

Genesis 12: Abram's Pilgrimage

Forestgate Presbyterian Church ~ March 4, 2012

Where was Abram when he was called? How is God referred to in this passage? (Acts 7:2-8)

What was Abram doing when he was called? (Josh 24:2-3)

Did Abram "go" or was he "taken"?

Where was Abram going—literally and figuratively? (Hebr 11:8-16)

God had at least two purposes in calling Abram out of Ur: **separation** and **testing**.

The scripture doesn't tell us why Abram stopped in Haran for several years. It may be that Terah was unable to travel any further. God renews His call on Abram after Terah dies.

Taking all the family's possessions serves at least two purposes:

How many promises does God make to Abram in this chapter?

Using Hebrews 11:1-22 as an interpretive guide, one has the general impression that Genesis is all about faith in God's promises.

"The Canaanites were in the land"—serving to reinforce the **nomadic** nature of Abram's calling.

Abram builds what in response to God's promise in 12:7?

When the famine came to Canaan, Abram's response was to **keep going**.

When did Abram and Sarai make a pact of deception? (Gen 20:13)

Abram and Sarai's story necessarily involved **everyone**.

Since this cover story was intended to be repeated frequently, it does not appear that Abram intended to put Sarai in harm's way.

What was Abram's motivation for deceiving Pharaoh? (Gen 12:13) Did it "work"? (Gen 12:16)

Even though Abram's cover story was true, it was still intended to **deceive**.

God's response was to afflict the Egyptians with **great plagues** (*gadowl nega*). (Gen 12:17)

Pharaoh's dealing with Abram showed that Abram had no reason to **fear**. Abram learned his lesson so well that he did it again with Abimelech about 25 years later. (Gen 20)

See if this story rings a bell:

- famine comes to Canaan
- Abram goes to Egypt for food and is afflicted
- God sends a plague on the Egyptians
- the Egyptians drive Abram out with great wealth
- Abram returns to Canaan in stages
- Abram worships God after arriving in the land of promise