

Genesis 12:1-20 NKJV Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that **I will show you.** (2) **I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.** (3) **I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."** (4) So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram *was* **seventy-five years** old when he departed from Haran. (5) Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. (6) Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites *were* then in the land. (7) Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. (8) And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent *with* Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. (9) So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South. (10) Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine *was* severe in the land. (11) And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you *are* a woman of beautiful countenance. (12) Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This *is* his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. (13) Please say you *are* my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you." (14) So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she *was* very beautiful. (15) The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh's house. (16) He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels. (17) But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. (18) And Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What *is* this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she *was* your wife? (19) Why did you say, 'She *is* my sister'? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife; take *her* and go your way." (20) So Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him; and they sent

him away, with his wife and all that he had.

Genesis 13:1-18 NKJV Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. (2) Abram *was* very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. (3) And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, (4) to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD. (5) Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. (6) Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. (7) And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land. (8) So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we *are* brethren. (9) *Is* not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If *you take* the left, then I will go to the right; or, if *you go* to the right, then I will go to the left." (10) And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. (11) Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. (12) Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched *his* tent even as far as Sodom. (13) But the men of Sodom *were* exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD. (14) And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; (15) for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. (16) And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, *then* your descendants also could be numbered. (17) Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you." (18) Then Abram moved *his* tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which *are* in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

Genesis 14:1-24 NKJV And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel

king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations, (2) that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). (3) All these joined together in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). (4) Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled. (5) In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that *were* with him came and attacked the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim, (6) and the Horites in their mountain of Seir, as far as El Paran, which *is* by the wilderness. (7) Then they turned back and came to En Mishpat (that *is*, Kadesh), and attacked all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazezon Tamar. (8) And the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that *is*, Zoar) went out and joined together in battle in the Valley of Siddim (9) against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five. (10) Now the Valley of Siddim *was full of* asphalt pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled; *some* fell there, and the remainder fled to the mountains. (11) Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. (12) They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed. (13) Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they *were* allies with Abram. (14) Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained *servants* who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. (15) He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which *is* north of Damascus. (16) So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. (17) And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that *is*, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who *were* with him. (18) Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he *was* the priest of God Most High. (19) And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; (20) And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into

your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all. (21) Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself." (22) But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, (23) that I *will take* nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that *is* yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'— (24) except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."

Genesis 15:1-21 NKJV After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward." (2) But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house *is* Eliezer of Damascus?" (3) Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" (4) And behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." (5) Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." (6) And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. (7) Then He said to him, "I *am* the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." (8) And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" (9) So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." (10) Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. (11) And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. (12) Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror *and* great darkness fell upon him. (13) Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. (14) And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. (15) Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. (16) But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet complete." (17)

And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. (18) On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— (19) the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, (20) the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, (21) the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

Last week we discussed the reasons for the world-wide flood. We learned how Satan tried to corrupt the gene-pool. Why did he try this? Because God made a promise to Adam and Eve. The Seed of a woman would bear the One who would crush the head of Satan and thus stop him from deceiving the world, and wreaking havoc with those who were made in the image of God and especially God's children of faith.

Because "the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually", God had to cleanse the world and begin again. Therefore, the world would have to wait longer for the Promised Seed to be born. The corrupted world and everything in it except for 8 people and all the animals that God brought them to keep safe in the ark, were to be destroyed by a flood.

One of the eight persons was the head of the family. His name was Noah. Noah was a righteous and perfect man in the sight of the LORD. But Noah carried something in his flesh that would disqualify him from entering heaven: sin. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD and therefore, it was grace that saved Noah and in fact, the whole world. Why did God do this? It was for the same reason nearly 4000 years later: God love the world He had created. God's grace was the cause of Noah's faith that would carry him through the turbulent waters and back on dry land once again.

The members of the Godhead determined even before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How of this Promised Seed. Every "whosoever" that would

believe was thought of. Every other “whosoever” who loved the darkness rather than the Light was cause for great grief. But I still believe that our lack of understanding of the plan should not be a cause for disbelieve. Of the infinite number of possible plans considered by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the one revealed to us in the 66 Books of the Bible and confirmed by the Holy Spirit, is the most perfect plan of all. It is pure pride on steroids that causes people to question His plan.

Our passage today answered or hinted at the answers to many of the “Who, What, When, Where, Why and How” questions. The “why” is obvious from Genesis 3: the fall of man and the need to restore mankind’s relationship with their God. We know from Genesis 3:15 that there would be a promised Seed and this Seed would be a man. We know part of the “what”: He will crush the head of Satan. In today’s passage, we learn of the “where”: in the land called Canaan that was occupied by pagan peoples. We learned a little more about the Seed: He would be a descendent of a man named Abram who would be the father of a great nation and innumerable nations.

Abram, in a sense, begins to answer the “how” but there’s more to it than a man and his family moving from one heathen land to another. The biggest mystery was the “when”. This timing was a huge test for mankind: It was a multipart test: 1) Will mankind trust God and believe His promises to reconcile the world while **waiting** on the Seed to come? 2) will mankind have the faith, courage and strength to endure and overcome the ruler of this world and his lies, his destruction, and his fearmongering. 2) will mankind’s desire for material things outweigh the need for God’s spiritual blessings?

Abram is a strange character. The strangest thing seems to be that he knew the God of his ancestors while living in a pagan world. He may have even known Noah and Seth who lived to the time of Abram. But what He understood about the God he knew was about to be challenged as one tests and purifies gold and silver.

Abram obeyed God when He told him to leave his country and family and head to Canaan, but it appears that like us, his faith wavered. It didn’t impact his relationship with the LORD, but it did perhaps delay

the LORD as He waited for Abram to “catch up” (so to speak). So, after being told to go to Canaan, there was time spent in Haran.

It was God who told him to “get a move on”. Abram obeyed but not completely. He brought his nephew Lot along. Then he didn’t stay in Canaan during a famine but went to Egypt. These two lapses were also due to his wavering faith. Both lapses had consequences: he could have been killed by the Egyptians and worse, his wife Sarai may have been impregnated and by God’s standards, corrupted by Pharaoh. Sarai was barren for a reason: she had to bear the son of Abram, a son of a promise from the LORD! Then there’s Lot who caused all kinds of trouble for Abram including wars and a division of the land that was all promised to Abram. But the promises of God stand as an unmovable mountain.

And the History of Abram up to this point is a picture of our lives because **we too** have been promised a land, a heavenly country. **We too** are awaiting the coming of the LORD because **We too** have been given a precious promise of His second return. **We too** have been called out of the world of paganism, heathenism, abominations and wickedness. **We too** have been asked to live by faith and not by sight. And, **like Abram**, we sometimes walk in obedience and faith and sometimes we choose otherwise. And, **like Abram**, we too have God’s grace when we fail or when we sin because the promises of God are “yes and amen” in Christ Jesus today as much as they were back in Abram’s day, for our God is the same yesterday, today and forever!

And one other way that Abram’s life **may** be like ours. If we are not raptured before we die, it should be said of us that we...

“...died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. (14) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. (15) And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. (16) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

[Hebrews 11:13-16 NKJV](#)

Let's not try to compare our faith with Abraham's. But rather, let us thank God for the example of this godly man showed us saving faith.

Romans 4:20-25 NKJV He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, **(21) and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. (22) And therefore "IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."** (23) Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, (24) **but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, (25) who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.**

Abraham's faith is at the core of our faith: we too became convinced that what God promised us through His Son's atoning death was as real as the blood He shed. Abraham looked forward in faith and we look backwards in faith for the future. And just as Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness, we too believed God and the same righteousness was imputed to us. And an eternal life with God awaits us all.