



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



Vol. 16 Issue 297

Nov.11, 2011

## Prayer

Lord, I ask You to help me truthfully examine my relationships to determine which of them are helping me and which are hindering me. If any of my relationships are with people who are disorderly or rebellious and unwilling to change, please give me the courage to follow the instructions of Your Word. Holy Spirit, I am depending on You to lead and guide me and to help me do exactly what Jesus wants me to do, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

## Worship Music

[Back To You-Mercy Me](#)

[Beautiful-Mercy Me](#)

[Keeper Of My Heart-Mercy Me](#)

[Nails In Your Feet-Casting Crowns](#)

[I Know You Are There-Casting Crowns](#)

## Scripture

## Genesis 12

Genesis 12:1-20 (AMP)

1 NOW [in Haran] the Lord said to Abram, Go for yourself [for your own advantage] away from your country, from your relatives 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 [with abundant increase of favors] and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing [dispensing good to others]. 3 And I will bless those who bless you [who confer prosperity or happiness upon you] and curse him who curses or uses insolent language toward you; in you will all the families and kindred of the earth be blessed [and by you they will bless themselves]. 4 So Abram departed, as the Lord had directed him; and Lot [his nephew] went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. 5 Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the persons [servants] that they had acquired in Haran, and they went forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land to the locality of Shechem, to the oak or terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. 7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, I will give this land to your posterity. So Abram built an altar there to the Lord, Who had appeared to him. 8 From there he pulled up [his tent pegs] and departed to the mountain 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 Abram journeyed on, still going toward the South (the Negeb). 10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down into Egypt to live temporarily, for the famine in the land was oppressive (intense and grievous). 11 And when he was about to enter into Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, I know that you are beautiful to behold. 12 So when the Egyptians see you, they will say, This is his wife; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 Say, I beg of you, that you are my sister, so that it may go well with me for your sake and my life will be spared because of you. 14 And when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into Pharaoh's house [harem]. 16 And he treated Abram well for her sake; he acquired sheep, oxen, he-donkeys, menservants, maidservants, she-donkeys, and camels. 17 But the Lord scourged Pharaoh and his household with serious plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. 18 And Pharaoh called Abram and said, What is this that you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that 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 get away [from here]! 20 And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him, and they brought him on his way with his wife and all that he had.

## Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOV](#)

## Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women-Cathe Laurie](#)

The Time of the Patriarchs;... Genesis 12–50;...The stories of God's dealings with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph (the ancestors of the Israelite people who are also called the patriarchs of Israel) are recorded in Genesis 12–50 . A major focus of these narratives is the multifaceted promise that God gave them and reiterated to them. This promise provides a significant framework for God's continuing dealings with humanity (see Genesis 12:1–3 ). According to the plain reading of passages such as 1 Kings 6:1 , Exodus 12:40 , and others, Abraham would have entered the land of Canaan in 2091 b.c. at age 75—about midway through the archaeological period known as Middle Bronze I (2200–2000 b.c. ). The thriving commercial center of Ur, located in southern Mesopotamia, that Abraham had left earlier is quite well-known due to the excavations of the site and to the thousands of cuneiform tablets that have been found at Ur and in its vicinity. The land of Canaan that Abram entered with Sarah and his nephew Lot was not nearly as progressive. During this period people lived in tents in very small, unwalled settlements (most less than three acres in size). There is, in fact, in the archaeological record of Palestine a complete absence of walled cities during this time. Archaeologically, this period seems to be characterized by people living in tents and burying their dead in shaft-type tombs, in tumuli (artificial mounds), or under dolmens (two or more stones placed upright with a stone put horizontally on top). This fits well with the biblical portrayal of the Patriarchs as living in tents (mentioned 24 times in Genesis 12–50 ) and making a living by herding (sheep and goats are mentioned 24 times) and farming (sowing and reaping in 26:12 ).

At the time of Abraham's death in 1991 b.c. , the land of Canaan was moving into the Middle Bronze II period (2000–1550 b.c. ). During this period large fortified cities were again built, although it is probable that the majority of the population continued to live in the countryside as herders and farmers. The Egyptian story of Sinuhe (which can be found in Ancient Near Eastern Texts 18–23) dates from about 1962 b.c. (during the days of Isaac); it describes Canaan as a land filled with figs, grapes, wine, honey, olives, fruit, barley, wheat, and cattle (compare Deuteronomy 8:8 ).

At the time of Jacob's move to Egypt (1876 b.c. ), that country was experiencing a time of stability during the 12th Dynasty. At a minimum it maintained commercial contacts with peoples in the eastern Mediterranean region as well as those to its south, in Nubia. Unfortunately, no extra biblical records have been found as yet that refer to any of the people mentioned in this section of Scripture.

Mesopotamia, too, was experiencing a period of prosperity at this time (called the Old Babylonian period). It was during this time that the famous Hammurabi ruled, who is known especially for his laws, known as the Code of Hammurabi. In addition to written documents found in southern Mesopotamia, a huge cuneiform archive was discovered at Mari, located farther north on the Euphrates. The Mari tablets actually mention several of the more prominent city-states in Canaan: Hazor (175 acres in size) and Leshem (later known as Dan; Joshua 19:47 ; Judges 18:29 ). In addition, some of the personal names (though not the people themselves) found in the Mari tablets parallel names mentioned in the biblical text, and the political alliances, tribal activities, and cultural background reflected in the tablets do help illustrate the general lifestyle of the people during this period.

#### Biblical Dates

2091 b.c. Abram entered Canaan; 2066 b.c. Isaac born; 2006 b.c. Jacob born; 1991 b.c. Abraham died; 1886 b.c. Isaac died; 1876 b.c. Jacob moved to Egypt.

Genesis 12–50: The Beginning of the Story of Redemption : Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go 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." Genesis 12:1–3; After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.... Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the Lord , and he credited it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:1, 5–6

7. The Account of Terah, Genesis 11:27 to 25:11; The story of Abraham, recorded, probably, by Abraham and Isaac. The last verses of chapter 11 provide the genealogical link between Terah and Abraham, while the actual story of Abraham begins in chapter 12 .

Genesis 12:1–3. The Call of Abraham; Here begins the story of redemption. It had been hinted at in the Garden of Eden ( Genesis 3:15 ). Now, 400 years after the Flood, God calls Abraham to be the founder of a nation through which He would make the reclamation and redemption of mankind a reality. God promised Abraham, a righteous man who believed in God, not in the idols of those around him, that his descendants would; 1. Inherit the land of Canaan 2. Become a great nation 3. Be a blessing to all nations

This promise ( 12:2–3 ; 22:18 ) is the foundation for the rest of the Bible. God first called Abraham in Ur ( Genesis 11:31 ; Acts 7:2–4 ), and again in Haran ( 12:1–4 ), Shechem ( 12:7 ), Bethel ( 13:14–17 ), and twice in Hebron ( 15:5 , 18 ; 17:1–8 ). The promise was repeated to his son Isaac ( 26:3–4 ) and to his grandson Jacob ( 28:13–14 ; 35:11–12 ; 46:3–4 ). These same promises are also found later in God's covenant with David (see on 2 Samuel 7 ). It seems, from 11:26 , 32 ; 12:4 ; and Acts 7:2–4 , that Abraham was born when his father was 130 years old, and that he was not the firstborn, as may be inferred from Genesis 11:26 . He was 75 when he entered Canaan, about 80 when he rescued Lot and met Melchizedek, 86 when Ishmael was born, 99 when Sodom was destroyed, 100 when Isaac was born, 137 when Sarah died, and 160 when Jacob was born. He died at 175, which was 115 years before Jacob's migration to Egypt.

Genesis 12:4–9. Abraham's Entrance into Canaan

Haran , about 600 miles northwest of Ur and 400 miles northeast of Canaan, was Abraham's first stopping place. He had set out from Ur in search of a land where he could build a nation free from idolatry, not knowing where he would end up ( Hebrews 11:8 ). But Haran was already a well-settled region, with roads to Babylon, Assyria, Syria, Asia Minor, and Egypt, along which caravans and armies constantly marched. So, after the death of his father, Terah, Abraham, under the call of God, moved on in search of a more sparsely settled land. Shechem , Abraham's first stopping place in Canaan, in the center of the land, was in a beautiful valley between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim. Here Abraham built an altar to God, but soon he moved on south in further exploration of the land. Bethel , 20 miles south of Shechem and 10 miles north of Jerusalem, was Abraham's next stopping place. It was one of the highest points in Canaan, with a magnificent view in every direction. Abraham was following the ridge of the mountain range, probably because the Jordan Valley on the east and the Coastal Plain on the west were already pretty well settled. In Bethel, too, he built an altar, as he did later at Hebron, and as he had done at Shechem, not only as an acknowledgement to God, but also as a statement of his faith to the people among whom he had come to live. He must have liked Bethel; for that is where he settled when he returned from Egypt, until he and Lot separated ( Genesis 13 ).

Genesis 12:10–20. Abraham in Egypt; As he traveled on south from Bethel, Abraham must have passed close to Jerusalem. Because of a famine, he went to Egypt, to stay there until the famine was over. He managed to get himself into trouble in Egypt. His wife Sarah was beautiful, and powerful rulers had a practice of confiscating beautiful women for themselves and killing their husbands. His cautious subterfuge of calling Sarah his "sister" was not exactly a lie. She was his half-sister ( 20:12 ). Marriages between near relatives was common in early ages, until the growth of families offered wider selection.  
(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; pages 104-110)

The Promise Of Blessing: VV 2-3 The promise of blessing God gave to Abram included the promise of the messiah that was to come from Abram's line: " and in the shall all families of the earth be blessed." V 5 Abram and Sarai had the same father; she was his half sister. Abram was 75 and Sarai was in her 60's. VV 11-20 Though Abram is considered to have been a great man of faith, it was not always constant, and here is a lapse of faith.  
(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; commentaries; page 12)

Abraham learned to trust God to lead him one step at a time. God essentially told him, "Trust Me with this first step, because it is best for you to go where I lead you." At that time, Abraham might have wondered whether or not packing up his tent and leaving his family and his country would be to his advantage, but God told him to go to the place that He would show him, and Abraham simply obeyed. When God gave Abraham this instruction, He gave him only step one, not step two. Abraham would not get to step two until he had accomplished step one. This is so simple, but so profound: God gives us direction one step at a time. You may be like many people who refuse to take step one until they think they understand steps two, three, four, and five. If so, I hope you will be inspired to go forward in God's plan for your life by trusting Him with the first step. Understanding that His will for you is revealed a step at a time should build your confidence to do at least what you already know to do. After the first few steps, your faith will grow because you will realize there is always sure footing beneath each step God instructs you to take. Know that God has a good plan for your life and that you will be blessed when you obey Him. You can miss out on blessings by not obeying what God clearly tells you to do. He shows you the way to go, and you are to walk in that direction. Sometimes God may be gracious enough to carry you part of the way, but there comes a time when the carrying is over, and He says, "Now walk." God wants you to obey Him quickly. He does not want you to argue with Him for three or four weeks before you will do a simple little thing. He wants you to trust Him and, like Abraham, take the first step He calls you to take in faith.

We can read God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:2 and think, Oh, hallelujah! That applies to me, too! But we cannot forget that God required a sacrifice of obedience before Abraham could receive the promise. Abraham had to be willing to leave the place where he was comfortable; he had to leave his father and all of his relatives. And he did; he simply moved in faith to the place God said He would show him. If you are willing to have Abraham's kind of obedience, you can have Abraham's kind of blessing. The Everyday Life Bible.

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)  
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, page 20-22)

Alistair Begg at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa & Calvary Chapel Murrieta!

Alistair Begg from the Truth For Life Radio Program will be speaking at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa on Wednesday November 16th at 7pm (west coast time)! He'll also be sharing the very next day for the K-Wave Listener Event on Thursday the 17th at Calvary Chapel Murrieta!  
7pm west coast; 9pm central; 10pm east coast....

<http://calvarychapelcostamesa.com/media/watch-live/>