

009 God Blesses Abram

MEMORY VERSE: "I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." (Gen 12:2b)

SCRIPTURES: Genesis 11:27-32; 12 – 17:

AIM: God chose Abram to be the father of a nation, and Abram trusted God

Many generations after the flood, Noah's great great great great great grandson, Terah had a son named Abram. In those days, many people had forgotten the one true God, and instead turned toward idols. Abram lived with his family in a city called Ur, and was married to Sarai. Though Abram had many nephews and nieces, he didn't have any children of his own, because Sarai couldn't have children.

One day, 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 Haran, they settled there.

Abram obeyed his father and stayed there until his father died.

When Abram was 75 years old, the LORD told Abram:

"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you, and **all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**"

This would have been a VERY difficult decision for Abram and Sarai; it would have meant leaving the safety and comfort of the life they knew, and trusting God that He would provide a family for them even though they were old!

But Abram and Sarai trusted God. They gathered up their servants and, packed up food and clothes, donkeys and camels and all their possessions, and began a journey to a new land..

Abram, Sarai and Lot traveled many days and nights. It was hot and dusty and they often were very tired. At last they stopped near a place called Bethel. But they did not stay there; they kept traveling. Through all their travels, they had to trust God even through very hard times. **Sometimes, Abram lost hope and tried to do things his way. But even then, God was with him, and kept His promises.**

After many years, both Abram and Lot settled in Bethel (a place near what would later become Jerusalem). They were both very wealthy. They had sheep and cattle and many servants. But there were too many animals and not enough pasture. So fights broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot.

"There isn't enough land for your animals and mine," said Abram. "We are Godly men and I don't want our neighbors who don't love God to see our people fighting. "What would they think of us? But I have an idea."

"Look over there to the east. Now look over there to the west. Choose where you would like to live and you can have that land. I'll take what's left."

Lot chose the land on the east side that was beautiful countryside with lots of water and green grass for his sheep. Abram had the land to the west that wasn't green and beautiful. But God had a happy surprise for Abram. "Look as far as you can see in all directions," God said. "All of this land will someday be yours." So Abram moved his tent near Hebron. And once again he built an altar to worship God.

God planned to build a nation – a people group - who would put Him on display (glorify His Name) when God made His promise to Abram. And from human perspectives, Abram was not a very good or likely choice because he and Sarai were old and childless. But, as we will see throughout the rest of the God's story, that is a common theme in how God works; He uses ordinary and even unlikely people to achieve His purposes so that His Sovereignty, power and faithfulness are clearly evident!