

Series: A New Beginning; Sermon: A New Call

Delivered by: Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor; Date: February 12, 2017

Bible text explored: Genesis 12:1–9

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Pastor Moody said that that God’s promise to Abram (v. 1-3) was conditional. To enter an unknown world of his blessing required exiting a world that was familiar. What was flawed about the aspirations of the post-Babel civilization in which Abram was raised? (See *Gen. 11:4*.)
How would living in a city with walls have meant security?
Why is achieving fame independent of God an inadequate life purpose?
Was Abram himself a part of this idolatrous culture? (See *Josh. 24:2*.)
2. How about us? How do we protect our lifestyles, our financial guarantees, the safety of our families, and the familiarity of our groups?
3. For what purpose did God tell Abraham he would make him famous and his descendants a great nation?
To whom was this blessing ultimately to extend? (See also *Acts 3:25* and *Gal. 3:8-9*.)
4. How (v. 4-5a) did Abram respond to God speaking to him?
What is this trusting response called? (See *Hebrews 11:8* and *Rom 4:16*.)
Why was that response *not* foolhardy risk-taking?
How do you handle a situation when you feel God calling you to leave what is familiar?
5. Abram’s first response to God speaking, in Ur, was a prompt departure from there (*Gen. 11:31-32* and *Acts 7:2-5*). So do you think the response recorded here—after a long stop-over halfway to the land God would show him—means that God called again?
6. Arriving in Canaan (vv. 5b-9), a land promised to his descendants but not to him, what about Abram’s travels and actions demonstrates faithful obedience? (“[C]alled upon the name of the Lord” could be rendered “proclaimed the identity and character of the LORD.” See *Gen 4:26* and *Exod. 34:5*.)
How may we build “altars” in our homes and communities?