



# GENESIS

The Book of Beginnings

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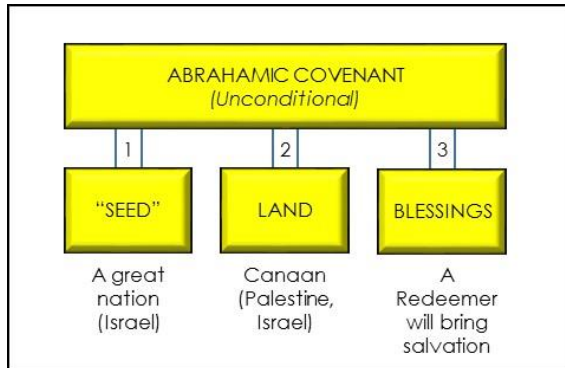


## LESSON 7: WHEN GOD DOESN'T GIVE YOU A ROADMAP

### A. CENTRAL QUESTION

Was God being unfair by telling Abram to leave his family, his people, his country and go to a land that God would show to him later. Why wasn't God more specific about where he was taking Abram? Why didn't God give Abram a roadmap so he knew where he was going?

### B. THE TEXT: GENESIS 12:1-3 (NIV)



*The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

### C. BACKGROUND

#### The Calling of Abraham

It is clear in the Scripture that Abraham's family did not worship Yahweh (Josh. 24:2), so in a sense God's call to Abraham was "out of the blue." Two great empires existed at this time, the Egyptian Empire, and the Chaldean (Babylonian) Empire. Even though there was phenomenal progress in culture, literature, art, and material wealth, moral standards and religious life had declined rapidly.

While the Bible gives a genealogical continuity from Noah to Abraham, it does not imply a continuity of faith. Idolatry had spread like wildfire.

People worshipped images such as the sun, the moon, animals, and even called upon the dead to make intercession for them. Abraham grew up in this kind of environment. Abraham is not found initially to be a righteous man, nor was he someone like Noah who lived in contrast to the world around him.

### **The Covenant with Abraham**

The Abrahamic Covenant is found in Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-27; and 22:15-18. It contains three main parts: the “seed promises” the “land promises,” and the “blessing promises”

Seed Promises: From Abram would come a great nation. Abram’s descendants would be enslaved and mistreated in a strange land for four hundred years--they would however, come out of the enslavement with great possessions (15:13-14). Male descendants were to be circumcised on the 8th day as a sign of this covenant (17:10). Ishmael would become a great nation and the father of twelve rulers (25:12-16), but the covenant with Abraham would continue through Isaac.

Land Promises: God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees to a specific land that He would give him (12:1, 7). This promise is reiterated in Genesis 13:14–18 after Lot chooses his land; its dimensions are given in Genesis 15:18–21. Abram’s fourth generation (twelve tribes of Israel) would return to the Promised Land after a period of enslavement (15:13-14).

Blessing Promises: God will bless those who bless this nation and curse those who curse it (12:3a). God will bless other nations of the earth through Abram’s descendants (12:3b). Abram, meaning “exalted father” would be blessed and he would be given a great name, “Abraham” meaning “father of many.” (17:5). Sarai’s name will be changed to Sarah, and God would bless her and give her a son--she would become the mother of nations (17:15-16).

### **Conditions of the Abrahamic Covenant**

It is an unconditional covenant...there are no “if” conditions attached to it (15:17). It is also a literal covenant in which the promises should be understood literally. The land that is promised should be understood in a normal definition of the word—it is not a figure of heaven (Houdmann). It is also an everlasting covenant (17:7, 13, 19).

## **D. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. Why do you suppose God didn't tell Abram where he was taking him (12:1)?
2. Did God credit righteousness to Abram because he kept the sign (circumcision) of the covenant (Gen. 15:6)? If not, what was the basis for God crediting righteousness to Abram?
3. Does your answer to Question 2 conflict with James 2:24? Explain.
4. What evidences of the Abrahamic Covenant can you see in the world today?
5. Describe a time in your life when you didn't know where God was taking you? What did you do when that happened?

## **E. APPLICATION: THREE THINGS TO DO WHEN GOD DOESN'T GIVE YOU A ROADMAP**

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1. Seek the \_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Listen to the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Find \_\_\_\_\_.

## **F. DIGGING DEEPER**

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For more about this subject go to: "What is the Abrahamic Covenant?"  
< <https://www.gotquestions.org/Abrahamic-covenant.html> >

