

A stylized logo consisting of three overlapping mountain peaks, rendered in a golden-brown color. The peaks are composed of simple geometric lines.

By Faith

Genesis 12-25

Genesis 11:27-32

²⁷ These are the family records of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran, and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸ Haran died in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans, during his father Terah's lifetime.

²⁹ Abram and Nahor took wives: Abram's wife was named Sarai, and Nahor's wife was named Milcah. She was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰ Sarai was unable to conceive; she did not have a child...

³¹ Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot (Haran's son), and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they set out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² Terah lived 205 years and died in Haran.

Joshua 24:2-3

This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors [fathers], including Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. ³ But I took your father Abraham from the region beyond the Euphrates River...

Genesis 6:9

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God.

Acts 7:2-4

² “Brothers and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran, ³ and said to him: Leave your country and relatives, and come to the land that I will show you. ’

⁴ “Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. From there, after his father died, God had him move to this land in which you are now living.

Genesis 12:1

The LORD said to Abram: Go from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

Genesis 12:1-3, 7

The LORD said to Abram: Go from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

² I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you... ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring, I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

MAIN IDEA

Genesis 12:1-9 tells how God encourages His people's faith with promises that rest on His own faithfulness. It also shows us the example of one man's response of obedient faith.

Genesis 11:4

And they said, “Come, let’s build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. Let’s make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered throughout the earth.”

The lesson for us from God's promise of a great nation to Abram is that we should place our faith not on what seems likely or probable but rather on what God has promised in his Word.

Richard Phillips

Genesis 12:4-9

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. ⁵ He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the site of Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. (At that time the Canaanites were in the land.)...

Genesis 12:4-9

⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. He built an altar to the LORD there, and he called on the name of the LORD. ⁹ Then Abram journeyed by stages to the Negev.

Genesis 15:18

“I give this land to your offspring, from the Brook of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River:”

1 Kings 4:21

Solomon ruled all the kingdoms from the Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines and as far as the border of Egypt.

Genesis 12:2-3

I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you,
I will make your name great, and you will **be a blessing**.

³ I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Galatians 3:7-9

⁷ You know, then, that those who have faith, these are Abraham's sons. ⁸ Now the Scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and proclaimed the gospel ahead of time to Abraham, saying, *All the nations will be blessed through you.* ⁹ Consequently, those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith.

John 8:56

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad.

At this point in the story Abram has yet to receive any of the promises that God has made to him. They seem so far out of reach. He and Sarai are both elderly, and they still have no offspring and no ownership of the land of promise. Yet Abram's response to the lack of physical support for the promises of God is telling and exemplary: he believes in Yahweh. And therein lies the definition of biblical faith. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews tells us that 'Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen' (Heb. 11:1). It is standing firm on the promises of God, no matter what is happening in the world around us; it is living by faith and not by sight.

John Currid

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and set out for a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents as did Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.