

Genesis: Beginning “Good” with God
New Pilgrim Baptist Church Bible Study
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3/25/26

Lesson: *The Nations of the World and the Rise of God’s Nation Pt. 2 (Gen 12:1-13:18)*

In Gen 10-11, we were taught about Noah’s children Shem, Ham, and Japheth. We were introduced to the family of Shem (Semites) whose descendants were the family of Eber (Hebrews) from which we get the family of Terah, the father of Abram. Terah and his family were on their way to Canaan but stopped in Haran. From there, God called Abram to go to Canaan. This moment will change the course of the world when God selects Abram to start a family which will help the world **rediscover** the true God and find blessing in him.

Biblical Takeaways (12:1-13:18)

1. *The Blessings of Abram (12:1-3)*
 - a. (Note: Abram will undergo a name change later (Gen 17:5). His name means “high father.”) Verse 1 begins with the revelation of God. God told Abram to leave his father’s house, his family, and go to a land he would show him. This was a call from God for him to go to a place he was unaware of and begin something new.
 - b. God promised him (v. 2) that he would make him a great nation, bless him, make his name great, so he could be a blessing.
 - c. God promised all of those who blessed him would be blessed and cursed him would be cursed. In Abram, all the families of the earth will be blessed. Two important details must be noted: the blessing of Abram (Gen 1:28; 9:1) and the families of the earth, lit. the ground. Like Adam and Noah, God blesses Abram which casts Abram as a global figure. All of the families of the earth, the people who come from the cursed ground (Gen 3:17), will find blessing in him. This will come from the family, the nation, whom God would use to bring all families back to him and remove their curse.
2. *Abram Worships (12:4-9):* Abram *obeyed* God, taking Sarai and Lot, went to Canaan, and God promised him the land for him and his offspring (v. 7). Remember, Abram had no children and was 75 at the time. But Abram worshipped the God who had appeared to him in a vision (v. 8). Worship is the confirmation of seeing beyond sight.
3. *Abram’s lies in Egypt (12:10-20):* Abram took Sarai to Egypt during a famine to survive. He knew Pharaoh would want his wife so he had her portray herself as his sister. She was his half-sister on his father’s side (20:12). God was prepared to destroy Pharaoh for trying to take his wife.
4. *Abram and Lot Separate (13:1-13):* Abram brought his nephew with him and this led to problems. Since their houses began to fight over resources, they eventually separated and Lot went closer to Sodom while Abram settled in Canaan (v. 12).
5. *God Promises to Multiply Abram (13:14-18):* Like Adam, God promised to give Abram land to care for. Also like Adam and Noah, God planned to bless and multiply Abram. When Abram and Lot separated (v. 14), God spoke to Abram. He promised to make Abram’s seed like the “dust,” innumerable (v. 16). Upon this revelation, Abram built another altar to the Lord. When we worship God, we are able to show gratitude and faith. Abram’s worship showed he was leaving his past, he likely worshipped false gods, we know his family most certainly did. He formed a new family centered around worship of the true God.