

## **Genesis 12:1-9 – The Call Of Abraham**

The time of this passage is after the (Noah's) flood and after Babel. People had been separated into separate families and nations. Abraham was actually known as Abram at this time. He was descended from Shem. In prophecy, Shem had been promised that his children would receive the lands of cursed Canaan. Abram was married to his half-sister, Sarah. His elder brother, Haran, had died. Haran had had a son, Lot (Abram's nephew) and a daughter Milcah. Milcah was married to Abram's other brother, Nahor. They lived in Ur of the Chaldees (Babylon). Like others, they worshipped idols (Joshua 24:2). At this time, God called Abram.

### **1. Faith: God's Call (v1)**

God's call to Abraham was a gracious call. God said this to Abraham when he was in Ur, a place full of idolatry. It all began with God's choice. God calls the unworthy. Why did he chose Abraham? Why does he chose people today and lead them to Christ? Not for anything good in us – he is free to do as he sees best in his own will. When Abraham was called, a response was demanded. True faith shows itself through obedience. God is pleased to be the God of those who obey, like Abraham. Faith is costly; Abraham had to leave behind his earthly blessings, and give himself up to God alone. Abraham's faith (Hebrews 11:9-10) looked far beyond simply earthly blessings. He looked for something greater. Do you? Have you heard God's call, and become ready to pay the cost?

### **2. Faith: God's Promises (v2-3)**

God gave Abraham wonderful promises. He told him what he would do. The promise had three main parts. Abraham was to receive a land, a great inheritance. Secondly, he was to become a great nation (which meant first, he must have a son). Thirdly, he was to receive blessing; his name would be great, and he would be kept from all his enemies. This blessing would at last flow out to all the world. These promises ultimately were fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ and the people who are in Christ by faith. Abraham was given particular promises. Faith is not “hoping for the best”, or believing our own desires – but believing what God has said; he decides, not us. The promises were far off for Abraham; many years were to pass. But he did not complain, but believed.

### **3. Faith: Abraham's Response (v4-9)**

Abraham departed from his own people and town. Even though he was 75 years old, he did not complain. He took with him his immediate family. He gave thanks, building an altar to worship God (v7). Those who believe should be thankful – God cannot fail to deliver on his promises, so we can praise him now. As he went, God revealed more to him. God showed him which land it was. As we believe and obey, God will make things clearer to us and we will grow stronger. Abraham persevered in his faith. He continued in his travels. Many years lay ahead. Faith comes before sight; we must first be obedient, and then later we shall see.

Do you have faith? Are you a child of Abraham? The true inheritance is in Christ himself; through him, all the nations are blessed. But we must abandon our own selfishness and sin, and give our lives to him.