

Early Shadows
All the Families of the Earth
Genesis 12:1-3
December 14, 2014

“I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” - **Genesis 12:3**

I. FAITH - THE FINAL FRONTIER

- In one of the most important events in biblical history, Abram (Abraham) is called out of Ur to live by faith and...
 - leave his country.
 - leave his family.
 - move to a new land that is not yet designated.
- God’s promise to Abram, if he is obedient, is...
 - to make him into a great nation (Gen. 15:5).
 - to bless him (Gen. 15:1-5; 49:9-10).
 - to make his name great (Gen. 11:4; Heb. 11:8-12).
 - to bless those who bless him (Gen. 19:29; 30:27).
 - to curse those who dishonor him (Ex. 2:23-25).
 - to bless the nations through him (Isa. 49:5-6).
- All of this came to pass because of Abram’s faith, demonstrated by his obedience (Heb. 11:8-10; James 2:21-22).

II. JESUS - THE SEED OF ABRAM

- Although all the families of the earth will be blessed through Abram, that blessing is only ultimately realized in his seed (offspring), Jesus the Messiah (Acts 3:25-26; Gal. 3:6-8; 3:15-16).
- The only way we, or anyone else, will ever know the blessing of God is through Abraham and his seed, Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

KNOW: No one will know the blessing of God outside of that blessing that comes through Jesus Christ, the seed of Abram.

DO: Put yourself in a position to know the blessing of God.

Suggested Reading:

Jesus: The Only Way to God, by John Piper

Pleased to Dwell: An Introduction to the Incarnation, by Peter Mead

Genesis: Beginning and Blessing, by R. Kent Hughes

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Genesis 12:1-3

1. The Bible doesn’t tell us why God chose Abram (Abraham) out of all the people on earth. He was undoubtedly steeped in paganism. What can we learn from God’s choosing of individuals in Scripture to accomplish his work? Is there a general pattern (e.g. Jacob, Joseph, David, Saul of Tarsus)?
2. Some say that faith and obedience are two sides of the same coin. Abram trusted God and went. We know we are justified by faith, not works. How then can we say that a proper response to God is faith and obedience? Do faith and obedience characterize your own life?
3. In what ways has God demonstrated in history his blessing on those who bless Abraham’s descendants and his curse upon those who despise them?
4. Read John 8:31-47, Romans 9:6-8 and Galatians 3:25-29. Who, ultimately, are the seed or offspring of Abraham?
5. In what ways can you practically learn from Abram’s faith and obedience? Have you ever taken a serious step of faith in your life? How did that turn out?