



Genesis 12 thru 15
From Sermon 1.10.21

Read *Genesis 12:1-5*

Review from Sunday's sermon: God now sovereignly chooses one man from all of ancient history to be the founding father of a new nation. These will be God's chosen people (Israel/the Jews)—from which will come the Messiah. As compelling as Abraham's calling and drama are, it is essential that the modern Christian reader see two over-riding truths: (1) Abraham was saved in the same manner/process as us, and (2) God's Covenant with Abraham is still in tact and binding.

1. Read *Genesis 15:7*. Where was Abraham originally from? Ur of the Chaldeans.

1a. Where is this? Map: Ur, Haran, Canaan

1b. Does this surprise you? Various Personal Answers. – in light of historic Islamic/Jewish conflict

2. Who was Lot? Abraham's nephew from his brother Haran. He will travel with Abraham and later choose to settle in the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah.

3. Who was Melchizedek? A mysterious priest who shows up to meet Abraham. See *Genesis 14:18-20*. He's the first true priest of the true God in Scripture. Some have viewed him as a "Christophany" = a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Himself. See also *Hebrews 7:1-4*

4. God clearly promised Abraham and his descendants the Land of Canaan. But, we also learn the fulfillment was prophesied to be hundreds of years off. Why? God's amazing Grace. He was giving the native inhabitants of the land (the Amorites) time to repent or for their sin to reach its limit. See *Genesis 15:16 & Revelation 18:1-5* (re: Babylon)

5. How was Abraham saved? The very same way we are: The gift of belief and faith—*Ephesians 2:8-9*. That faith resulted in an imputed righteousness. His sin was imputed to Christ—*Romans 4:23-25*.

6. According to the Covenant and the Scriptures, did Israel sin herself out of God's Covenant and plan, when she rejected Jesus Christ? No. This is impossible. She sinned/sinned grossly throughout her history and yet Jesus still came from Israel. The Covenant was unconditional. See *Romans 11:29*

6a. What sobering point was made about any possibility of Israel losing her security? If the Old Covenant (although clearly unconditional) can be broken by sin, rebellion, or rejection, then we have no assurance of salvation in the New Covenant and can lose it due to sin.

7. What was the prescribe sign/symbol for God's people Israel? Circumcision See also *Genesis 17:10*.

Teaching Note: this is not now the act of baptism. Misunderstanding has led to the historic practice of baptizing babies. Rome believes this saves. Protestant groups don't believe it saves, but that is somehow seals and identifies. There is no biblical evidence of babies being baptized and no revealed doctrine on what this would even accomplish.