



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Abraham – Chosen By God (Genesis 12:1)

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*The Bible can serve as a textbook for those seeking greatness, growing in favor with God and the people. Perhaps you, like Abraham, have taken advantage of a personal milestone in your life and are into a grand adventure. Your milestones may have been graduation, marriage, military service, relocation, an election, work, perhaps even a tragedy. God challenged a man named Abram to separate from his family and leave the country. The promise was that he would become great. Can you share how a transition impacted your life and the lives of others?*

### INTRODUCTION

Abram was the son of Terah, in the line of Shem, one of the sons of Noah. This extended family built a large cattle and sheep operation in Haran, a trading cross-roads area near the northern part of the Euphrates River in what is now called Syria. Abram's father and one of his two uncles died during the years the family prospered in Haran. Abram married Sarai, though they had no children, and both were growing very old. **What life outcomes would make you feel fulfilled?**

### THE LORD CALLS ABRAM OUT

*Genesis 12:1-3 The LORD 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.” (NIV)*

**Abram took his wife Saria, his nephew Lot, their possessions, and people they had acquired (Genesis 12:5). Why do you think Abram was called out of Mesopotamia? What does it seem he did right or wrong?**

**Abram traveled through Canaan as far as Shechem near Moreh. Then Canaanites were in the land, but the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So, Abram built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him (Genesis 12:6-7). Have you had an action or move confirmed?**

**Now there was a severe famine in the land; Abram went down to Egypt to live (Genesis 12:10).** Abram said to Saria “You are a beautiful woman.” “Tell them you are my sister, or these people may kill me to take you.” The Pharaoh did take her, but God afflicted the royal household with great plagues. Pharaoh returned Saria and openly humiliated Abram for his lack of character. They, together with all their possessions were escorted out of Egypt. **Which promises did Abram forget? Is there a time when you were convicted for not trusting God?**

### ABRAM AND LOT SEPARATE

*Genesis 13:1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. (NIV)*

They traveled back toward Bethel where Abram had built an altar. Back to where he met God. Now the herds of Abram and Lot were large. There was strife among the herdsmen. Lot was offered to choose a place to separate their herds. He chose the fertile valley near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. A raiding army went through the valley, conquering the cities and taking Lot and his possessions. Abram and three neighboring families gathered their militias, defeated the rogue army, and took back the captives. He refused the King of Sodom's offer to keep part of the spoil, but gave a tenth of the treasure to Melchizedek, the mysterious priest. **Can the rich get into heaven? Have you forgiven one, as Abram forgave Lot?**

### GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM

*Genesis 15:1 “Do not fear, Abram, for I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.” (NASB)*

Abram asked God **“what more can you give me since I have no heir?”** God put Abram into a deep sleep and took him through a covenant ceremony, telling him that he would father a son, and his descendants would be too great to count. However, their possession of the land would be paused for four generations.

### A PRAYER

Almighty God: Thank You for giving me a glimpse of your power and authority. Please give me the faith to possess all that You have for me. I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen!