

Major Event: CALL OF ABRAHAM

Lesson #1: Announcement of the Abrahamic Covenant

Scriptures: Genesis 12

Central Text: Genesis 12:1-3

Suggested subjects:

God's intervention in human history by calling out Abram from the pagan land of his father. God's plan for blessing, not only for Abram and his descendants, but for the whole human race.

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: Omniscience, Omni Benevolence (Love), Omnipotence, Sovereignty.
2. Of Man: Free will, Ability (in faith) to understand and obey God.

Suggested Home Study:

Romans 4; Romans 8:28 ff.; Galatians 3 (Esp. verses 8, **16**, 26, 29).

Notes: The importance of the call of Abram can scarcely be overemphasized. Like Gen. 1:26, 27 and 3:15 this is a foundational event through which God works out human history. It is also indispensable for our understanding of the doctrine of election. God called Abram out of a pagan land. -Joshua 24:1-15 (esp. v. 2)- Abram and his fathers served other gods. Note the proximity of God's call in the text to the tower of Babel and explore the contrasts. Note God does not call Abram because of any merit on his part. Note God's command to "Go forth" came with a three fold promise: 1. land 2. seed 3. worldwide blessing. Eventually, the promise of seed and worldwide blessing would come to pass in the form of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ first promised in Genesis 3:15 (cf. Gal. 3:16). Israel still awaits the complete fulfillment of the land promise. "You shall be a blessing" (v. 2) is actually a command for Abram to bless others. Which he fails to do with two kings (12:13, 20:5), but succeeds by twice rescuing Lot (chapter 14 and 18) and his covenant with Abimelech (chapter 21). ****Emphasize the uniqueness of a covenant making God. No other world religion has a covenant making God. Why is that? Because a covenant is a contract. Contracts are made to evaluate the behavior of the involved parties. Only a Sovereign, Omnipotent God could make such a covenant with man because only He could live up to it!! And only He does.**