

Genesis: God and Man

Genesis 12:2-9 Then the LORD Appeared to Abram

Continued study of the relationships between God and people, focusing on God and the people involved.

People Stories

We may know the stories, but I'm not sure we know the people.

The "characters" - not fond of that term

- Called out from family, friends, country, father (father's rule, patriarchal society, middle east - islam / today) - couldn't grow up to be all that God would have him be if he stayed under the covering of his heritage
- Everything he knew and loved, that was familiar
- **God wasn't calling Abram to ditch his family, but to start a new one (like marriage)**
- Promised: a land that I will show you
- **The list of blessing is greater than the list of leaving**

[Job 1:21 NKJV] 21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

...but he always gives more than he takes away

[Jhn 15:1-2 NKJV] 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every [branch] that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

The Father always prunes us that Jesus may bear more fruit in us, through us.

It's never to hurt us. (a child's reaction to "no" at times, isn't that us?)

The real hurt is no fruit at all,

and that comes from branches that can't be pruned, won't be pruned, having no fruit at all

[Jhn 15:16 NKJV] 16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

God HAD called Abram out, Abram's brother Haran dies before their dad.

Family loss. Before Abram and Nahor got married. How old was he?

A seemingly noble excuse perhaps, taking care of family, if that was the case, but it wasn't what God was leading him to do.

We always need to examine our motives, see if it is God or us

Turn to Luke 14:12-27

12 Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. 13 "But when you give a feast, invite [the] poor, [the] maimed, [the] lame, [the] blind. 14 "And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just." 15 Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed [is] he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" 16 Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, 17 "and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' 18 "But they all with one [accord] began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' 19 "And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' 20 "Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

Everything here could be one of Abram's excuses...

21 "So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here [the] poor and [the] maimed and [the] lame and [the] blind.' 22 "And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' 23 "Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel [them] to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' " 25 Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Luk 9:57-62 NKJV - Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, [that] someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air [have] nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay [His] head." Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach

the kingdom of God." And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go [and] bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

We need to count the cost

What will it cost you and I to follow the Lord?

What has it cost?

Has it cost anything? If not, have we truly followed?

There's always a cost. In a way, the saying is true, there's no such thing as a free lunch. *Voyager spacecraft using Jupiter's gravity - jupiter sped up voyager, voyager slowed down jupiter - even a tiny thing can affect the largest planet in our solar system*

Salvation cost Jesus everything, it's offered freely to us, but it costs your life to walk in it. *Salvation (offered free) & Sanctification (may require the ultimate cost). Not to earn it, but to truly receive it.*

If not? Then what does Paul mean by this?

[Phi 3:8-11 NKJV] 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which [is] from the law, but that which [is] through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

We need to gain Christ.

Utmost 12/9

"It is not a question of giving up sin, but of giving up my right to myself, my natural independence, and my self-will. This is where the battle has to be fought. The things that are right, noble, and good from the natural standpoint are the very things that keep us from being God's best. Once we come to understand that natural moral excellence opposes or counteracts surrender to God, we bring our soul into the center of its greatest battle. Very few of us would debate over what is filthy, evil, and wrong, but we do debate over what is good. It is the good that opposes the best. The higher up the scale of moral excellence a person goes, the more intense the opposition to Jesus Christ. "Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh...." The cost to your natural life is not just one or two things, but everything. ... Beware of refusing to go to the funeral of your own independence.

The natural life is not spiritual, and it can be made spiritual only through sacrifice. If we do not purposely sacrifice the natural, the supernatural can never become natural to us. There is no

high or easy road. Each of us has the means to accomplish it entirely in his own hands. It is not a question of praying, but of sacrificing, and thereby performing His will.”

**PRAYER WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE WHEN WE STOP
USING IT AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR OBEDIENCE.**
A.W. TOZER
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Genesis 12:[1]2-6

Abram told to leave three things - country, family, father's house

The “I Will’s” of God to Abram

1. **A land** that I will show you (see maps last page)
2. I will make you a **great nation**- Israel - a nation still today, all the attempts to wipe out the Jews, egypt, babylon, rome, crusades, hitler, “palestinian conflict” - 1948 - 70 years ago next year, breadbasket of the middle east (size of NJ), one of the most successful democracies...IN THE MIDDLE EAST NO LESS. ours is failing!
3. I will bless you 3 part - name great, you will be a blessing to others (Lot, peoples around him, us today) - given a son, a heritage, family, land...a name forever
4. Bless those who bless you, curse those who curse you - America a few days ago finally moving the embassy to Jerusalem...22 years after Congress signed an accord...has to happen. When America blesses God's people, God blesses America
5. Everyone blessed - the Messiah would come. Promised way back, Noah brought through, Abram to ‘deliver’ the Messiah - why the enemy has always tried to destroy the Israelites - and destroying them again in an attempt to prove God unfaithful to return

So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him

But when we read the end of ch 11, we see that he left and went to haran with his dad, started leaving town, but didn't go all the way (remember pharaoh first told moses to take the people a little ways away to worship God, but basically stay in my sight)

But they waited until his dad died to really move on...but God doesn't bring that up again here.

Delayed obedience is disobedience, but when we finally obey, God still honors it.

(two servants, one says yes, doesn't go, the other says no, but later goes)

Although we'll see here there's tons of consequence, even if it's just missing out
God can restore

And Lot went with him

Same word as Abram, dying to self, to leave, go

Did Lot “get” Abram’s faith? He did at some point, at least a little. It was shallow.

But, why did he go? I don’t think Abram was leaning on him as much as Moses was on Aaron, and I’m not convinced Lot was gung-ho in faith as Abram wasn’t even.

Lot’s dad died “young” - losing a father. Abram, his uncle, the oldest brother, steps in it seems - at least they had a relationship.

*I see Lot with different eyes now, like we talked about the importance of father
Perhaps abram was a good figure, but couldn’t discipline him - or didn’t want to strain their
relationship*

Again, the need is never the call. We cannot do what God is not leading us to.

Maybe the lack we wish to fill is there by God’s design...to lead them to God.

Maybe if Abram left when he was supposed to, Lot would have gravitated toward another brother or grandfather.

Maybe he never would have been in a place to go to Sodom & Gomorrah, maybe he would have found a deeper relationship with God himself

Lot’s problem later is having that superficial relationship with God. Being dependent on the world, riches, and more. Trying to be liked by the world...and it doesn’t save anyone, not even his wife.

We delay to prevent some burden - on others & ourselves.

But the cost of delaying is weighty.

Heavier than the perceived burden.

Abram and Sarai, his half-sister perhaps - although Talmud tries to link her as Iscah, it’s not clear and other aspects break down. Basically, Abram was telling some stories to protect himself and Moses, the writer, gives the facts, so she could have been his niece, could have been his half-sister (different mom), unclear

Sarai means princess

Abram was like a king, and she was his princess.

My daughter's are like princesses to me, my wife is my "queen" - but if my wife acts like a spoiled princess, I imagine it would not be fun (if anything, she's Cinderella)

Lot, his brother's son - a reminder, bringing his family...he was supposed to leave his family. Lot would prove to be a burden, not a blessing, but Abram would be a blessing to Lot (lets him take the better land, rescues him, etc)

All their substance, their servants...was Abram to have taken all of this inheritance?

Moving and paring down

Was this really being dependent on God? Is this getting out of his father's house?

I think technically, but i think Abram packed too much

Me when I pack too much on a trip - take too many extra shirts sometimes

Again, we see Abram being more dependent on God later, king of sodom

Where did they get all this...in Haran.

Where did Abram's Father die? Haran...inheritance? Just good business blessing?

Packing up everything to move because you have no idea what you'll need and you're afraid you'll never have it again?

Departed...went

to go out, come out, **exit**, go forth

to go or come out or forth, **depart**

to go forth (to a place)

to go forward, **proceed to** (to or toward something)

to come or go forth (with purpose or for result)

to come out of

to cause to go or come out, bring out, lead out

to bring out of

to lead out

to be brought out or forth

Proceeding in Promise

Abram's finally getting this show on the road

The promise must be received

Gold in them thar hills...well, we have to go mine it to get it

To go to Canaan...

Wait, why Canaan? I can't seem to find an answer in a brief search.

Have you ever just known?

The story, you know who the villain or hero is, even if others don't.

Logos vs. rhema

Conviction in the word.

Word of knowledge - God will let you know things from time to time, certainly through discernment, sometimes through more direct interaction - no way you would have known
Like our kids, boys or girls, their names

I think, that maybe, Abram just knew what God meant when he was told to go.

Psa 32:8-11 KJV - I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, [or] as the mule, [which] have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee. Many sorrows [shall be] to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all [ye that are] upright in heart.

Interesting that he started in that direction (Haran from Ur with his dad)

But you can only go so far

Tractor pulls

Shechem = "back" or "shoulder"

a city in Manasseh; located in a valley between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim, 34 miles north of Jerusalem and 7 miles south- east of Samaria

Terebeth tree/plain - NKJV vs KJV

Moreh = "teacher"

the oak tree at Shechem where Abram stopped when he first entered Canaan; close to the mountains of Ebal and Gerizim

the hill in the valley of Jezreel at which the Midianites were camped when Gideon attacked them

My burden is light...yoke is easy

Pro 26:3 NKJV - A whip for the horse, A bridle for the donkey, And a rod for the fool's back.

Abram would have been foolish to stay back

Heb 5:8 NKJV - though He was a Son, [yet] He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

Jhn 1:48 NKJV - Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

The Canaanites were then in the land...Joshua would later drive out

One man vs. a million

Abram wasn't to drive them out, that wouldn't happen for quite some time - around 684 years
Roughly 2091BC - 1407BC conquest of Midian

Abram wasn't to bring an army in to take the land, but God would go before him.

It was still Abram's land
(David anointed, but Saul still on the throne)

Flesh vs. the spirit
Little faith

:7-9

Then the LORD appeared to Abram...

****It was only *after* Abram obeyed God's last words to him that he received the next step****

That's heavy. That is why we don't obey sometimes. We don't trust. We don't expect God to be faithful in the next step we don't know.

GPS (ash in car, always asking her)
Sitting in lot with coworkers trying to get our GPS' to work...

Appeared...same word as "to a land i will show you"

God would show Abram where to go and then show him personally all that was in store there. A personal tour.

Christophanies are more prevalent in the bible than we realize...but we now have the Holy Spirit. He's ALWAYS with us. Always ready to SHOW us. But are we always ready to look?

***Praying and repentance*...**sometimes we think we don't have anything to, but if we just take a second to look...god will start showing us...not to condemn us...but to cleanse us. Free us from

the burden. The weight. The things that might weigh us down. The guilt that leads us to take on things we shouldn't have.

To take on the burdens that aren't ours to try and deal with our own burdens we haven't let God take on

Getting into a brief relationship not long after getting saved...somehow thought I was making up for my mistakes

The promise would be to Abram's descendents...yet they knew Sarai to be barren.

Was that Abram's deal with Lot? To take on his brother's son?

Guilt of his brother's death? Taking on burden of his own wife's barrenness? Maybe he thought it was him...

God's promise was much larger than a new town, house and job...it was an eternal blessing. All believers.

John the Baptist **Mat 3:8-9 NKJV - "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, "and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as [our] father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.**

Builds an altar

Important to build memories, landmarks in our lives we can look back on and say yes, God worked there. But we'll only have those if we let God work in us.

It's why churches and believers die by worshipping at altars that aren't their own.

If it wasn't God working in us, how long can we live off of someone else's supply?

Babies

Abram moved, worshipped God -

his relationship Got real with God at this point

The voice speaking to his soul was now a God he saw become real, and his response? worship

Abram joins those men who began to call on the name of the Lord throughout the earlier years in Genesis

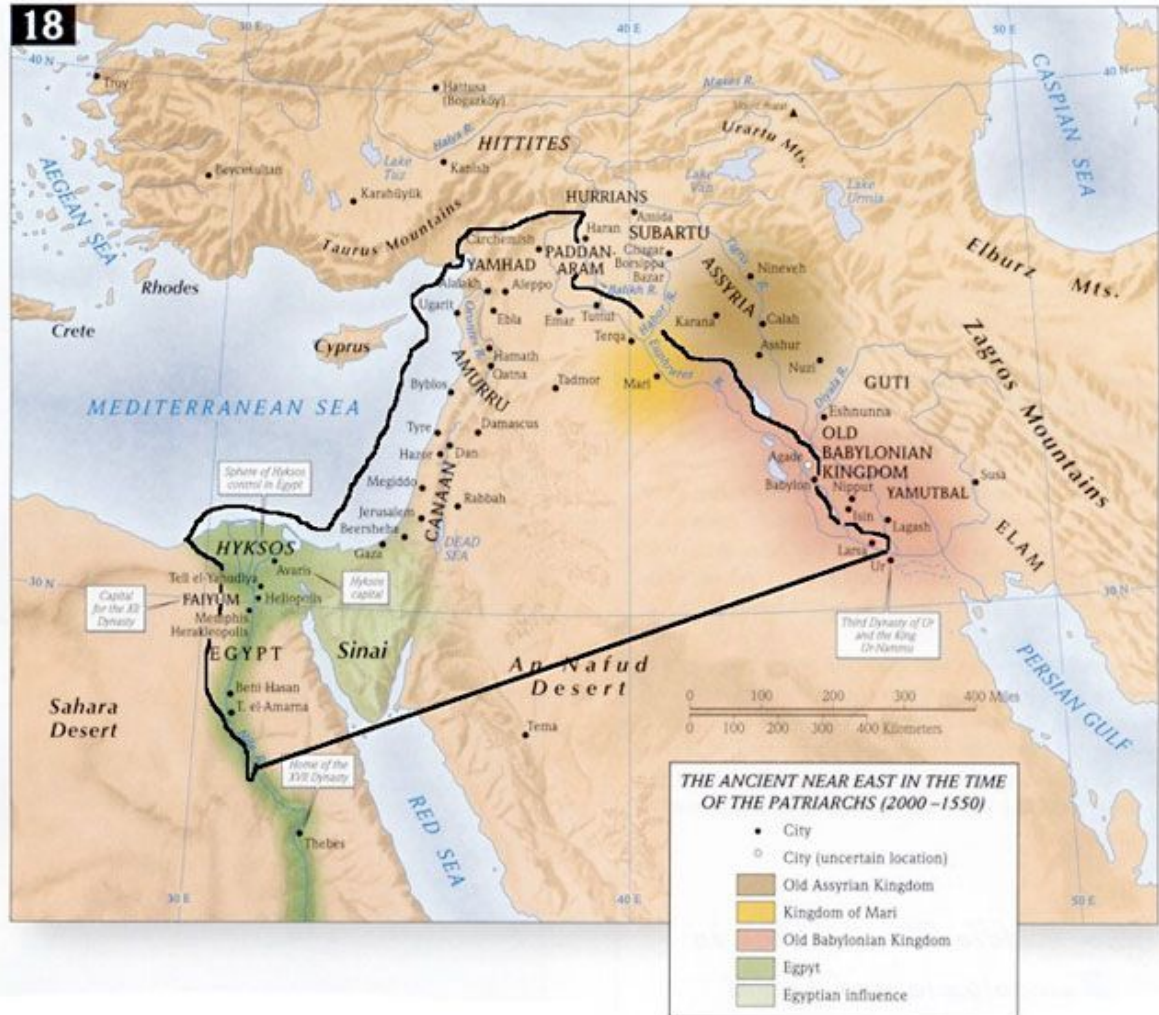
And Abram continued...the land God showed him was not limited at this time by border or boundary. It was to be explored in his lifetime.

When God calls: Don't delay.

When God appears: worship. Don't stop. Don't settle. Keep moving.



http://feralnews.com/images/israel/greater_israel_map.gif



THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST IN THE TIME OF THE PATRIARCHS (2000-1550)

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Old Assyrian Kingdom
- Kingdom of Mari
- Old Babylonian Kingdom
- Egypt
- Egyptian influence