

# From Creation to New Creation

[Genesis 11:27 – 12:9](#)

"A Blessing to the Nations" – May 29, 2022



## Introduction

If you had the choice between being really wealthy but distant from God or being bankrupt but rich toward God, which would you choose? When left with that choice, [Prov. 15:16](#) helps us think through that choice. Wisdom says it's better to be broke with Jesus than to be rich without him. It takes faith, because the world runs on a different currency than what God tells us is valuable.

In Genesis 11, the design of God's judgement on the sin was that the nations that dispersed would experience His blessing. We come to chapter 12 and see that the blessing would come through Abram (who we know will be called Abraham). Why would someone give up everything to follow God? Why would we risk our name to honor God's name?

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

1. The family of Abram 11:27-31
2. The call of Abram 12:1-3
3. The faith of Abram 12:4-9

## Read & Discuss

### 1) Read Chapter 11:27-31

One of the themes that ties the story of the Bible together is the kingdom of God. Graham Goldsworthy defines it as: "God's kingdom as God's people in God's place living under God's rule." We see it first in Genesis 1-2, then sin ruined it. Yet God in His mercy didn't abandon His original plan. He would re-establish His kingdom on earth.

Abram is the most unlikely of people from whom the blessing would come. Yet God chose him. The only reason was God's grace. That grace is a gift. If you are a Christian, it is because you were saved by God's grace. ([Eph. 2:8-9](#)) God chose you and me for the praise of His glorious grace. ([Eph. 1:6](#)) There are a lot of things in a fallen world that we can grumble about, but we must thank God for His glorious grace.

When was the last time you contemplated the unmerited grace of God in your life? With whom can you share the testimony of God's call on your life and about the grace by which He saved you?

### 2) Read 12:1-3

The command to go was a daunting call. God was calling Abrams OUT of a land which is familiar, OUT of a place that was comfortable, OUT of a land that was safe. He was calling him out of land of idol worshipers.

God told Abram to:

- Leave from your country – leave your livelihood
- Leave from your kindred – leave your relatives
- Leave from your father's house – leave your identity

The risk that Abram and Sarai faced must have kept them up at night. But the blessing that God promised was far better than any that the world had to offer. But Abram's greatness was not the endgame. We are meant to view Abram as a conduit of God's blessing. From Abram, God would raise up a people for Himself called Israel. ([Vs. 3](#)) However God's heart was never just Israel. His heart from the very beginning was to bless all the families – all the nations – all the peoples of the earth.

Through Abram, God would establish His kingdom on earth. If Abram is to experience that blessing and be that blessing, he has to take the risk of obedience. The path to blessing requires trusting God.

When has God called you out of your comfort zone? Has God ever called you to do something risky? How did it turn out when you obeyed?

**Additional Reading:** Mark 9; Genesis 11 (to contrast what people of Babel tried to do with what God said he'd do for Abram)

### 3) Read 12:4-9

The word "faith" doesn't show up in Chapter 12, so how do we know he had faith? ([Hebrews 11:8](#)) Biblical faith always results in obedience. Abram's faith was not flawless. As we walk with him through the book of Genesis, we will see him fall on his face time and time again. He trusts God, but he doesn't do it perfectly.

Moses reminds us that when Abram got to Canaan, the Canaanites were living there. These are the cursed descendants of Noah's son Ham. They hated God and were trying to kill God's people. How do you think Abram felt? Can you identify with Abram? How? Often after becoming a Christian, life gets harder. God is teaching us an important lesson. It took faith for Abram to leave his home, but it also takes faith to LIVE in the land. As the Israelites are reading what Moses wrote, they understood. They are afraid of the Canaanite's. Moses is writing this to drive out their fear and build up their faith.

The blessing is not in life being easy. It is found in God. The blessing is only found when we trust God. There is futility and frustration in this life, but we do not lose heart. ([2 Cor. 4:17](#)) God strengthened Abram with His word. God strengthens us when we cling to His word and cling to His promises. Are you prioritizing God's word in your life? Do you call upon the name of the Lord?

God also strengthens and encourages us by the example of fellow believers. It's encouraging to hear how these saints trusted God even when life was hard. They are a living example of that fact that God keeps His promises.

How do we apply these truths to our lives? What does the promise of blessing mean for us? ([Galatians 3:8; 16](#)) The offspring that God had in mind was Jesus. He is the offspring in the line of Abram who would come to crush the head of Satan and make all things new. Abram's blessing is our redemption. What do we need to do to receive the benefits of the blessing of Abram? Repent and believe in the Gospel. ([Mark 1:15](#)) God's blessing is not limited to Israel. Anyone who turns from their sin and comes to Christ will experience the blessing.

What does the promise mean for the church? In [Matt. 28:19](#), the church gets its marching orders. Go and make disciples of all nations. This is why we covenant with each other to share the gospel. God blesses us that we might be a blessing to others. We proclaim the gospel and plant churches. With whom can you share the good news of the gospel with this week?

**Additional Reading:** Acts 7; Nehemiah 9; Genesis 15

### Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>*Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">1 Thessalonians 1:1-10</a> "Turning to God"
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