

Reading: Genesis 11: 27-12:5; Acts 7: 1- 4

A. Genesis contains broadly the history of seven men

1. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph
2. Within their history we learn specific spiritual lessons
3. Abel we learn that it is only possible to come to God through the way of satisfaction/payment/sacrifice: only through Faith
4. Enoch we see the true hope and expectation for heavenly Family
5. In Noah we see the picture of the earthly family, and God's care

B. we see in all these men different aspects of the life of the believer

1. Of one of these men Abraham is perhaps the most important
2. Abraham, he is called the father of Israel of all believers

C. Genesis 12: 1- 5 God calls Abram to leave his country, his relatives his father's house, and God promises to Abram, upon unconditional obedience great blessings. These blessings will have eternal value even for all the families of the world throughout all ages.

Title: God's Sovereign Call; God Calling, 1; Men Obeying, 4, 5; God Blessing 2, 3

God's Sovereign Call

I. God calling, v. 1 and context

A. God divinely calls Abram out of his Idolatrous life

1. There is a need to be lead out of bondage, which is God's Work
 - Acts 7: 2-4 here we see an important truth
 - God commanded Abram "Get you out of your country, and from your kindred and from your father's house unto a land that I will show you:
2. The command God gave to Abram had a purpose
 - It was to touch the heart and conscious of Abram
 - It was to lead Him out of bondage
 - To lead him out of idolatry it was to truly set him free
3. The people in that time lived in great idolatry,
 - They worshiped almost all creatures,
 - it was always connected with great fear especially-darkness
 - The OT speaks of it and also the Middle east Archeology makes it plain that the people worshiped many gods
4. Here we see that the Lord calls Abram and his family to believe in God
 - One that they could not see, one they never had worshipped
5. But Abram was pricked in his heart and he obeyed, why?
6. Because the God of all glory called him

B. Abram divinely called by the God of all Glory

1. Who was it that called Abram? Stephen preach on this in Acts 7, "The God of all glory"
 - He is the God of Creation, the God of Providence, the God of Salvation
2. In God calling Abram, we see here a switch in God's dealings with mankind
 - God first deals with mankind as a whole
 - Now he begins to separate persons a family
 - He separates Abram and his family from the world; he separates a people unto Himself.
3. It is therefore not only a call to leave the homeland, which was for these days quite something.

• Or just an outwardly call, this was a call unto salvation

C. God of all glory calls Abram into His glorious light

1. At one time a servant of the darkness, now he became the servant of Light of the God of Glory.
2. How do we know this?
 - Text says it; Abram unconditionally obeyed
 - **Rom 4:3** For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
 - **Gal 3:6** Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.
3. Abram heard the voice of the Lord and he BELIEVED

D. God of all glory calls His people today also

1. How? Through His voice: The preaching of His Word
3. God calls His church into a covenant relationship
 - A personal relationship
 - We will look at this more in the last point
4. But this is what we need know that the Lord of all glory calls his people to Himself, unto salvation through His Word and Spirit
5. Such irresistible callings will have effect

God's Sovereign Call, God calling

II. Men Obeying, 4, 5

A. Abram's first obedience to God's call

1. Abram after hearing the commandment of God all Glory left
 - He went to Terah his father told his all things
 - They obeyed the voice or command of the Lord
2. 'NAS' Ch 11: 31, "and they went out together from Ur of the

Chaldeans in order to enter the land of Canaan; and they went as far as Haran, and settled there.”

3. What was wrong here?

- Ch 12: 1, Abram had to leave his country, relatives, father house
- What do we read? Terah went with Abram Is this wrong?
- At first sight it is not. But what happened?
- Did they go to the Promised Land, Canaan? No

4. They stopped at Haran, “they went as far as Haran, and settled there.”

- They dwelt / settled / abode there, they began to live there
- This was against the command of the Lord
- Abram had to leave also his father, and that was against his flesh.

5. Than something happened, “and Terah died in Haran.”

B. Abram’s second obedience to God’s call

1. There is again a turning point in Abram’s life.

- The Lord removes Abram out of Haran
 - His father died, with this event the ties with Haran are broken
2. Abram had to learn to obey completely with heart soul and mind
- He needed to be convicted that the God of all glory demands 100% obedience than he would receive all the promised blessings
3. Therefore we see Abram departing as the Lord had spoken to him.”

C. Abram entered or came into the Promised Land

1. vv. 4, 5; we see Abram’s real true faithful obedience to God’s Sovereign Call.
2. Abram understood what he needed to do, because we do not read anymore that Abram settled in the Promised Land.
3. It is written that Abram was a sojourner through the land of Canaan.
4. Heb 11: 9, “By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;”
5. He now by faith knew that his home was heaven, “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God”

D. Abram an example for the church of Jesus Christ

1. Abram had to learn unconditional obedience to his Lord
2. Abram had to learn that only death could break the bond with earth
3. God’s children need to learn death will break the earthly bond
4. Abram had to learn that the Lord’s Words are the only truth foundation

5. G’s people need to be convicted that they died in Jesus Christ, He is their head and only foundation, He is The Word writes John
6. The place they had in the world belongs to the past writes Paul to the Ephesian church
7. They need to learn to live and to walk according their new citizenship.

G. God’s Sovereign Call: God calling, Men obeying

III. God blessing, 2, 3

A. I will make of you a great nation,

1. Men attended and still attend to make themselves great like the building of the Tower of Babel.
 - They failed, because men cannot make themselves great
 - God is in charge, God rules, directs and controls all of life
2. God promises to Abram, I will make out of you a great nation
 - In name, and in reality, the Jews became and are a great nation
 - Is.2: 2, “and it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the L’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.”

B. To affirms this the Lord says, I will bless you,

1. Abram left everything perhaps all the wealth that was in his father’s house. We do not know this, but it could very well be
2. Lord says upon obedience follows great personal blessings.
 - Blessings that come from His Lord
 - Calvin, “Lest Abram should despair, God offers his own blessing, which was able to effect more in the way of miracle... Than through any natural means.” Abram’s trust will be blessed
 - Ab you will receive the 1st blessing, as it were as the son of God, you will be blessed even more
3. And this glorious benediction pronounced on Abram extends farther than becoming a great nation or becoming of great wealth,

C. and shall make your name great;

1. As if God says, Abram! People shall speak about you
 - Not because there is anything in you but because you followed me
 - **John 12:26**, “If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honor.”
2. As if God says, Abram! Kings shall be your friends, and you shall bless them and you shall be a blessing to them.
3. Abram your name shall be heard throughout all ages, people will

... speak about you, shall preach about you **Why?**

4. Because you honored God because showed unconditional obedience

D. You shall be a blessing:

1. As if God says, Abram! Your unconditional obedience, your salvation shall be of a great example: Israel and Sp Israel
2. “The grace bestowed upon Abram will also enter into all nations.”
 - Jesus Christ was promised to come out of Abram’s lineage
 - That is the real true and perfect blessing.

E. I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curse you:

1. Than Abram’s Lord gives him a great comforting blessing
2. This is one of perfect protection, perfect government
3. God promises to Abram and in him to all of God’s children that He will be a friend to their friends.
4. God shows himself to be the perfect Father of great Love.
 - God is in charge, He will protect his people
 - It is as if God says, Abram, people will curse persecute hate you.
 - But be assured I will persecute them; I Am your Living God

F. and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.

1. Wherein are the families of the earth blessed?
 - Nothing more and nothing less than in the Blood of Jesus
 - Jesus Christ is the great blessing for **all**
2. This needs to be highlighted that the language of these blessings are written in a Covenantal style
 - The L Covenants himself with Abram
 - **Gal 3:17** and this I say, *that* the covenant, that was confirmed before of G. (with Abraham) in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.
 - The promise that Christ would be born out of the loins of Abram
3. It is therefore that all families are blessed only through the Messiah, the Mediator between God and men.

G. God Sovereignly calls people to inherit kingdom of heaven

1. Abram Inherited the Kingdom of Heaven, by grace because he believed in the promises of his Lord
2. What about you? What does this part of Abram’s life has to say?
3. God calls Abram to leave his country, his relatives and his father’s house, and God promises to Abram, upon unconditional obedience great blessings.

8. These blessings will have eternal value even for all the families of the world throughout all ages.