

**Introduction to the Study of GENESIS Chapter 12:
Abraham, Father of Israel: His Call, His Faith, His Covenant**

GENESIS

A. Part 1: Primitive History: *Mankind's* Earliest History:

Four (4) **Big EVENTS** (Chps. 1 - 11):

1. The Creation and Life in the Garden (1,2)
2. The Fall of Man and Progress of Sin and Civilization (3 - 5)
3. The Flood and the New World (6 - 9)
4. The Table of Nations, Babel and Great Dispersion (10 - 12)

B. Part 2: Patriarchal History: The *Promised Seed's* Early Beginnings:

Four (4) **Key PEOPLE** (Chs. 12 - 50):

1. Abraham (12 - 25)
2. Isaac (25 - 26)
3. Jacob (27 - 36)
4. Joseph (37 - 50)

I. God Calls Abraham; Abraham Responds in Faith, 12:1-9

(v.1) The LORD calls Abram 'to go', (v.4) "*So Abram went ...*"

A. God's Call for Abram to GO (12:1-3)

B. Abram Obeys God and GOES (12:4-9) (*His life and journey of faith begins*)

II. Abram and Sarai Sojourn in Egypt, 12:10-20

A. Abram, His Faith *Tested*, Seeks Refuge in Egypt, 12:10-13

B. Abram in Egypt Finds *Trouble* and *NO Place* to Dwell, 12:14-16

C. God Delivers Abram from Egypt: Pharaoh *Sends* Him Away, 12:17-20

"One cannot miss the deliberate parallelism between this sojourn of Abram in Egypt and the later event in the life of the nation in bondage in Egypt" (BKC, vol.1, p.49). The God of Abraham is the God of Deliverance. He alone is absolutely faithful and trustworthy.

An Introduction:

With the beginning of chapter 12, a major corner in the progress of revelation now turns. Shem's genealogy which ended chapter 11 has brought the reader to the very door step of this great transitional chapter. Indeed, the entire first 11 chapters have all been preparatory for the unfolding of God's grand story of redemption that begins with chapter 12.

Earlier God promised (3:15) a deliverer would one day come, a mighty one, from the seed of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent. However, before God would reveal more of His plan of redemption, God instead would reveal much more about *Himself* and about *man* whom He created in His image and likeness: mankind, wonderfully created but deeply fallen. All of the rich insights from the first 11 chapters form the backdrop for God's great drama of redemption. And now the main cast are ready to be revealed.

In chapter 12, Abraham is introduced. And in the chapters to follow, he will become a giant of faith, a leading figure in the redemptive plan of God, and remarkably so, the "friend" of God. But from the first, Abraham's faith is a spiritual work in process; and, as chapter 12 demonstrates the Spirit has much unfinished work to do in his life. Just like He does in the lives of all believers. Indeed, Abraham's life wonderfully reveals the Divine pattern for spiritual transformation not only in Abraham's life, but also in the lives of *everyone* God calls to Himself.

Like with Abraham, the spiritual life is truly a faith journey. It is a journey initiated by the call of God; then, it is one tested and tried time and again, like gold proven and purified; it is a journey never complete until the believer is in the Divine Presence. We are ALL and ALWAYS, in this life, a work in process, just like Abraham. But Abraham, after walking with God for many years, became known as, "Abraham, the man of faith, the friend of God." May Abraham's example inspire us, and inspire all who study his life, to be known by these same glorious qualities!