gen 12:2d)

5) _____ will bless those who bless you (12:3a)

6) The one who _____ you I will _____ (12:3b)

7) In you all the _____ of the earth shall be blessed (12:3c)

B) Facing Life Challenges (12:4-6)

4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. 6 And Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land.

- **Lots to move** (i.e. possessions, accumulations, acquired)

"Go forth from your country."–the burden

"Giving away lots of our furniture and household goods today-- one less thing on our checklist! Anybody need a car or clothes washer/dryer set?"

- **Relationships** (i.e. Lot)
“Go... from your relatives and from your father’s house.”–the compromise
- **Obstacles** (i.e. Canaanites)
“Go... to the land which I will show you.”–the tension

C) Gaining Spiritual Growth (12:7-9)

7 And the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. 8 Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. 9 And Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev” (Gen 12:1-9 NASB).

- **Obedience is key here. God speaks when we obey.** “Then the LORD appeared...”
- **God fosters a growing relationship with Abram (and with us)**
“To your descendants I will...” – the dialogue and promise
- **Two altars**
“So he built an altar...”
- Prompted
- Self-initiated

Summary

Becoming God’s Person (Genesis 12:1-3)

- Are there any promises of God shaping your life?
If not, why not? Are you sure you are His?
- What promises of God are shaping your life and decisions?

Facing Life Challenges (Genesis 12:4-6)

- What challenges are you confronted with that God is using to develop your faith?

Gaining Spiritual Growth (Genesis 12:7-9)

- Have you built any spiritual altars? What kind?
- In what areas of your life have you made commitments to the Lord that have solidified your faith?

