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## Beginning the Gospel's Journey - the Call

**Genesis 12:1-9**

Hebrews 11:8-19; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

### Pursuing Our Goals

#### A New Section

- Where we have been
  - The eternal God has an eternal purpose/plan. That purpose is to have a people for Himself for all eternity.
  - The Godhead enters into an everlasting covenant with Themselves!
  - Man created in the image of God. (Genesis 1)
  - Adam, Eve and Cain's sins. (Genesis 2-4)
  - God's long-suffering.
  - Noah's generation sins. (Genesis 6:5; 8:21)
  - Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)
- Where we are heading
  - Abraham - "the father of all who believe"
  - Isaac - "the son of promise"
  - Jacob - Renamed "Israel" - a name for the Messiah
  - Joseph - a picture of God's providence in saving sinners.

### **Abraham - the Father of All Who Believe** (Rom 4:11, 16; Gal 3:7)

- Background (Joshua 24). Named Abram. From Ur.
- Chosen by God, despite his idolatry, and given the name Abraham. (Neh 9:7)
- From the line of Seth . . . Enoch . . . Noah . . . Shem . . . (Luke 3:34-38)
- From an idol worshiper to a friend of God. (2 Chron 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23)
- Who is a friend of God? (John 15:14)
- GOD is the Father of all who believe! God calls all who will believe with the same call as their father!

### **From Eternity to Eternity** (Romans 8:28-30)

- Golden Chain of Grace
- The CALL of GOD - where the glorious Gospel comes to us.
- God calls because He foreknew (chose/elected); God calls because He predestined!

## The God Who Calls (Acts 7:2-3)

- We have learned that this God is . . .
  - Eternal ➤ Almighty ➤ All-Knowing ➤ A choosing God!
  - Invincible - no one can thwart His desires/plans/purpose/counsel. (Isaiah 46:9-11; 14:24-27; Psalm 33:11; 135:6; Prov 19:21; 21:30; Daniel 4:35)
  - The Judge of all the earth and every sin must be punished!
  - GOD IS SOVEREIGN! (Psalm 115:3)
- (Acts 7:2-3) “the God of glory”
- The God who “thunders”! (Psalm 29)
- In CONTRAST to the idols of Joshua 24!
- When God calls things happen! (Genesis 1:3; John 11:43-45)
- God calls to fulfill His purpose. (Romans 8:28-30; Jeremiah 1:5)
- It is the Father who chooses. (Ephesians 1:4; Romans 8:28, 30, 33; 9:23-24; 11:5-6; 2 Thess 2:13-14; Titus 1:1-2; 1 Peter 1:2; 2:9)
- It is the Father who calls. (Romans 8:28, 30; 9:11, 23-24; 1 Cor 1:9; Galatians 1:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Peter 1:15; 5:10; Jude 1)
- It is the Father that draws His people to Himself. (John 6:44, 65)

## The Call (Abraham's and All Who Believe) (Genesis 12:1-3; Romans 8:28, 30)

### • A Call of Grace

- God chooses who He will call! There was NOTHING in Abraham that caused God to choose Him to be the father of Israel or the father of all who would believe.
- God does everything, including choosing, for His own glory!
- In calling, God takes the initiative; NOT MAN!
- God's call is to fulfill His purpose/plan; NOT MAN's! (Ephesians 1:11)
  - ★ It is GOD who brings Abraham OUT! (Genesis 15:7; Nehemiah 9:7; Joshua 24:2-3; Isaiah 51:2)

### • A Call According to His PURPOSE!

- God calls to accomplish His purpose/plan/desire/counsel. (Romans 8:28; 2 Timothy 2:19; Ephesians 1:11)

### • A Radical Call and Command! (Not an invitation!)

- ① A call/command for separation (2 Cor 6:14-7:1) “GET OUT!”
    - Leave your family! (Psalm 45:10-11; Ruth 1:16; Luke 14:26-33)
    - Leave your traditions! (Matthew 15:1-9)
    - Leave your culture/today's world! (Gal 1:4; James 4:4; 1 John 2:17; 2 Peter 1:4)
    - Flee your idols! (1 Thess 1:9; 1 John 5:21; 1 Corinthians 10:14)
    - BE SEPARATE! BE DIFFERENT! (Romans 12:1-2)
  - ② A call/command for absolute confidence in the word of God. (Prov 3:5-7)
  - ③ A call for absolute obedience/trust. (Proverbs 3:5-7)
    - A call to deny self and follow. (Luke 9:23; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10)
- ★ God never asks! God always commands!
    - Consider, so far, Adam, Noah, and now, Abraham!

- **A Call with Promises - EIGHT of them!**

- ❶ "I WILL be with you." (Matthew 28:20)
- ❷ "I WILL guide you." (John 10:4, 27-28)
- ❸ "I WILL make you a great nation." (With 1 Peter 2:9; Job 12:23)
- ❹ "I WILL bless you." (2 Peter 1:3-4; Ephesians 1:3; Colossians 3:11)  
→ Consider God's Everlasting Covenant (Jer 31:31-36; Heb 8:6-13)
- ❺ "I WILL make your name great." (In contrast to Genesis 11:4; 1 John 3:1)
- ❻ "I WILL make you a blessing to others." (John 7:37-38; Gal 5:22-23)
- ❼ "I WILL avenge you." (Rev 6:10-11; Rom 12:19; Nahum 1:2; Luke 18:7-8)
- ❽ "I WILL bless all the families of the earth through you." (Acts 1:8)

- **A Call to Be Strangers and Pilgrims** (Genesis 12:5-6)

- Hebrews 11:13-16; 1 Peter 2:9-11

- What is a stranger?

- ★ A stranger dresses different, speaks different, hangs out with like minded people, enjoys different entertainment, have their own customs and traditions, behaves differently from than the people in the land (world).

- They long to be home. See 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 Thess 4:3-7; Romans 12:1-2

### **Pilgrims, Strangers, Sojourners**

(Hebrews 11:13-19)

### **They Died in Faith** (Hebrews 11:13)

- They persevered until the END!

- Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Romans 2:7; Hebrews 3:14; 6:11

- They ***fought the good fight*** of faith till the end. (2 Tim. 4:6-8; 1 Tim 6:12)

- They ***finished the race***. (Acts 20:24; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Philip 3:13-14; Hebrews 12:1-2)

- They ***walked (lived) by faith*** and not by sight! (2 Cor 5:7; Heb 10:38)

- In order to "die in faith" one must "live in faith." To live by faith is to live on every word that proceeds from God. (Luke 4:4)

### **They Had Sure Promises from a Sure Promiser** (Hebrews 11:13)

- God had promised and that was enough. God does not lie. (Titus 1:2; Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29)

- Think HARD! How little information they had concerning God's promises compared to what we have today!!

- God spoke and it must be! God promised and confirmed His promises with an oath!!!

- They did not have the fulfillment of the promise but they had God's Word and that was enough! WE HAVE CHRIST – **READ 2 Corinthians 1:20**

- God's Word should be ENOUGH — seeking after signs only show that we do not trust God's Word! (Matthew 12:39; 16:4)

## **They SAW the Promises** (Hebrews 11:13)

- Their faith made the promises “visible” – it made them REAL.
- Abraham “saw” Christ’s day. (John 8:56)
- Moses “saw” Christ! (Hebrews 11:25-27)
- Job had “heard” but now he “saw”. (Job 42:5)
- Their faith gave them confidence. (Hebrews 11:1)
- What they “saw” persuaded them!

## **They EMBRACED the Promises** (Hebrews 11:13)

- They “embraced” the Word of God.
- “to embrace” literally means “to receive joyfully.” (See “to cling” - Deut 13:1-4)

## **They Confessed! They Were Not Ashamed** (Hebrews 11:13-14)

- Because their faith made God’s Word REAL to them they had no problem in **openly declaring** their faith/hope. (1 Peter 3:15)
- *Read Christ’s Words in Mark 8:38 and Luke 9:26.*
- (v. 14) They declared **plainly** that they were **seeking** (had their eyes on) a homeland – literally – “one father’s land”. They groaned! (Rom 8:23-25)

## **The Temptation** (Hebrews 11:15-16)

- It would be EASY to go back, to give up, to quit!
- **BUT** these “heros of faith” had their **minds** set on something **GREATER!**
- Since they were seeking (v. 14) and desiring (v. 16) something greater they did not have “the mind” to “go back.”
- **BUT THE OPPORTUNITY IS ALWAYS THERE!!**
- See Isaiah 26:3-4 and Colossians 3:1-3.
- BUT we remember, those all whom God calls, will persevere to the end because of God’s grace. (Rom 8:28-30; Philip 1:6; John 6:38-40; Psalm 138:8; 1 Thess 5:23-24; 1 Peter 5:10; Eph 1:13-14; )

## **THE TEST: Have You Heard GOD’s RADICAL Call?**

- ❶ Have you heard God call you to SEPARATE YOURSELF from family, culture, traditions, and the ways of the world? (Luke 14:26-27; 1 John 2:15-17)
- ❷ Are you trusting God’s Word with all of your heart and acknowledging Him in all your ways? (Proverbs 3:5-7; Luke 4:4) Are you a friend or enemy of God? (John 15:14)
- ❸ Are you obeying God’s commandments as they are found in His word? Do you know God? (John 17:2-3; 1 John 2:3-4)
- ❹ Are you a stranger/foreigner in the world? (Rom 12:1-2; 1 Pet 2:11; 1 Chronicles 29:14)
- ❺ Are you walking worthy of your calling? (Ephesians 4:1-3)
- ❻ Are you groaning to be HOME with God, your Father? (Romans 8:23-25)