

## Make Your Life Count

### Genesis 12 Abraham

Abraham is a perfect example of an individual who set out on his faith venture following God through the good times and the bad.

Understand, this has nothing to do with Making your best life now, but **live life with an eternal perspective.. Col 3, Setting your affections on things above.**

**Genesis 1:11** Creation, Fall, Flood, Tower of Babel

**Genesis 12:50** Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and his 12 sons who are birth of the nation of Israel.

Three Groups of people in the world from the beginning of time.

**Genesis 1:11** Gentiles

**Genesis 12, Acts 2** Gentiles and Jews

**Acts 2** Today – Gentiles, Jews, & Christians

The Beginning of Abram

**Genesis 11:27 – 32 (NIV)** 27. This is the account of Terah’s family line. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot.

28. While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth.

<sup>29</sup> Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife was Milkah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milkah and Iskah. <sup>30</sup> Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive.

<sup>31</sup> Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there.

<sup>32</sup> Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

Abram came from a wealthy family. Terah, was a pagan idol worshiper. According to rabbinical tradition Terah was a wicked (Numbers Rabbah 19:1;19:33), idolatrous priest (Midrash HaGadol on Genesis 11:28) who manufactured idols (Eliyahu Rabbah 6, and Eliyahu Zuta 25). (Wikipedia)

God spoke to Abraham **before** he even knew God. What a blessing that God can call anyone, regardless of their ancestry and former faith, to live a life for God and be a part of His Great Plan.

How many of us would leave behind everything that is familiar to us and just go without knowing our destination? The concept of family meant everything to a person living in the time of Abraham. In that time, family units were strongly knit; it was unusual for family members to live hundreds of miles apart from each other. In addition, we are not told anything about the religious life of Abraham and his family prior to his calling. The people of Ur and Haran worshipped the ancient Babylonian pagan culture. Abraham knew and recognized the call of **Yahweh**, the **LORD**, and obeyed willingly, not hesitantly.

**Genesis 12:1-3** 12 The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.<sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Abrahamic Covenant – I believe this is in effect today. I will bless those that Bless thee, Curse those that Curse thee. Jordan Trip – poverty – the wealthy were those in political power.

God has his chosen people on the back burner in this church age, but will eventually call the church home **via the rapture** and bring his people to himself during the Tribulation period.

## **1. Separation may be God's Plan to ignite your Faith Genesis 12:1**

Abraham was asked to leave his world of comfortability – His country, his people, and his father's household to follow, believe and have faith in this God, that called him out of nowhere.

### **Warren Weirsbe in his book on Obedience says..**

First steps of faith are not always giant steps, which explains why Abraham did not fully obey God. Instead of leaving his family, as he was commanded, Abraham took his father and his nephew Lot with him when he left Ur; and then he stayed at Haran until his father died

Whatever you bring with you from the old life into the new is likely to create problems. Terah, Abraham's father, kept Abraham from fully obeying the Lord; and Lot created serious problems for Abraham until they finally had to agree to part. Abraham and Sarah brought a sinful agreement with them from Ur (20:13), and it got them into trouble twice (12:10-20; 20:1-18).

The life of faith demands total separation from what is evil and total devotion to what is holy (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1) As you study the life of Abraham, you will discover that he was often tempted to compromise; and occasionally he yielded. God tests us in order to build our faith and bring out the best in us, but the devil tempts us in order to destroy our faith and bring out the worst in us.

**When you walk by faith, you lean on God alone: His Word, His character, His will, and His power.** You do not isolate yourself from your family and friends, but you no longer consider them your first love or your first obligation **(Luke 14:25-27)** Your love for God calls us "alone" **(Isaiah 51:1-2)**, and we must not compromise. "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him, he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.

Much like Abraham, God asks us to step out in faith in a situation that may separate us from friends and or family, to make a decision that may cost us something. Staying in the status quo or in your comfortable life, may be the very thing that is keeping you from seeing God work in and through you in your life.

**QUESTION:** What has God asked you to do in faith to test your comfortability?

**Romans 8:1** Life Through the Spirit. 8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Brother/Sister for some of us, we need to test our faith within ourselves. Meaning, we need to have faith in who God says we are vs who the devil keeps reminding us who we used to be. We will never step out in true faith until we have taken care of our insecurities of whose we are and follow him whole heartily.

We have a defender, we have an advocate (Jesus Christ), who will come to our aid before the throne of God.

**Revelation 12:10** Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

**Hebrews 4** Jesus is our advocate – Stands up on our behalf – have you ever had anyone stick up or fight for you?

## 2. Solitude is what God uses to strengthen our faith.

**Genesis 12: 4-5** <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 set out from Harran. <sup>5</sup> He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Abram was asked by God to leave what was familiar and comfortable to follow Him. There was no direction and was only on a “need to know” basis. In verse 2. God told him the promises/benefits that he would receive but there were no specifics of the how, when, and where.

There are times in our lives’, where God needs our full attention, so he puts us in a position of solitude, so He can have our undivided attention for Hi to work in, through and among us as we put our faith in God.

Abraham’s situation. God asked him to leave the only life he knew in Ur, to journey to the unknown, so He could see God’s work unfold in his life.

Being in Solitude can be lonely. We learned this last month when talking about Jeremiah.

## 3. Service/Worship to God reveals our Faith in Him

**Genesis 12:6-9** <sup>6</sup> Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring<sup>[a]</sup> I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

<sup>8</sup> From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.