

THE CALL OF GOD

Sunday, September 20, 2026 -- MISSIONS -- Jason Hill

Genesis 12:1-3

English Standard Version (ESV)

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.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1. The book of Genesis gives a **FOUNDATION** for understanding everything.
God, creation, humanity, marriage, morality, sin, death, judgment, grace, rise of nations, ultimate redemption, and **MISSIONS**.
2. In the first chapter of Genesis, God gives the first commission to man (SEE Genesis 1:26-28).
 - Man receives God-given value and is told to care for creation while obeying His direction.
 - Man fails to fulfill the commission but, instead, fills the earth with **WICKEDNESS**.
3. The **FAILURE** of the first commission leads to God choosing Abram (SEE Genesis 11:10-32).
 - Abram, a descendant of Shem (vs. 10, 26), will bring hope. (SEE Matthew 1:1-16)
 - Abram, a product of a pagan background, will display **FAITH** (vs. 26, 28).
 - Abram, a father with no children, will provide a people who will bless others. (vs. 29, 30).

WHAT IS THE CALL OF GOD?

A God-given **DIRECTIVE** that invites a person into a personal relationship with Him and assigns them a specific purpose in life.

1. SEE HOW GOD'S CALL TO ABRAM HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S CALL TO US.

- God's call **INITIATES** a covenantal relationship to glorify Himself through obedience and blessing.
- God's call **INSISTS** that complete obedience is the only satisfying choice.
- God's call **INSTRUCTS** the called to respond with the clear step to lead you.

- God required Abram to **LEAVE** what he knew. (Country, Community, Comfort)
God called Abram to leave the familiar and trust Him with what he needed.

God's call is not about where you are going but about what you are willing to leave behind.

- God **DIRECTED** Abram to the place He wanted him to go.
God called Abram to follow instructions and trust His directions.

God's call is not always to something specific but always calls us to trust Him.

- God **WITHHELD** the end picture from Abram which caused Him to walk by faith.
God called Abram to walk by faith and trust God with the outcome.

God's call is not about having the end picture but about us being faithful to the end.

- God's call **INSURES** the LORD's blessing with obedience to it.

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2. SEE HOW GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAM REMIND US OF ETERNAL REALITIES.

-- When we follow God's call and **LEAVE BEHIND** all we know, He promises a greater reward.

Mark 10:29-30 - **29** Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, **30** who will not receive **a hundredfold now in this time**, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and **in the age to come eternal life.**"

-- When we follow God's call, trusting His **DIRECTION** and **OUTCOME**, we will bless others and bear fruit.

John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but **I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit** and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

3. SEE HOW ABRAM'S RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL IS A MODEL FOR OUR RESPONSE.

- As Abram **PERSONALLY** responded to follow God, so should we.
- As Abram trusted God and **RESPONDED** in faith (Romans 4), so should we. It provides staying power.
- As Abram's **AGE** was not a factor in his obedience, it should not be a factor in ours.
- As Abram left sinful **INFLUENCES** to follow God, so should we.

4. SEE THE CONCLUSIONS FROM GOD'S CALL TO ABRAM.

- God is moving with a purpose to **RECONCILE** the nations. (SEE Psalm 86:8-10)
- Abram's blessing was not to be kept to himself, it was for **OTHERS**. (SEE Gen. 18:17-19; Gal. 3:8-9)
- There is a two fold blessing.
 - **CENTRIPETAL** - Nations are drawn to God by how God-centered people live.
 - **CENTRIFUGAL** - God's people are sent to the nations to share God's redemption story.

HOW DO I KNOW GOD'S DIRECTIVE OR GOD'S SPECIFIC TASK FOR ME?

From *Decision Making and the Will of God* by Garry Friesen and J. Robin Maxson

1. Where God **COMMANDS**, we must obey. (If the Bible says it...do it) Obedience brings clarity. (1 John 5:3)
2. Where there is no command, God gives **FREEDOM** and responsibility to choose. Look at your gifts and skills.
3. Where there is no command, God gives wisdom to choose. (For those who ask for it...James 1:5)
4. When we have chosen what is **MORAL** and **WISE**, we must trust the sovereign God to work all the details together for good.