



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## **"Blessed to Be a Blessing: God's Purpose in Choosing"**

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### **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

**Key Passages:** Gen. 12:1-4; 1 Peter 2:9; Joshua 24:2; Hebrews 11:8; Isaiah 42:6-7; Psalm 67:1-2

From the opening chapters of Genesis, we see the story of humanity unravel through sin, rebellion, and the relentless effects of a broken relationship with God. Yet even when judgment comes, God's final word is always mercy. Through the chaos of the flood, the scattering at Babel, and generations of idolatry, God still chooses to step into human history with a plan for redemption. His purpose was never to abandon creation but to restore it through covenant relationship. That restoration begins with one man — Avram — through whom all the families of the earth would one day be blessed.

God's call to Avram wasn't an accident or a sign of favoritism. It was a revelation of His heart — that He chooses people not just to save them but to send them. Avram was called to step out of the shadow of sin and into a new story of blessing. In Messiah Yeshua, we too are called "a chosen people, a royal priesthood," not for status but for service. We are chosen *so that* His praises and His purposes might shine through us to the world.

### **1. STEP OUT FROM THE FAMILIAR (Gen. 12:1)**

When God called Avram, it wasn't because of his résumé or reputation. Scripture doesn't even introduce him with credentials — the LORD simply speaks and says, *"Get going from your land, from your relatives, and from your father's house to the land that I will show you."* The call of God begins with separation. To move forward with Him, Avram had to leave behind what was familiar — his land, his idols, his identity, and even the gods of his ancestors. The LORD was asking him to walk away from everything he'd ever known, into a land not yet revealed, guided only by faith.

Faith always involves leaving something behind. It means walking away from our idols — the things we've trusted for comfort, control, or approval — and stepping forward into what we cannot yet see. Like Avram, we are called to "go forward from our past." That could mean releasing a habit, a fear, a relationship, or a mindset that has kept us anchored to the old life. When Yeshua told the woman caught in sin, *"Go and sin no more,"* He wasn't just offering forgiveness — He was inviting her to walk forward into freedom. Faith takes that first step, not knowing where it will lead, but trusting the One who calls.

### **2. TRUST GOD WITH WHAT IS AHEAD (Gen. 12:1b-3)**

God never asks us to give up something He doesn't intend to replace with something better. He told Avram to leave his land — but promised him a greater land. To leave his family — but promised him a nation. To walk away from his father's household — but promised him a name and legacy that would endure forever. The people of Babel tried to "make a name for themselves," but God Himself said to Avram, *"I will make your name great."* When we trust God with what's ahead, we release the illusion of control and allow Him to shape our story.

The LORD's blessing isn't fragile. It can't be taken by human hands or undone by curses. *"Those who bless you I will bless, and those who treat you with contempt I will curse,"* God says. In Hebrew, that word for "curse" means to treat lightly — to make small what God values greatly. But no one can remove us from God's covering. As Numbers 23:23 declares, *"There is no sorcery against Jacob, no divination against Israel."* When you walk in His blessing, no darkness can undo what His hand has decreed. Trusting Him with your future means believing that His plans

are not only good but guarded. You may not see the full picture yet, but you are safe in His promise.

### **3. YOU'RE BLESSED TO CARRY THE BLESSING FORWARD (Gen. 12:2-3; Ps. 67)**

God's purpose in choosing Avram was never self-centered. *"I will bless you,"* He said, *"so that you will be a blessing... and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."* Avram wasn't chosen to be a reservoir of blessing, but a river through which it would flow. We are not meant to be cul-de-sacs of grace — we are called to be avenues of it. God's heart is always outward, always missional, always redemptive. The blessing He gives you is meant to overflow into others.

This calling didn't stop with Avram. In Messiah, you have been grafted into the same promise — chosen to reflect His light to the nations. Isaiah 42 reminds us that He called us *"as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes and release prisoners from darkness."* We carry His name, His character, and His compassion into every space we enter. The more we pour out, the more He pours in. The blessing grows by being given away. When we pray, *"Lord, bless us that we may be a blessing,"* we align with His heartbeat for the world. That's why Psalm 67 declares, *"May God be gracious to us and bless us, and make His face shine on us — so that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations."*

### **CONCLUSION**

God's heart has never changed. From Avram to Israel to Messiah Yeshua, His mission has been the same — to reconcile all families of the earth to Himself. He still invites us to join Him in that redemptive work. His call is clear: go forward from your past, trust Him with what's ahead, and live as a conduit of His blessing. When we align our hearts with His purposes, we discover that His favor isn't just something we receive — it's something we release.

If you'll say yes to His call — to step out, to trust, and to bless — you'll find that the same God who called Avram still calls today. And His promise still stands: *"I will bless you... and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."* May that be our prayer and our purpose — to live blessed, and to live as a blessing.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What does Avram's obedience teach us about faith when we don't know the destination?
2. Why do you think God requires us to step away from the familiar before He reveals what's next?
3. How can we recognize the difference between being *blessed* and being *comfortable*?
4. In what ways can you personally become an avenue of blessing rather than a cul-de-sac?
5. How does seeing yourself as "chosen for purpose" change the way you view your daily life?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Abba, thank You for calling us out of darkness and into Your marvelous light. Thank You for blessing us with Your presence and promises. Help us to step out from the familiar, to trust You with what we cannot see, and to remember that Your blessing is never meant to end with us. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that Your love and truth would flow through our lives into the world around us. Teach us to walk in obedience and generosity of heart, reflecting the light of Yeshua in every place You send us. Bless us, Lord — that we may be a blessing.

*B'Shem Yeshua, In Yeshua's Name, Amen.*