Call of Abraham

Genesis 12:1 - 14:24

Bible Memory Verse

Genesis 12:2 NIV

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

Bible Story

Up to this point in the story of Genesis, the Lord God has been dealing with mankind on a global, worldwide scale. Chapter 12 is the turning point in the story. It signals the end of the prologue (an introduction of sorts) to the story and focuses on a person. And so begins the story of God interacting with a certain group of people for the sake of the world.

> *"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.*
>
> *'I will make you into a great nation*
> *and I will bless you;*
>
> *I will make your name great,*
> *and you will be a blessing.*
>
> *I will bless those who bless you,*
> *and whoever curses you I will curse;*
>
> *and all peoples on earth*
> *will be blessed through you.'*
>
> *"So Abram left, as the Lord had told him..." (Genesis 12:1-4).*

Abram's father, Terah, had already moved his family from Ur of the Chaldeans, journeyed up the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and settled in Haran. When the Lord called upon Abram to follow Him, Abram picked up and moved his family south—into "the land that I will show

you," the land of Canaan. When Abram, his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot arrived at "the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem" (Gen 12:6), then pitched his tent "toward the hills east of Bethel" (Gen 12:8), and "there he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord" (Gen 12:8).

God zeroed in on one person, Abram, through whom He would make into a great nation and bless in order to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth. The Lord had a specific purpose and a plan for the redemption of mankind—who is ensnared in sin and death—and it included this man named Abram. Abram, later renamed Abraham, becomes the father of the Hebrews, a patriarch of Israel.

Life Application

Isn't it interesting to contrast this account with the previous story, the City at Babel? I mean, the intention of the builders of the Tower of Babel was to make a name for themselves by making a great city, or nation. They were trying to do for themselves what only the Lord God could. It is striking to note that in God's promise of blessing to Abram he says specifically: "I will make your name great … I will make you into a great nation." Not you, not anybody else. Only me.

This transfers to our lives as well. We cannot make ourselves great. We cannot give ourselves significance, or meaning. Only the Lord God can. He goes before us and gives us true meaning. If we let him. We can easily take control of the car (our lives) and steer it in the direction that we want. That is making a name for ourselves. What God wants is for us to move out of the driver's seat and give Him control of our steering wheel. Then the Lord can make a name for us.

Let the Lord God make a name for you.

Review Questions

1. Who did God pick to make a "great nation" from? Abram.
2. What did God ask Abram to do? *"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you"* (Genesis 12:1).
3. Where did Abram build an altar to the Lord? At Bethel.
4. Why did Abram trust the Lord? Why did he pick up everything and move? Why did Abram believe in God?

Coloring Sheet

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