

So far in the Book of Genesis, we've seen some huge moments. God creates the world and calls it good. Sin enters the picture through Adam and Eve, but even then, God gives a glimpse of hope—a promise to one day make things right. We saw that hope carried forward through Noah and the flood, and God's promise to never to destroy the earth like that again.

Genesis 12 shifts focus and zooms in on one man (Abram/Abraham) and his family. God makes a powerful promise to Abram: to bless him and to bless the world through him. This chapter is the start of something that will take years and years to unfold and it's where God begins to reveal His rescue plan more clearly, ultimately leading us to Jesus our redeemer, who comes from the lineage of Abraham.

Abraham's response is worship and trust, not perfection.

Genesis 12 is a story of promise, worship, and a God who keeps His word.

Genesis 12:1-3, 1 *The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2 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. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

1. God's Calling and Promise (Genesis 12:1-3)

This is a radical call (leave everything) and it's even more incredible to see *who* God is calling (Abram).

Romans 5:8, *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

God doesn't wait for us to get our act together before He moves toward us. He pursues us in our wandering.

Genesis 12:2-3, 2 *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. 3 I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*

Note the 5 "I will" statements that God makes in this promise. God is binding himself to this promise. This covenant promise is based on God's own faithfulness, not human performance. God promises 3 main things to Abram: a great nation, a great land, and a great name. This promise is ironic because Abram and Sarai are old and barren and the land is currently occupied.

God loves to work in the realm of human impossibility so that it's clear that *He* alone gets the glory. This promise that God makes to Abram finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus our Redeemer. The blessing to "all peoples" in verse 3 comes through the Savior born from Abram's line. Galatians 3:8 makes this clear: the gospel was preached in advance when God said "all nations will be blessed through you."

Genesis 15:6, *Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.*

John 8:56, *Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.*

So we see that Abram looked forward in faith to Jesus and we look back in faith to Jesus. It's the same faith in the same Savior.

And then notice this: God says, "I will bless you... so that you will be a blessing." That's the pattern.

God doesn't bless us so we can hoard it. He blesses us so we can share it.

Genesis 12:4-9, 4 *So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. 6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. 9 Then Abram set out and continued towards the Negev.*

2. Abram's Obedience and Worship (Genesis 12:4–9)

Despite how difficult it might've been, Abram obeys. He left everything he knew. But sometimes, obedience means stepping into the unknown, trusting that God knows the way - even if we don't. We simply trust and obey.

We don't just worship God after the breakthrough/victory/answered prayer. We worship God in the waiting.

We worship God when the fulfilled promise is still unseen. Why? Because God is worthy of our worship.

Worship isn't just a thank-you card—it's an act of trust.

Genesis 12:18-20, 18 So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? **19** Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!" **20** Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him out on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

3. God's Faithfulness Despite Abram's Failure (Genesis 12:10–20)

In these last 10 verses, we read that there's a famine in the land, so Abram goes down to Egypt. But instead of trusting God to provide and protect, Abram panics. He tells Sarai to lie and say she's his sister. Pharaoh takes Sarai into his palace, jeopardizing the promise. But God steps in and he afflicts Pharaoh's household with serious diseases it says in verse 17 and rescues Sarai.

God's promises don't depend on our perfection.

2 Timothy 2:13, *If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown Himself.*

**God is committed to His promises. He doesn't walk away when we mess up.
He steps in, He rescues, and He redeems.**

"This theme of fresh starts and new beginnings runs throughout the biblical narrative. The Bible is a record of God's again and again picking up his failing followers, dusting them off, blessing them with forgiving grace, and granting them new beginnings. For every human failure there is plentiful restoring grace. The Bible is honest about the powerful tragedy of sin, but it doesn't leave you there. It consistently points you to restorative grace."

— Everyday Gospel by Paul David Tripp

Recap: Genesis 12 shows us a God who calls people by grace, who makes promises he intends to keep, and who remains faithful even when we stumble.

The question is: Will we respond to Him in faith?

TAKEAWAYS

1. Use your blessing to bless others.

- Food Drive
- Volunteer
- Start Giving

2. Get into Christian community.

- Join A Group
- Men's Summer Study
- Women's Book Discussion
- Youth Camp
- Vacation Bible School

3. Worship in the waiting.

4. Trust God's faithfulness, even when you fail.