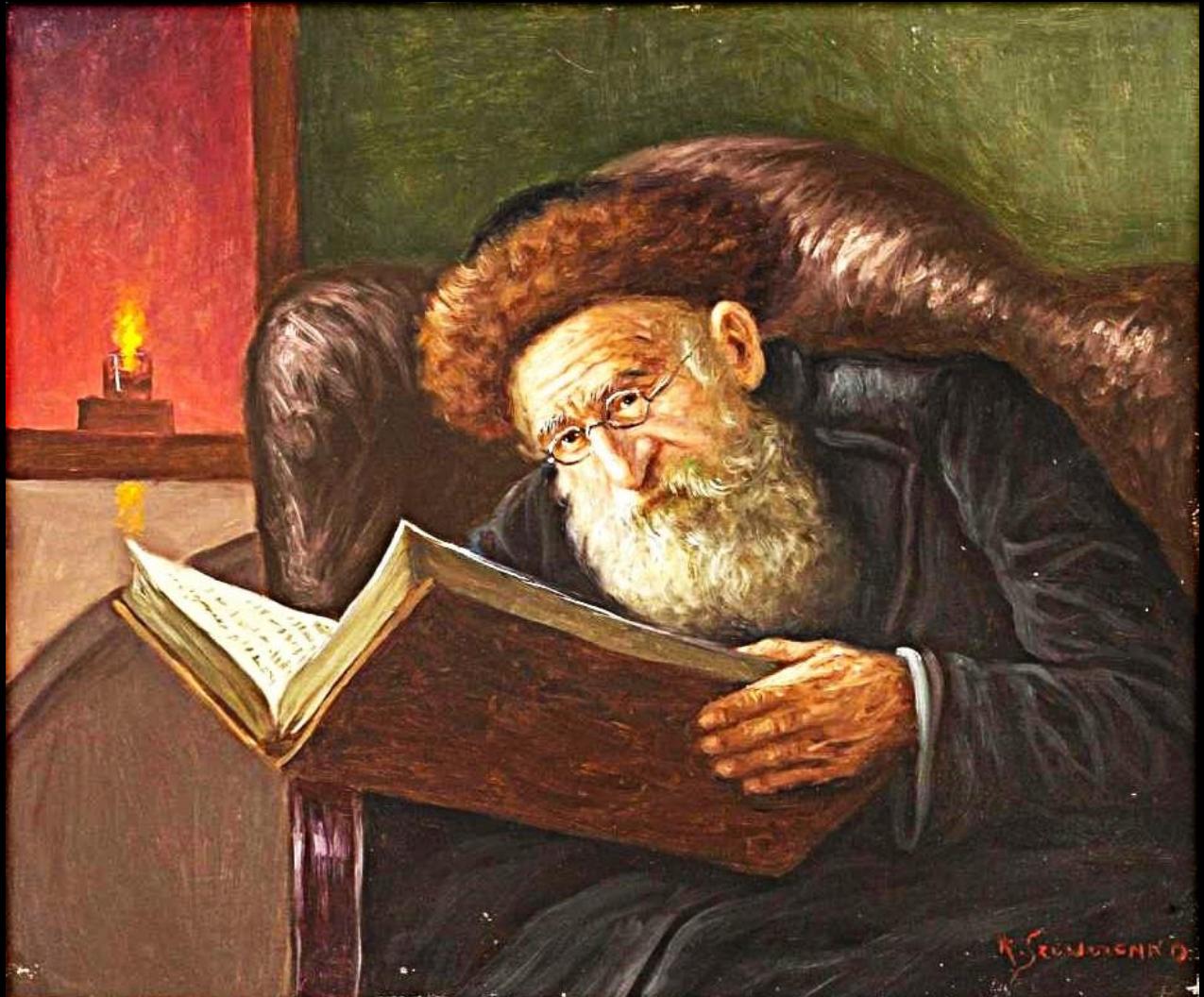


Torah Studies

The Call of Abram Genesis 12

Genesis: In the Beginning



Reading Rabbi – Konstanty Szewczenko

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On Keeping God's Word

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On Keeping God's Word

- Psalm 119:9-12 (NKJV)

9 How can a young man cleanse his way?

By taking heed according to Your word.

10 With my whole heart I have sought You;

Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

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On Keeping God's Word

- Psalm 119:9-12 (NKJV)

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart,

That I might not sin against You.

12 Blessed are You, O Lord!

Teach me Your statutes.

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Introduction

- Previously in Genesis:

The Call of Abram

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Introduction

- Previously in Genesis:
- Genesis 1 – 11 tell the story of the early earth.
- We can sum it up quickly in just four words.

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Flood
4. Nations

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Introduction

- The rest of **Genesis** will now focus on the story of four men (and their brothers).
 1. Abram aka Abraham
 2. Isaac (and Ishmael)
 3. Jacob aka Israel (and Esau)
 4. Joseph (and his 11 brothers)

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Introduction

- In **Genesis 12**, we begin the rest of the Bible story.
- We are no longer looking at the early or primeval earth and its people.
- Instead, we are zeroing in on one man, one family and one nation – as we begin the story of redemption.
- The man is **Abram** (later Abraham) and his family will become the nation we now call **Israel**.

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Outline

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Outline

- I. Abram Is Called to Canaan 12:1-9
- II. Abram Goes Down to Egypt 12:10-20

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- 12:1 In 11:31 we see that Abram was originally called by God while still in Ur.
- This is confirmed by Stephen in the book of Acts.

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- Acts 7:2-3

2 And he said, “Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, 3 and said to him, ‘Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.’”

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

This is God's pattern: not only does obedience lead to blessing, but it also leads to greater clarity of God's will, purpose, and direction in our lives. God speaks in concert with our obedience, not with our rebellion.

– Tony Evans, pastor, author



I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- 12:1 To the land that I will show you
- This serves as an example of Abram's faith.
- Hebrews 11:8

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.

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- 12:2 **a great nation** When God made this promise, Abraham had no son.
- The reference is to the nation of Israel, the descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob.

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- 12:2 I will bless you and make your name great
- Abram's earthly blessings were things like material prosperity, etc.
- On the spiritual side he had an ongoing walk with God – a spiritual heritage that he left to his children.
- They then gave us the Word of God, the Messiah

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- 12:2 I will bless you and make your name great
- Contrast with 11:4

Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves ...”

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- 12:2 You will be a blessing. Or, “Be a blessing,”
- This can be read as a commandment, not simply a prediction.
- When God blesses us, it is not simply so that we can be blessed. He expects us to be a blessing to others.

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- 12:3 bless . . . curse.
- God declares that to bless or curse Abram would be answered by a blessing or curse from God.
- Later this covenant with Abram will be passed down to Isaac and Jacob.

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- 12:3 In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
- This is fulfilled in:
 1. The coming of Abraham's seed, Christ
 2. The great commission

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- 12:4-6 Lot **went with him**
- Lot's father Haran was dead as we saw in 11:27-28.
- **Shechem** is in the middle of Canaan.

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- 12:7 To your offspring I will give this land.
- Here is a specific land promise.
- an altar This is the first altar built by Abram, but the second in the Bible.
- Noah built the first one after the flood.

I. Abram Is Called to Canaan

12:1-9

- **12:8-9** Abram builds another altar and then heads south into the desert regions of Canaan.
- His relationship with God will remain deeply tied to the land to which God called him.

II. Abram Goes Down to Egypt

12:10-20

II. Abram Goes Down to Egypt

12:10-20

- 12:10 a famine Not uncommon in Canaan.
- Despite its arid climate, Egypt usually did better because of the Nile.

II. Abram Goes Down to Egypt

12:10-20

- 12:10 A test of faith often comes soon after a wonderful experience of God.
- In Matthew 17, Jesus, Peter, James and John comes down from the Mount of Transfiguration,
- They immediately meet a father with a demon-possessed boy.
- And the disciples who stayed back were unable to help them at all.

II. Abram Goes Down to Egypt

12:10-20

- 12:11-12 a woman beautiful in appearance
- Sarai is 65 at this time but she lived to 127.
- This is not Abram's best moment.

II. Abram Goes Down to Egypt

12:10-20

- 12:13 **Say you are my sister** A half-truth, for Sarah was Abram's half sister (20:12)
- The intention was to deceive, so this indicates a lack of faith on Abram's part.

II. Abram Goes Down to Egypt

12:10-20

- 12:14-16 An awkward situation develops.
- 12:17 God deals with Pharaoh rather than directly with Abram.

II. Abram Goes Down to Egypt

12:10-20

- 12:18-20 Abram comes away with all the possessions he received in v.16.
- But how sad that a Gentile king corrects Abram.
- The happy ending shows us that God would have kept Abram and Sarai safe even if he had not lied.

The Call of Abram

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Conclusion

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Conclusion

- Abram was obedient to the call of God.

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Conclusion

- Abram was obedient to the call of God.
- This is the first step and first example of Abram's faith.
- God rarely tells us what the result of our obedience is going to be.
- And yet, obedience is always the best option.

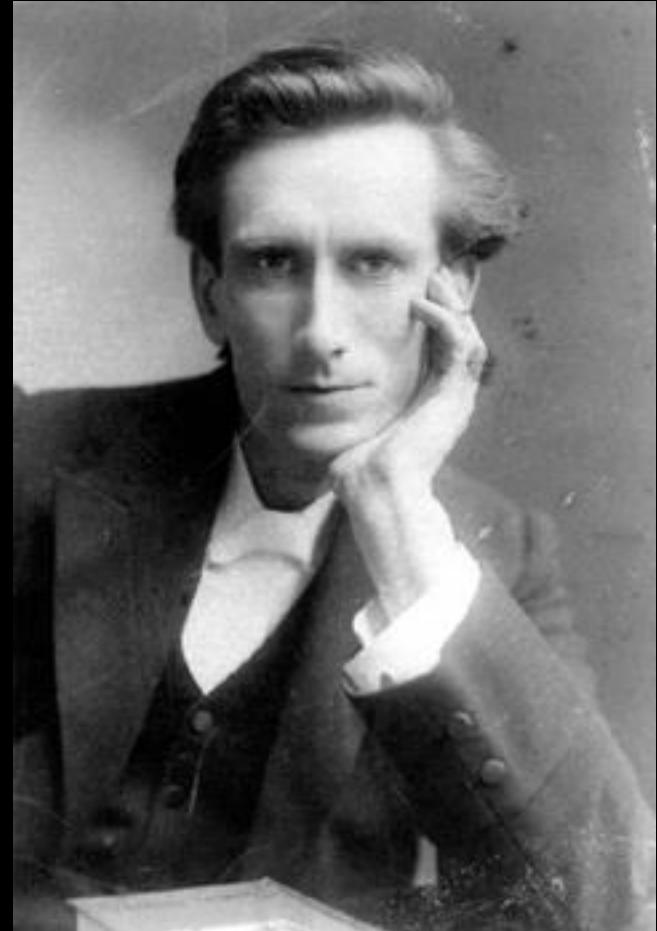
The Call of Abram

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Conclusion

When Jesus Christ says “Follow Me,” He never says to where, the consequences must be left entirely to Him ... We have nothing to do with what will happen if we obey, we have to abandon to God’s call in unconditional surrender and smilingly wash our hands of the consequences.

*– Oswald Chambers (1874 – 1917),
YMCA Chaplain to troops in Egypt.*



The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Conclusion

- When God blesses us, He expects us to be a blessing.

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Conclusion

- When God blesses us, He expects us to be a blessing.
- Ephesians 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Conclusion

- Abraham was known as the friend of God.
- The Bible says that in three different places.

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Conclusion

- Abraham was known as the friend of God.
- 2 Chronicles 20:5-7

5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, 6 and said, “O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you ...

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Conclusion

- Abraham was known as the friend of God.
- 2 Chronicles 20:5-7
 - ... 7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

The Call of Abram

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Conclusion

- Abraham was known as the friend of God.
- Isaiah 40:8

8 But you, Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Conclusion

- Abraham was known as the friend of God.
- James 2:23

And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

The Call of Abram

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Conclusion

- God uses flawed human beings as He works out His amazing plans through them.

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Conclusion

- God uses flawed human beings as He works out His amazing plans through them.
- Noah, Abram, David, the first disciples of Jesus – all of them have their issues.
- And so do we.

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

Conclusion

- God uses flawed human beings as He works out His amazing plans through them.
- For this reason, Abram is a wonderful illustration of God's grace.

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12



Conclusion

It was by the grace of God that He called Abram. It was by the grace of God that He called you. And it is by the grace of God that He blesses you. Not by merit of your works, your faithfulness, or your diligence ...

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12



Conclusion

... but by His grace you experience and receive the blessings of God.

I don't expect God to bless me because of who I am. I expect God to bless me because of who He is.

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12

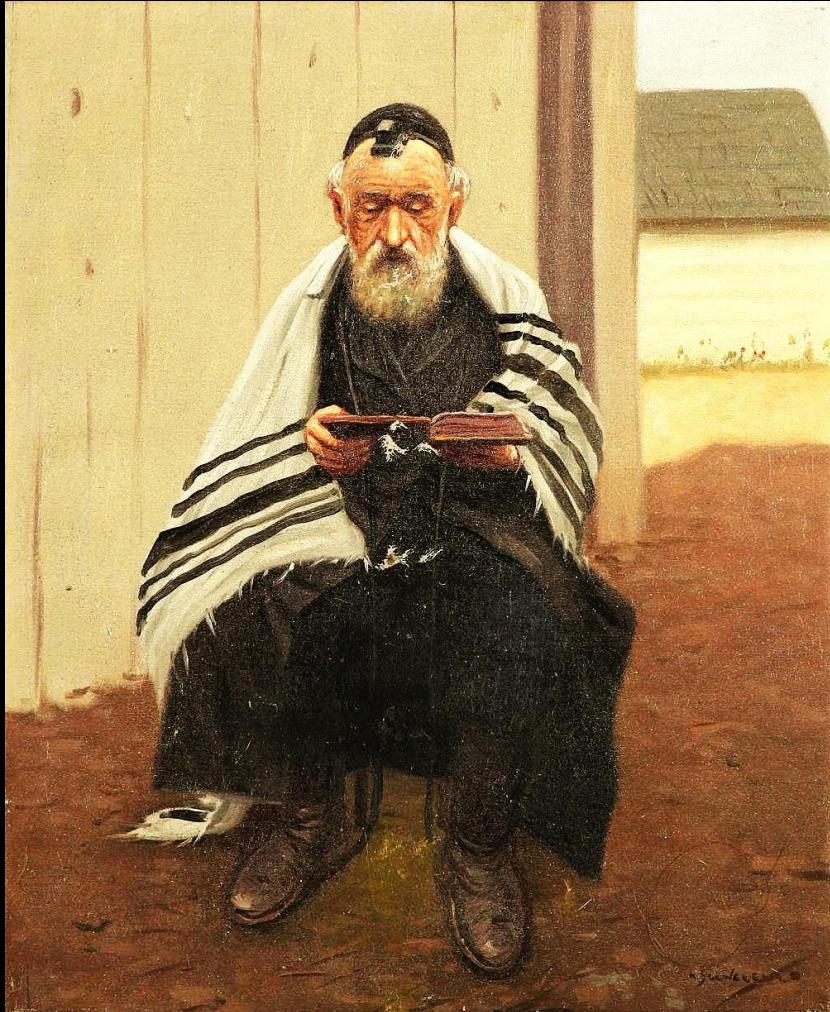
Conclusion

- Galatians 3:7-9

7 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” 9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

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Genesis: In the Beginning



Tefillin – Konstanty Szewczenko

Abram and Lot
Genesis 13