

Quick
Trip to
Egypt

Genesis 12:1 - 12



~ In this report from our Spiritual Safari we are going to meet the most famous man who ever lived. We have come quite a ways in our expedition through the entire Word of God; and as we have said before, we are now more than halfway, chronologically speaking, through the Bible. That's not true physically, of course, because we have not even begun physically; but we have searched out all eleven chapters concerning creation in the Book of Genesis. That covered a period of at least two thousand years. From here through the history of the nation Israel, the life of Christ – and into the church age in the first four chapters of Revelation - another span of about two thousand years is covered. So, that takes us halfway through Holy Writ, chronologically. Beginning here, we're going to move a little more slowly through the rest of this book of the Bible because, well, as long as I don't die - we're not really on a schedule. This so-called safari is also a world tour, and we have all the resources and time to enjoy it however we want to – and for as long as we want to.

I trust you have followed along very closely in each report so far and, if not, I suggest you go back to our Guidelines Number One report and start from there. So far, we have seen four great events: creation, the fall, the flood and the Tower of Babel. Up to this point in the Bible God has been dealing with the races of mankind and not the individuals within. So far, God has appeared to no one except Adam and, finally in this chapter, the Lord will appear to Abraham. Remarkably, in the remainder of Genesis, we have four individuals brought before us: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. No longer are we dealing with the events of humanity as a generality. Here, we meet this very generous and noble man from whom God is going to make a nation of chosen people.

God has demonstrated most adequately - at least, to me He has - that, at this point in the Bible, He can no longer deal with mankind on the basis of the human race, in general. Why? - It all goes back to pride. Remember, Cain was so proud of that sacrifice that God rejected. That led to hate, envy and resentment towards God and jealousy towards his brother, which all culminated into murder. That's how religion goes, friends; and that is precisely where we are today, too. Pride is the tool of Satan; and racism is ALWAYS part and parcel to an ugly arrogant pride, by the way. Pride, and the resulting racism, is the sin of the mind. It is the cancer of pride of race and in every single one of today's religions, too. All of that is implicated in the things we have already learned in this so-called safari.

Remember, during the flood, we saw the lusts of the flesh. Now, we have the imagination of man and his resulting actions coming together in sin. Everything man did at the time in which we are studying was to satisfy the flesh. The Tower of Babel was nothing in the world but open rebellion and willful disobedience against God. God brought the flood to judge man because even if God had waited around for multiple millennia's, man still would have refused to turn to Him. God had already given man nine hundred sixty years; plus, another one hundred twenty years with Noah preaching alone. No, friends, mankind will not turn to God. Man wasn't seeking God then - and man isn't seeking God today, either. God gave them every opportunity to change their minds; and they replied to God, "...drop dead."

Man has now asserted and demonstrated a free will that is totally and unequivocally against God. So, while God is not going to send another flood - because He promised Noah He wouldn't do that - He is now going to do things differently and call out an individual man from an idol nation to one from which His chosen people will come - the nation Israel. From Israel, God is going to bring His Redeemer; and out of that nation God will give His Revelation! Was this the only way God could have done this? Well, if there were other ways - this is the BEST way; and we know that because we can always trust God to do the best thing that can possibly be done.

In the account of Abraham's life, we're going to discover what being a man of faith really means. He was one of the greatest men that have ever lived,

to be sure. I think most people would agree Abraham is also the most famous man that ever lived. From him came the three great religions of the world. Many people don't know who the quarterback of your favorite football team is. Many people don't know who invented the automobile and many people have no idea who the president of the United States is. Even more do not know the Lord Jesus Christ; but just about every single person standing vertically to the ground today has heard of Abraham in one capacity or another. Interestingly, even the most famous celebrities of today will be long forgotten tomorrow – but not Abraham. Abraham has made the headlines for at least four thousand years now. He was a generous and very, wealthy man; and he would have actually been a billionaire by today's standards.

The world today does not believe we can measure a man by his faith; but that's the way God measures you, my friend! God said Abraham was a man of faith and faith is what is developed as the point of the Bible with the story of Abraham. God appeared to Abraham when Abraham was walking in faith; and every time God appeared to Abraham, it was for the sole purpose of developing Abraham's faith. Now, God is going to give Abraham four tests and Abraham is going to miserably fail all four of them; but, like Simon Peter's denial of Christ, Abraham gets up each time and brushes himself off and just starts all over again with God. If God has touched your life you will fall down, my beloved; but, if you're a genuine child of God, you're always going to get back up and start over again. Getting back up is another poignant lesson we are going to see in this rich section of the Word of God – because we will only get back up by faith....

1 Now the Lord said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto the land that I will show thee:

2 and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and be thou a blessing;

3 and I will bless them that bless thee, and him that curseth thee will I curse: and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

...In verse two we have four great promises God Personally made to Abraham. First, God was going to make a great nation from Abraham; and Israel has had what is likely the longest tenure as a nation of any other people on this earth. Their longevity is absolutely unmatched. Second, third and fourth, Israel has been a blessing and has a great name today; because that's where we get the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. So, what about the first promise concerning the land? - Today, Israel barely has their toes in the sand of the land – and they're hanging on very precariously - by a fingernail, we might say. They don't possess the land today according to the eschatological promises of the Lord at all. I have heard someone say "...God didn't make good on that promise," but, four thousand years ago, God said to Abraham, "there are several things I am going to do for you, Abraham - but if you're disobedient, you won't be staying in that land." Well, friends, Israel is as FAR away from God today as they can possibly be in abject rebellion and disobedience to Him. Israel rejects the Lord Jesus Christ as the True and Living God today. As a result, they're having endless troubles in that land. They are not there according to God's promises; and that means God made good on this promise to Abraham - because God did exactly what He said He would do.

Now, the day is quickly approaching when God will put Israel back in the land according to Scriptural prophecy; but it won't be on that insignificant stretch of coast that they are clinging to so desperately today. No, it's going to be a huge land spreading all the way from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River and beyond. Even at the Zenith of Solomon's rule and reign Israel only occupied some thirty thousand square miles; whereas the total territory that was promised to them is over THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND square miles. Obviously, they have a long, long way to go. So, what we find in the Biblical description is a land they never really occupied at all! Why? - Because they have never laid hold of it according to the law of God. The United Nations, the United States and the intervention of Russia combined has had absolutely ZERO effect in affecting change in that land. Turn all this over in your minds once or twice and see where it takes you. I'll be honest – because I always am honest with you dear readers - I am very comfortable in my position that the Lord is running everything down here; and a large part of that is because God has kept His promises from this section of Scripture. It's nice to sit here comfortably writing and ignoring the

headlines of the newspaper and not be disturbed at all by the craziness of an uber religious world that is literally spinning out of control. God is in control, and He is going to work this all out in His way and according to His timing. Alright, so God made these promises to Abraham - and what did Abraham do? ~

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

~ Oh, no! Abraham has ALREADY directly disobeyed God and we haven't even read five verses from the first chapter of his life! Abraham took papa Terah and the rest of the clan with him when God had explicitly told him not to. Obviously, God had commanded Abraham to get out of that land and away from his relatives. Why? - Because, when we get to the Book of Joshua, God will say to him, "...I have called your father, Abraham, from the other side of the flood when they were serving other gods." Abraham and his family were literally steeped in idolatry when God called Abraham out and away from that lifestyle. God couldn't have Abraham hanging around daddy and mommy who were not called. When God speaks and moves like this in our own lives, we need to bow in complete and total reverence, friends. That paragraph should make your spine tingle, but it probably doesn't. God moves so lovingly and graciously like He did here with Abraham when He could have started all over – again – and God could have just blotted them ALL out. Frankly, I'm not completely comfortable with where this path could easily go from here; so let's move along quickly now on the Scriptural path. All I can really say is that I'm glad God did it this way! Thank Him He is a God of mercy and grace and saves sinners, such as me - and I'm guessing like YOU! ~

5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Shechem, unto the oak of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

~ Many people assume that this was the land of corn and wine, milk and honey - and that Abraham came from a terrible place, Ur, and into some dreamy and wonderful exotic new land; but that's not even close to the Biblical account given here. By the way, we know through archeology alone that Ur was a very high civilization. They very well may have had bathtubs with running water, friends. Either way, they came into the land of Canaan; and the Canaanite was still in the land. Interestingly, the Canaanite was a barbaric and utterly heathen people if ever there was one! Perhaps Noah was right when he cursed Canaan in his drunken stupor? Well, either way, Abraham did not better himself by coming into the land; that's just not the point, my beloved. The point is that God tested Abraham to determine if he was going to obey Him; and Abraham does obey God at this time....

7 So the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.

~ We really need to pay attention to what's happening in this section of Scripture. Abraham built an altar unto the Lord where God appears to Him that second time. While Abraham was in Haran, God did not appear to him. Why? - Because he was in disobedience to God! This is so important to see. One of the main reasons many people are not blessed today by reading the Bible is because they are not living up to the light they have already been given. God did not appear to Abraham a second time until Abraham had moved out with the light he already had – by faith....

8 And he removed from thence unto the mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, having Beth-el on the west, and Ai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.

~ Abraham has finally arrived. He's going to buy a great big house and settle down in the suburbs. Well, he's at least going to have a tent! Then, he built an altar – and that was his testimony for God. What is your testimony today, friends? You don't glorify Christ by writing disconnected and wrongfully fractured Bible verses all over this forum on which I teach;

and you won't convince anyone you're a Christian by putting bumper stickers all over your car that says, "I love Jesus," either. When you do those things – but you also share worldly advice and questionable images as you drive down the highway like a maniac – you are absolutely hurting the cause of Christ and hindering the furtherance of the Gospel. That's not a testimony, that's apostasy. God hates it. He says so. Abraham quietly worshipped God as he went about his business in the new land, and the Canaanites around Abraham took notice....

9 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

10 And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was sore in the land.

~ South is a good direction to go today; because it's warm down here in Florida. Abraham had finally entered the land of Canaan by faith; and that was a blessing – but, by Abraham going south, he experienced the second blight on the buds of his life. See, God never told Abraham to go to Egypt. God never told Abraham to leave Canaan; but, as we can see, a famine had come over the land. I think Abraham got up one morning and threw back the flaps of the tent, looked out and said, "....Sarah, everybody's going to Egypt. The famine is getting worse; so, we're going, too." I'm sure Sarah's reply was, "....whatever you want to do, sweetie; just let me know." So, Abraham packed up and they took off for Egypt. In Scripture, Egypt is a picture of the world and of sin. Egypt speaks of those things all the way through the Word of God and, candidly, I think it still does today.

The world EASILY and effortlessly draws Christians away from where they should be today. We rationalize every reason under the sun why we should refrain from returning to some church that hurt our feelings. Many won't come to church Sunday night because they say they have to get ready for work the next day; except, in football season, they'll stay up all night on both Sunday and Monday night - and the rest of the year they'll stay up all night for everything else in the world - EXCEPT for attending church or Bible study. It's amazing how effortlessly the world takes us very far away from God. It was easy for Abraham to rationalize going to Egypt. The herd was probably getting a little thin as many of the animals starved to death.

They had probably had enough soggy biscuits and sour milk to last a lifetime - and they were tired of it! Who could really blame Abraham for that? So, with that, they're off to Egypt – but immediately there is a BIG problem: and that problem is that Sarah was an extremely beautiful woman....

11 And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:

12 and it will come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they will say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

~ So, we abruptly end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God with a spoiler alert: in our next safari report, we're going to take a look at one of the Dead Sea Scrolls and a man who said he had found something in them that would disprove the Bible. Well, that man isn't around anymore; and his findings didn't disprove anything. In fact, the liberal just doesn't want to talk about those scrolls anymore – at all! That man's "discovery" only revealed he was just another common and simple-minded rank unbeliever. So, after we consider what the lost man says about the scrolls, we're going to look at how those writings definitively and unequivocally confirm the Bible is the Word of God. Let me just say here that the self-ascribed scholar would do well to reserve final judgment about the Bible until all the evidence is in; and until they actually take the time to learn it properly, correctly and completely ~

