

Character Study: Abraham
Part 1 – The Call
Genesis 12:1-9

What's happening?

- Abraham (seen in these early chapters as “Abram”) was from Ur of the Chaldeans. After his brother died, Abraham, along with his father (Terah), wife (Sarah), and nephew (Lot), moved to Haran. (note 11:27-32)
- God had communicated with Abraham, telling him “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land I will show you.” (12:1)
- God made a covenant with Abraham in which He promised to make him a great nation, bless him and make his name great. He also promised that people would be blessed or cursed based on how they treated him, and that in him all the nations of the earth would be blessed. (2:2-3)
- Abraham, being obedient to God, journeyed to the land of Canaan with Sarah, Lot, and some people they meet in Haran. Once there, God promised that one day that land would belong to his descendants. Abraham responded by building an altar to the Lord. (12:4-9)

What's God doing?

> Abraham was from a family of idolaters. His father worshiped other gods (Josh. 24:2). Yet God chose this man by whom He would start a new nation, a nation through which blessing would come to the world.

> As descendants of Abraham, Israelites recognize that their nation was founded on God’s promises. Experiencing divine blessing and protection were promises of God, though each generation would need faith in order to experience these things.

What's to learn?

→ Abraham was told to “go,” but he knew nothing about the land to which he was to go. Abraham followed God out of faith, setting an example for us all (note Heb. 11:8-10).

→ Even though the Canaanites were currently living in the land God had promised to Abraham, Abraham still built an altar there to worship and exalt God. He had confidence that God would carry out His promises. Do you have the same confidence in God?

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