

In the Beginning

Genesis 12:1-6

- The first **11** Chapters of Genesis record one failure of man after another, failures that are being repeated today. The first man-woman disobeyed God and are cast out of the Garden **Chap 3**, Cain murders his brother Abel and lied about it **Ch 4**, humanity became so corrupt that God cleansed the earth with a flood **Ch 6-8**, Noah gets drunk and exposes himself to his son Ham **Ch 9**, then in defiance to God men build a city and tower in an effort to make themselves like god falsely worship the stars causing the Lord to send confusion in order to end the rebellion **Ch 11**.
- Disobedience, murder, deception, drunkenness, nudity, and rebellion, sounds like today don't it? Remember these are men and women created in God's image and yet are doing nothing but bringing shame on Him, so what does He do about it? Does He destroy us again or redeem us? From **Genesis Ch 12** all the way to the **book of Acts** the story of Redemption is going to shift from all of mankind to a small remnant called the Jewish people who have descended from the line of Shem Noah's son. It's through this line that God's wonderful plan of salvation is going to be revealed and carried out and it starts with a man named Abram who we all know as Abraham

V1-6

- **V1-3** we're told in **Josh 24:2** that Abram came from a family of idolaters, that they worshipped false idols from the time Abram was a little boy until he becomes a grown man with a wife. But eventually he meets Jehovah God his Creator and the revelation of God's glory showed him the vanity and folly of idol worship in Ur, as think about it who wants to worship a dead idol when he has met the Living God! So God speaks to him to get out of Ur and away from his family and He'll make of Abram and his descendants a great nation that will shine a light on God's goodness
- We see five promises made by God to Abram if he obeys Him > **1st I will give you a home**- show you a land, **2nd I will give you children**- hard to have a nation without descendants, **3rd I will honor you**- make your name great, **4th I will bless you**- you and those who come alongside you will receive my favor, **5th I will protect you**- curse those who curse you. All these promises are contingent upon Abram doing what? (**Obeying**) he has to get out and leave those who are still falsely worshipping dead idols, that means his father and love ones easier said than done!
- In fact **Rom 7:2** tell us that God spoke to him before he came to Haran and told him to leave but the first steps of faith are not always giant steps which explains why Abram did not fully obey God for instead of leaving his family as he was commanded Abram took his father and nephew with him when he left Ur and then he stayed at Haran until his father had died. Thankfully and by God's grace Abram's partial disobedience did not take God's promise away, instead it put the promise "**on hold**" until Abram was ready to do exactly what God had told him.

- This was all part of God teaching Abram how to not only believe in Him but to also trust in His Word, there are plenty of people who believe God exists, but they don't have complete trust in what He has said. You see **Gen 11** was all about man's plans, but **Gen 12** is all about the plans of God, and His promises are irrevocable, so although Abram is disobedient now he will not stay that way, as one day he will become the father of those who walk by faith > **Gal 3:7, Heb 11**.
- **V4** Abram leaves after his father dies but again he makes the mistake of taking family with him namely his nephew and this is going to become a colossal mistake and a nightmare for centuries to come as we'll see. Usually whatever we bring with us from the **old life** into the **new** is likely to create problems. Were told Abram was **75** when he left Haran to go to the land that God would show him, this would end up being a **100yr** journey as **Gen 25:7** says he was **175** when he dies, and he will see his journey to the promise land continue through his children-grandchildren
- **V5-6** in stopping in Haran and living until his father dies notice Abram has acquired more than a nephew but he has possessions and servants who are following him. So in leaving Haran we see three things about Abram > **1. He is respected-** as the eldest he inherits the most **11:26**, **2. He is rich-** that allow him to have many possessions and servants, **3. He is religious-** he's heard from God but he's not fully following God as his partial obedience is really full blown disobedience.
- So although he is **respected, rich** and **religious** he is still **lost**, and I am not talking about the kind of lost like he doesn't have salvation, it's the **he's lost his way** and needs to get **back on track kind of lost**. We all should be able to relate to that for as sheep we are prone to wander but thankfully God doesn't leave us that way and he is not going to leave him that way either.
- In fact God is about to bring some hardship into his life to get him to re-focus, and back to what God has said and not on how to do it as conveniently as possible, and it's going to start with a reminder of **Who God is**, and of **Who's he is**, as well. Just as we saw the promises God made to Abram I want to look at similar promises God made to us also, before we close.
- **1. Jn 14:1-4-** God promised to give Abram a home, God also has promised to give us a home one day (**heaven**), **2. Math 28:19, 2Tim 2:1-2-** just as God promised Abram that he would have descendants, we are called to duplicate ourselves also, **3. 1Pet 5:6-** God promised to honor Abram, He also said He will lift us up after we've humbled ourselves before Him, **4. Prov 16:7-** God said He would bless Abram and all who bless him, so God will give us favor with others when we live for Him, **5. 2Thess 3:3-** God said He would protect Abram, He also says He will guard -protect us. So His promises don't stop with Abram but continue with the church.