

Chapter 12

12:1-3

Now the LORD had said It seems, then, that this calling came before 11:31. Nehemiah (Nehemiah 9) and Stephen (Acts 7) both say **Abram** was called out of the “Ur of the Chaldeans.” It seems, then, that 12:1-4 are parenthetical.

“Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, If this really occurred before 11:31, did **Abram** partially disobey, having brought his **father’s house** all the way to Canaan.

To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; ^dI will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Does this mean that no matter what the people of Abraham do, they are God’s chosen? Or, does it mean that the church of this dispensation replaced Israel? I say “no” and “no.” I say that Christ is the fulfillment of this promise and that all those in Christ are recipients of this promise. Paul the Apostle heard the message of Stephen in Acts 7 and wrote, later as a Christian, to the Galatian believers. He said one Jew was in mind here in Genesis 12 and His Name is “Jesus” (Galatians 3:16). So all those nations (**families**) in Christ will be blessed. God does not have a “chosen people” outside of His Christ. So, all promises concerning the restoration of ethnic Israel (Jeremiah 33:25; Ezekiel 36-37; Romans 11) are because of their mass conversion to Christ.

12:4-6

So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Galatians 3:17 seems to place this at the beginning of the 430-year countdown to the Exodus (Exodus 12:40).¹ 1 Kings 6:1 places 480 years after the Exodus into the fourth year of Solomon. Using, then, the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11² we can see how many years after creation that Solomon built his temple. This account here occurs 2024 years after creation³ (or 1852 BC, using 966 BC as the date for Solomon’s temple). **5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.** **6 Abram ^lpassed through the land to the place of Shechem, ^mas far as ²the terebinth tree of Moreh. ⁿAnd the Canaanites were then in the land.** He is a descendant of Ham (see chapter 9). We are being told they **were in the land** to prepare us for events later in Moses’ writing.

^d Gen. 22:17; 24:35

¹It could also be that this starts in Genesis 17:8 in Abram’s 99th year. 24 years difference in the grand scheme isn’t much.

²Some have wondered whether there were gaps in these genealogies. I say that the “year count” is Moses’ way of being specific with the timeline, thus disallowing gaps.

³This comes with some assumptions (like that Abraham was a triplet).

^l Heb. 11:9

^m Deut. 11:30; Judg. 7:1

² Heb. *Alon Moreh*

ⁿ Gen. 10:18, 19