

**Maranatha Fellowship CRC**  
Farmington, NM 87401

Sunday, May 29, 2022, 10:00AM

**God Calls Us for Obedience**

**Scripture:** Genesis 12:1-9

**Context:** Abram's family raised him in an ancient world that practiced polytheistic beliefs. Many deities were associated with nations, tribes, clans, and families. Various people groups believe that numerous idol gods connect to forces of nature and natural phenomena. Made in human images, these gods have neither power to bring favor nor wrath the way people believed they would. People worshipped these gods by flattery, humor, and appeasement. They adopted their gods as their family gods for generations in ancient times and personified them for their fortunes. Sometimes, they took a personal god for particular interest in the family or an individual. The family or individual worshipped it and took it as a source of good luck in return for obedience.

Abram was married to Sarai. They desperately desired a child, but Sarai was barren. Without a child, Abram would have nobody to carry on his name. Sarai then had no prestige and honor in society as a barren woman. Abram and Sarai would have no children to care for them in their old age, and after death, they would have nobody to carry out their funerary rites. Society then considered bearing a child a must because this gave people in that culture peace of mind. They believed that it would ensure the well-being of the souls of the parents' afterlife, for they would have a child to do this rite in the event of their death.

Our God of glory, Yahweh, appeared to Abram and called him to come out of spiritual darkness, revealed himself, and blessed him and all families on the earth through him. God called Abram to "Go from your father's house," He said, "I will make your name great." So, God was asking Abram to detach from his clan, a massive network of "blood relationships" defining tribal loyalty. Abram had to cut his ties with his family, inheritance, and personal religious practice of his day. It was costly obedience for Abram. So, his obedience required him to sacrifice everything he loved to settle for an unknown land God promised him, which He would show later.

**Outline**

- I. Introduction
  - A. Opening Story: A bold resolve of a missionary
  - B. Abram's Context
  
- II. Costly Obedience and Rewards
  - A. Abram leaves everything familiar: his country, his kindred, clan, and his father's house.
  - B. God's covenant to Abram: land, descendants, and blessings
  
- III. God's grace in Christ
  - A. God blesses not only Abram for his obedience but through him, the nations
  - B. Christ's sacrifice fulfills God's covenant to Abram
  
- IV. Conclusion
  - A. Christ calls: "Love One Another."
  - B. Look for the Heavenly City whose builder and maker is God!

## Questions and Answers:

1. Where was Abram living when God called him? (Refer to Genesis 11:31, NIV)  
But when they came to \_\_\_\_\_, they settled there (Genesis 11:31b).
2. Abram's family raised him in an ancient world that practiced: a. monotheistic beliefs b. polytheistic beliefs c. worshipped idol gods d. none of the above
3. The name of Abram's wife was \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 11:29b)
4. What was God's call to Abram?  
The Lord has said to Abram, "God from your country, \_\_\_\_\_, and your \_\_\_\_\_ household to the land I will show you (Genesis 12:1)
5. How old was Abram when he left his father's household with his nephew Lot to Canaan? (Genesis 12:4).  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did the Lord say to Abram when he traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem? (Genesis 12:6a)  
The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your \_\_\_\_\_ I will give this land" (Genesis 12:7a)
7. What was Abram's response after God's promise to him?  
He \_\_\_\_\_ an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him (Genesis 12:7b).
8. Where did Abram go after he built an altar, where God appeared to him in Canaan? What did he do again?
  - a. From there, he went on toward \_\_\_\_\_ of Bethel and pitched his tent (Genesis 12:8)
  - b. There he \_\_\_\_\_ an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.
9. In Hebrew, to be "blessed," *Barak*, means being under:
  - a. God's protection b. God's favor c. God's cared. All of the above
10. In Hebrew, to be "cursed," *arr*, means: \_\_\_\_\_ of a person from God's protection, favor, and presence.
  - a. An eternal keeping b. An eternal removal c. None of the above d. All of the above
11. By faith, Abraham, when called to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, \_\_\_\_\_ and went, even though he did not know where he was going (Hebrews 11:8, NIV)
12. By faith, he made his home in the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 11:9, NIV).
13. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 11:10, NIV).
14. So also Abraham believed in God, and it was credited to him as \_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 3:6, NIV)
15. Understand then that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and announced the \_\_\_\_\_ in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be \_\_\_\_\_ through you." So those who rely on faith are \_\_\_\_\_ along with Abraham, the man of faith (Galatians 3: 7-9).
16. When it comes to Christ, indeed, we must be willing to leave \_\_\_\_\_ we are asked to leave for Him!