



genesis

STORIES OF
FAITHFULNESS

A Covenant Promise

GENESIS 12:1-3, 7

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“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. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 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’ ... Then the LORD appeared to ...”

Genesis 12:7

“Abram and said, ‘To your offspring I will give this land.’ So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.” (ESV)

A New Section in Genesis

- **Foundations of Faith (1-11)**
 - Creation
 - The Fall
 - The Flood
 - The Tower of Babel
- **Stories of Faithfulness (12-50)**
 - Abraham
 - Isaac
 - Jacob
 - Joseph

Genesis 12 is Foundational

- It tells of God's covenant promise to Abram
- It is the beginning of the formation of the nation of Israel
- It is the beginning of guidance for a worshiping community.
- It tells us, not just about Abram, but in a far greater sense, about Abram's God
- It prepares the way for the Promised Messiah



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What We Learn About God

“Now the LORD said to Abram ...” (12:1)

Observation #1

- **The name of the “LORD” (YHWH) appears before Abram’s.**
 - This should serve as a reminder for us that the most significant action taken in Genesis 12 is not Abram leaving his country, but God making a covenant with Abram.
 - The most significant action is never man’s doing but God’s doing.

Observation #2

- **When God speaks to Abram, it is the first recorded time that God has spoken directly to anyone since the days of Noah.**
- Specific cases where God “speaks”
 - **Adam/Eve** (Gen 2), **Cain** (Gen 4:6), **Noah** (Gen 6:13), **Abram** (Gen 12), **Moses** (Ex 3:4), **Aaron & Miriam** (Num 12:12:4), **Joshua** (Josh 1:1), **Gideon** (Jdg 6:18), **Samuel** (1 Sam 3:11), **Elijah** (1 Kngs 19). **Isaiah** (Isa 7:3), **Jeremiah** (Jer 1:7), **Job** (38-41). Others?

God speaks in many ways

- Through creation
- Through biblical prophets
- Through the Holy Spirit
- Through his written word (the Bible)
- Through the preaching, teaching, and singing of God's word.
- Through Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-2

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but
in these last days he has spoken to us by his
Son ...” (ESV)

Observation #3

- **God repeats the phrase “I will” seven times**
 - I will show you a land (12:1)
 - I will make you a great nation (12:2)
 - I will bless you (12:2)
 - I will make your name great (12:2)
 - I will bless those who bless you (12:3)
 - I will curse those who curse you (12:3)
 - I will give land to your offspring (12:7)

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What God Wants To Do
With Abram

“And I will make you ... great
... and bless you” (12:2)

Observation #4

- **God wants to “bless” Abram**
 - “Bless” is used five times in Genesis 1–11.
 - “Bless” is used five times in Genesis 12:1-3.
 - Serves as a play on words with Abram
 - ‘Abrām – ‘Abārekeka’

Observation #5

- **God will bless Abram as Abram follows God.**
 - There are two imperatives (commands), each followed by three promises of God if Abram obeys.
 - **You—Go** (leave your country, kindred, and house)
 - **PROMISES:** 1) I'll make you a great nation, 2) bless you, and, 3) make your name great.
 - **You—Be A Blessing**
 - **PROMISES:** 1) I'll bless those who bless you, 2) curse those who curse you, and, 3) in you all will be blessed.

Genesis 22:17-18

“I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” (ESV)

God's Promise to Abram

- It was a promise of **prosperity** to Abram
- It was a promise of **potency** (fertility)
- It was a promise of **victory** (the land would belong to Abram's descendants)

Observation #6

- **God would make Abram's name great.**

“No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.”

(Gen 17:5, ESV)

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What God Wants To Do Through Abram's Descendants

“In you all the families of the earth
shall be blessed” (12:3)

Observation #7

- **There are seven promises in God's covenant.**
 - I will make you a great nation
 - I will bless you
 - I will make your name great
 - You will be a blessing
 - I will bless those who bless you
 - I will curse those who curse you
 - **In you all the peoples of the earth will be blessed**

OT Prophecies and Allusions

Genesis 3:15; 5:24; 9:26-27; 12:3-7; 14:18; 17:19; 22:8-18; 26:2-5; 28:12-14; 49:10; **Exodus** 3:13; 12:5-46; 15:2, 11; 17:6; 33:19; **Leviticus** 1:2-9; 14:11; 16:15-17, 27; 17:11; 23:36-37; 9:12; 21:9; 24:17; **Numbers** 24:17; **Deuteronomy** 18:15-19; 21:23; **Joshua** 5:14-15; **Ruth** 4:4-10; **1 Samuel** 2:10, 35; **2 Samuel** 7:12-16; **Job** 9:32-33; 19:23-27; **Psalms** 2:1-12; 8:2, 5-6; 9:7-10; 16:9-11; 17:15; 18:2-3; 22:1-31; 23:1; 24:3; 30:3; 31:5-15; 34:20; 35:11-19; 38:11, 20; 40:2-14; 41:9; 45:2-17; 55:12-15; 68:18; 69:4-26; 72:10-17; 78:1-2; 80:17; 88:1-8; 89:27, 35-37; 90:2; 91:11-12; 97:9; 100:5; 102:1-27; 109:25; 110:1-4; 118:17-26; 129:3; 132:11; 138:1-6; 147:3-6; **Proverbs** 1:23; 8:23; **Song of Solomon** 5:16; **Isaiah** 2:3, 4; 6:1, 8-12; 7:14; 8:8, 14; 9:1-2, 6-7; 11:1-5, 10; 12:2; 22:22; 25:8; 26:19; 28:16; 29:13-14; 32:2, 4; 35:5-6; 40:3-11; 42:1-6; 43:11; 44:3; 45:21-23; 46:9-10; 48:12-17; 49:1-7; 50:3-6; 52:7-15; 53:1-12; 55: 4-5; 59:16, 20; 60:1-3; 61:1-2; **Jeremiah** 31:22, 31; 33:14-15; **Ezekiel** 37:23-25; **Daniel** 2:44-45; 7:13-14; 9:24-26; **Hosea** 11:1; **Joel** 2:32; **Jonah** 1:17; **Micah** 5:2-6; **Haggai** 2:6-9, 23; **Zechariah** 3:8; 6:12-13; 9:9; 10:4; 11:4-13; 14:4; **Malachi** 3:1; 4:5-6.

The Scarlet Thread

The **seed** of the woman (Gen 3:15), the **blessing** to all nations (Gen 12), the **ram** in the thicket (Gen 22), the **Passover lamb** (Ex 12), the **Star** of Jacob (Num 21), the **Bronze Serpent** (Num 24), the **Rock** (Deut 32:4), the **Kinsman Redeemer** (Ruth 2:1), the **Good Shepherd** (Ps 23), the **Stone** the builders rejected (Ps 118), **Immanuel** (Isa 7:14), the **Lord Our Righteousness** (Jer 23:6), the **Faithful One** (Lam 3:22-23), the **Branch** (Zech 3:8), the **Desire of All Nations** (Hag 2:7), the **Sun of Righteousness** (Mal 4:2), etc.

Gary Barnhouse

“It makes no difference where it is or what it is. If the Lord leads us there, it is the land for us. If the Lord does not lead us, it can never be the right land, even though it is paved with diamonds.”

Every Nation

- “I will make you a great nation ... in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen 12:3)
- “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19)
- “A great multitude ... from every nation ... crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’” (Rev 7:9-10)



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A Covenant Promise

The story of Abram is an account of what God did with Abram, accomplished through Jesus Christ, and is yet to complete in the future.

Next Steps

- I will make myself available for God to work in my life like how he worked in Abraham's.
- I will leave behind distractions that hinder my relationship with God.
- I will faithfully follow God by going and blessing _____.