

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Genesis 12:1-9

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 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."

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land

to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. 9 And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

ALSO READ
Romans 8

Study Guide 28 August 2011 – Blessed to Be a Blessing



Summary

Abraham is an important figure in the gospel narrative in the bible. There is no reason why God chose Abraham for this role except that God loved him. Abraham can take no credit for his importance.

This is the abundant blessing of God on Abraham. Abraham has absolutely nothing to offer to God – all that he is and has, even his life, is given and sustained by God. We likewise are abundantly blessed, especially in Singapore, and ought to recognise God's unmerited favour to us.

What then is the purpose of God's blessing upon Abraham, and God's sovereign choice of loving him? Abraham is blessed so that God's will can be done. This blessing is not for Abraham to hoard or boast about.

But if this all is for God's ultimate purpose, does that make Abraham a mere pawn, or a disposable tool in God's hands? Certainly not. Our purpose and joy and God's purpose and joy are one and the same. But God's plans are always bigger than our lives – He is always working through every circumstance to accomplish His plan.

We are blessed when respond in faith and play our righteous part by loving and obeying Him.

Key points

All we are and have are God's blessing on us for the purpose of accomplishing His Plan.

Questions

- >>What role does Abraham play in the narrative of the bible?
- >>Why did God choose Abraham?
- >>How do you think Abraham felt about being chosen by God?
- >>What do you think is your purpose in life?
- >>Do we think that God chose us to achieve something? If so, what is this purpose?
- >>How do we know what God's Big Plan is?
- >>What should Christians boast in?

Final thoughts

Our joy and God's joy, our purpose and God's purposes are one and the same. God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.