

Genesis 12-16
“*Common Experiences*”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled tonight's overview: “*Common Experiences.*”

~ INTRO ~

TONIGHT...

- We begin to focus OUR attention from a large scope...
 - Of the global flood & re-population of the earth.
- All the way down to one man –*Abraham* (Gen. 17:5).
 - An unlikely candidate to receive favor from God.

YET...

- This man... is whom God chose to reveal Himself to...
 - And to give him a promise.

SO... THE BACKDROP OF ABRAMS RESPONSE...

- Begins at (*Gen. 11:31-32*) NKJV
 - *Terah* = (Abram's father) means “*Delay.*”

THIS IS IMPORTANT TO THE STORY LINE...

- Because God **HAD** earlier appeared to Abram (*Acts 7:2-3*) NLT...
 - With directions to leave behind his past.
 - Because it would delay his progress for the future.

WE CAN ALL RELATE TO THAT...

- Either in the past OR the present.
 - What relationships need to be set aside...
 - So you can obey God in the present?

THE N.T. SAYS...

- (*Mark 6:4*) NLT

AND THE SCRIPTURES INDICATE...

- That our natural families CAN reject the changes... God has made in us.
 - The Bible says (*2 Cor. 5:17*) NLT.

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ABRAM WAS DELAYED IN MOVING FORWARD.

- Somewhere between 15 – 25 years... without progress in *Haran*.
 - (Wasted years as some bible label it).

NOW... ABRAM CAME TO FAITH...

- Somewhere between 50 & 60 years old... in Ur of the Chaldean's.
 - But he didn't respond to the call until he was 75-yrs old...
 - (Gen. 12:4) NKJV.
 - (Heb. 11:8-9) NKJV.

BIG IDEA #1 – PROMISE / PROBLEMS / PRAISE:

CHAPTER #12

Read (Gen. 12:5-9)...

- So Abram comes to *Shechem* = Means back OR shoulder.
 - The idea is... he moved by faith slowly into the land of promise.

NOTICE... GOD APPEARED TO ABRAM...

- As he took steps of faith & affirmed the promise to him (Gen. 12:7).
 - So in (vv.7-8) We find Abram worshipping.
 - *Bethel* = House of God
 - *Ai* = Heap of ruins

ABRAM...

- Was in the promise land... but struggling to make sense of it all.
 - (v.9) He moved *south* (*Negev* = to be dry).

THEN THE TRIAL HITS (a sever famine)...

- As God begins to iron out areas of weakness in Abram.
 - (Gen. 12:10-20).

SO... CATCH THE BIG PICTURE...

1. Promise (v.1 & v.7)
2. Worship (vv.7-8)
3. Failure (Abram's failure to trust God & protect his wife) (vv.10-19).
4. Change of direction back to the land of promise (v.20).

CHAPTER #13

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Read (Gen. 13:1-4)...

- Did you catch that in (v.1) *Lot was still with him.*

THE DIRECTION WAS TO GET AWAY...

- From his country & family.
 - So God allowed a disruption to get Abram alone.
- Perhaps it was just like what we will see in Moses' life...
 - (40-years in the desert as God shaped Moses).

OK...

- Follow the flow (Gen. 13)...
 - (v.1) *making things right.*
 - (v.8) *drama & separation from Lot.*
 - (vv.14-15) *God gives the promise again.*

IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYTIME ABRAM...

- Took a little step of faith... God would appear OR repeat the promise.

THIS TEACHES US...

- That in a walk of faith...
 - Obedience is rewarded...
 - God's blessing & God gives more insight.

Then in (Gen. 13:18) *worship & further blessing.*

CHAPTER #14

IN A HIGH FLY-OVER...

- Here's what we see:
 - National conditions of war (4-kings vs. 5-kings (v.9)).
 - A personal impact on Abram... as Lot is taken captive (v.12).
 - Abram takes a great step of faith to rescue Lot (vv.14-16).
 - Then we see a little contrast in the closing verses...
 - To whom gets the glory for Abram's victory.
- (v.17 & vv.21-24) *king of Sodom (prince of perversity)*
 - C.p. (Matt. 4:8-9) NKJV
- (vv.18-20) *king of Salem (prince of peace)*

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- Abram honors God with a tithe after deliverance (v.20).

FOR THOSE OF YOU WANTING A DEEPER STUDY...

- On Melchizedek please see my study from (Heb. 7)
 - Link to: [Hebrews 7:1-4 Notes on Melchizedek](#)

I’LL JUST SAY THAT...

- Melchizedek
 - Is NOT the pre-incarnate Christ.
 - He’s NOT an angel.
 - And he’s NOT super-human.

CHAPTER #15

(v.1) GOD VISITS ABRAM IN A VISION...

- And reaffirms His care for Him.

(vv.2-3) ABRAM IS GETTING ANXIOUS...

- And wants a son to carry on his name.
 - (v.4) God promises one from Abram’s own body (seed).

(v.6) Abram believed God.

(vv.7-21)

- The animals sacrificed here are a picture of a legal agreement...
 - To show it was a deadly serious promise –
 - God did a one-sided promise here.

ABRAM ALSO GETS INSIGHT TO THE FUTURE...

- About his descendants (Israel) in captivity to Egypt for 400-yrs...
 - Before Moses is used to set them free.

AND THE CHAPTER CLOSES...

- With the boundaries of the land given / promised to Abram (Israel).
 - 300,000 sq miles of land.
 - (At height of conquest under Joshua only 10% was taken).

CHAPTER #16

WE CIRCLE BACK & SEE THE DAMAGE OF A BAD DECISION...

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- That surfaced from 10-years prior...
 - It results in sex with a servant.

Flip back to (Gen. 12:16) NKJV

- Flip forward to (Gen. 16:3) NKJV
 - And finally to (Gen. 16:16) NKJV

GOD DOES BRING...

- Beauty from the ashes of our lives (Isa. 61:3).

~ IN CLOSING ~

TAKE AWAY THIS REALITY.

- After all we've read about Abram...
 - The ups & downs.

THESE ARE **COMMON EXPERIENCES**...

- We wrestle with in a life of faith...
 - Believing God...
 - BUT wrestling with the weakness of our flesh.

PLEASE REMEMBER...

- That not one time did God forsake Abram...
 - Even though he blew it quite-a-bit.

SO TOO...

- God has said to those who have placed their faith in Jesus...
 - That *He will never leave you or forsake you!* (Heb. 13:5-b).

SO... REST IN THE PROMISE OF GOD!

AMEN!