

God Chooses Abram to Bless Our World
Genesis 11:10-12:9

Abram's ancestors are traced back to Shem. 11:10-32

Abram's ancestry goes back through Peleg to Shem, a blessed son of Noah, cf. 9:26, 10:21-29. A summary of Abram's immediate family and their travels is in 27-32. Why mention Sarai is barren?

The Lord chooses Abram to be blessed and to be a blessing. 12:1-3

- ♦ A command is followed by a number of promises (*blessing* 5x).
What might cause Abram to decline this incredible opportunity?
- ♦ Have we seen any of these big promised blessings fulfilled?

Abram responds by journeying to a new land as instructed. 12:4-6

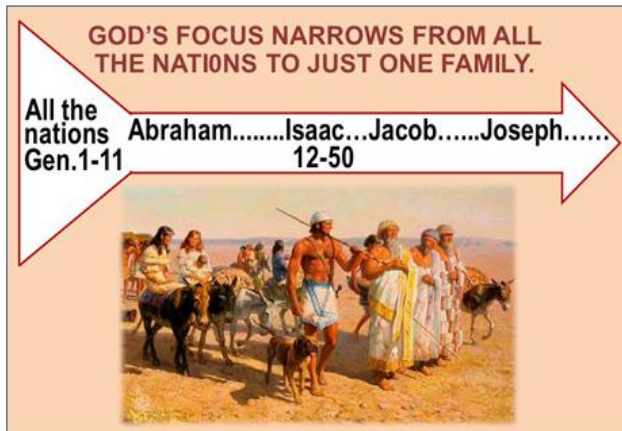
Abram obeys God's command to go but temporarily stays in Haran before reaching Canaan. At Shechem he builds the first of several altars. What might these symbolize as well as being for worship?

The Lord appears to Abram and clarifies that Canaan will be his. 12:7a

At Shechem God confirms the land of Canaan will be Abram's—a land of accursed people. God appears to him later in 17:1, 18:2.

Abram continues his journey, building altars as he goes. 12:7b-9

- ♦ Abram now proclaims God's name (recall 11:4, 12:2).
- ♦ These sites show up in Jacob's travels and Israel's conquest.



Can you spot some similar parallels here between what God asks of us and also what He has promised us?