



FAITH AS JOURNEY

Faith Existing in History

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Genesis 12:1-9

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Genesis 12:1-9

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

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.

I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

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 [HAH-ran]. 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.

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. 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. 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. Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

"Paul says in the New Testament book of Romans, 'Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.' People often say that they believe in God, as if his existence were a hypothesis they're willing to accept. Abram has been told something directly by God, something unbelievable, and believed it. He leaves his father's house [and] takes his family to Canaan..."

- Marilynne Robinson, *Genesis*

Genesis 12:1

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."

Before there can be new connection [with God], there must first be separation [from the past].

Genesis 12:2-3

"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.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

For those who have faith, the world is no longer ordered by grasping, but by gifts received.

Genesis 11:30

Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive.

Our deepest well-being cannot be manufactured by us.

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.”

Genesis 12:1

“Go...and...I will show you.”

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:12-14a

“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the LORD...

Genesis 12:4-7

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. 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. 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. 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.

Abraham builds an altar.

Genesis 12:8

“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.”

Genesis 12:6

At that time the Canaanites were in the land.