

The Call of Abram

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Genesis 12:1-3; Various Scriptures

- Open your Bible. I encourage you to bring a physical copy of the Word of God so that you can compare Scripture with Scripture.
- The Notes. These are my teaching notes. They include mistakes, typos, and uncited sources. The notes are fallible but free!
- The notes and the audio version of the lesson are usually available at **www.the-lamp-lighter.com**. However, my admin assistant sometimes delays posting them. I am working on finding better help!
- Today, we will lay a foundation for the next few weeks of teaching.

I. Abram's Position in Genesis.

- A. Chronology
 1. Adam to Abram – approximately 2,000 years (Genesis 1-11).
 2. Abram to Jesus – approximately 2,000 years (Genesis 12 – Gospel of John).
 3. Jesus to Today – approximately 2,000 years (Gospel of John -Revelation)
- B. Biblical Era's
 1. Creation (Genesis 1-11)
 2. Patriarch (Genesis 12-50) (next? Exodus)
- C. Nations
 1. From Noah to Babel (Genesis 11:1-9), there was one language and, essentially, one people.
 2. Genesis 10 chronicles the development of nations from the time of Babel (The Table of Nations)
 3. Genesis 11:27 - 12:9 chronicles the origin of God's chosen nation, Israel.
- D. The Toledoths of Genesis (Toledoth is a fancy word for generations or begotten things; coming from)
 1. The heavens and the earth (Genesis 2:4); this is not a retelling of creation; but a recording of what came forth from creation (The Toledoth of Creation).
 2. Generations of Adam (Genesis 5:1)
 3. Generations of Noah (Genesis 6:9)
 4. Generations of the sons of Noah (Genesis 10:1) (the Table of Nations)
 5. **Generations of Terah (Genesis 11:27)**
 6. Generations of Ishmael (Hagar) (Genesis 25:12)
 7. Generations of Isaac (Genesis 25:19)
 8. Generations of Esau (Genesis 36:1)
 9. Generations of Jacob (Genesis 37:2)

II. Abram's Prominence in Terah's Toledoth

- A. The Call of Abram in Ur of the Chaldees
 1. **Genesis 12:1**, *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."*
 2. **Genesis 15:7**, *And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."*
 3. **Acts 7:2-3**, *And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, 3 and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.'*
- B. The Call of Abram came in his spiritual darkness
 1. **Joshua 24:2-3**, *And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.*
- C. The Call of Abram came by the grace of God in His mercy.

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1. Q: What in Abram's character caused God to call him? A: Nothing in Abram's character deserved of God's call and mercy.
 2. Q: What did Abram do in order to deserve God's mercy? A: Nothing. In fact, he worshiped false gods and idols, as did his father.
 3. Q: What did Abram do in order to maintain his relationship with God? A: Nothing, it is God that held Abram, just as God holds all who believe today. In fact, Abram's sinful nature is revealed quickly in the narrative (Genesis 12:10-16)

III. Abram's Picture of New Testament Faith

- A. Abram's example establishes a picture of salvation by grace through faith, as recounted by Paul in Romans 4:1- 3 and the writer of Hebrews.
 1. **Romans 4:1-3**, *What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."*
 2. **Hebrews 11:8-9**, *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise,*
- B. Abram's life establishes that righteousness within us is NOT our own, but God's.
 1. **Romans 4:13**, *For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.*
- C. Abram's life demonstrates that people of faith must walk in faith
 1. **Romans 4:18-22**, *In hope he [Abraham] believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.[it is the "Who" our eyes are on, not the "What" our eyes are on.] 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."*
- D. Abram's life points to the resurrection of Christ as our hope for justification.
 1. **Romans 4:23-25**, *But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*