

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12–13, 15, 17

The LORD said to Abram¹, “Go from your country 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.”²

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram took Sarai, his wife, and all their possessions, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring,³ I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.⁴

Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great. Thus they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.

After these things, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield;⁵ your reward shall be very great.”⁶

But Abram said, “O LORD GOD, what will You give me, for I continue childless?”

God brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars. So shall your offspring be.” And he believed the LORD, and God counted it to him as righteousness.⁷

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before Me⁸ and be blameless.⁹ 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. And I will establish an everlasting covenant to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

Explanatory Notes

¹A descendant of Shem. ²In the Savior. ³Children and children’s children. ⁴Worshiped the Lord with his family and servants. ⁵Protector. ⁶Having God, Abram had everything. ⁷Abram knew God to be his Savior; God forgave his sins, and therefore he was just and holy in the sight of God. ⁸Walk in the fear of God. ⁹Lead a holy life.



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For Reflection

1. How did Abraham show he loved God in the way he treated Lot?
2. When God told Abraham that all people would be blessed through him, God was referring to Jesus, who would be born as a descendant of Abraham. How are all people blessed through Jesus?
3. In what ways can you bless others because you know Jesus as your Savior?

Words to Remember

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. *Hebrews 11:8*