

Abram and the Hint of the Gospel

Genesis 12

Getting our Facts Straight

Genesis 11:27-32

- This section of *Genesis* provides the transition from the genealogies of the sons of Noah to the life of Abraham.
- Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran but their birth order was not necessarily in that order. Shem, Ham and Japheth were not the order of birth. *Genesis 9:18,24*
- Nahor married his niece, the daughter of his brother Haran, while Abram married his sister Sarai who was the daughter of his father but not his mother. *Genesis 20:11-13*
- Sarai is said to be barren, for this piece of information is key to what will happen to Abraham.

Thoughts on Law

Genesis 11:29

- We see evidence of portions of the Mosaic Law before the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. *Genesis 7:1-4*
- We cannot say that the Mosaic Law was in effect before it was given in the Old Covenant era. It was not sin for Abram to marry his sister, the daughter of his father but not his mother, though it would have been if he had lived during the Old Covenant era. *Leviticus 18:9*

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12:1

- The context in *Genesis 12* would lead us to believe that Abram was in Haran when he received the call.
- It is possible that the call was repeated while Abram was in Haran.
- In Stephen's speech in *Acts 7:1-8* he makes it clear that God called Abram while he was in Ur of Chaldeans. *Hebrews 11:8-10*
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Journey to Canaan

Genesis 12:4-9

- We do not know why Terah or Abram stopped at Haran.
- With the death of Terah we find Abram continuing his journey to Canaan.
- Abram examined the land of Canaan from north to south, from Shechem to the Negev.
- While in the land of Canaan Abram worshipped the Lord by building an altar and therefore acknowledging the promise of God to give him the land.

God's Promise to Abram

Genesis 12:2-3

- In a physical sense Abram was blessed with many possessions and his name as great.
- God blessed Abram and was a blessing to those around him. Note the example of how he treated Lot. *Genesis 13*
- The concept of blessing can be understood by how it is used in the Old Testament. Blessing can either be by a prophetic announcement or a reminder of what can be true. *Genesis 49, Numbers 6:22-27*
- The promises to Abram were only fully realized with the gospel going out into the world in the New Covenant era. *Galatians 3:6-9*
- Believers in Jesus Christ are the true children of Abraham and receive what was promised to him. *Romans 4:16-16, Romans 9:6-9, Galatians 3:26-29*