



STARTING POINT: DAY ONE

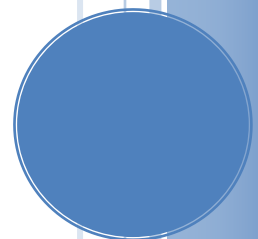
I WILL BLESS YOU

Genesis 12:1-9

Each day of this seven day Devotional Study we will read a specific passage three times with the intent to get the most out of it. We will ask questions and learn from the passage and finally apply the lessons learned personally to our own lives.

by pastor Adam Portal

Devotional **Monday** For 1/8/2018



STARTING POINT: DAY ONE

Genesis 12:1-9

1ST READING: LEARN. SIMPLY FAMILIARIZING YOURSELF WITH THIS PASSAGE.

2ND READING: IMPRESS. NOTICE WHAT WORD OR PHRASE JUMPS OUT AT YOU OR MAKES THE BIGGEST IMPRESSION.

Genesis 12 English Standard Version (ESV)

The Call of Abram

12 Now the LORD said^[a] to Abram, "Go from **your** country^[b] 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."^[c]

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. **5** And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, **6** Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak^[d] of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. **7** **Then the LORD appeared to Abram** and said, "To **your** offspring **I will** give this land." So **he built there an altar** to the LORD, who had appeared to him. **8** From there he moved to the hill country 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** And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

DEVOTIONAL: I WILL BLESS YOU

Things to notice:

1. Who Is Speaking? God speaks twice in this passage (in vs 1-3 and in vs 7.) In each case we can see God speaking directly to Abram . Did the Lord use Abram's name? No. He referred to Him directly using two personal pronouns. Notice how many times the word "you" and "your" are used by God referring to Abram in these verses.

2. What Is He Saying? God is telling Abram how he will bless him. We can generally consider these blessings as the blessings of God to those who obey God as evidence of their belief in him.

Notice: God repeats the phrase many times "I Will...". Can you see how God is demonstrating that He is the one doing all the work of blessing? All Abram needs to do is trust and obey God.

3. How Does Abram Respond ?

In Obedience: In verses 4-6 we are told about Abram's obedience to what God asked him to do. Vs 4 begins with the words "Abram went."

In Worship: How else does Abram respond? He builds an altar (twice). Building altars is a way of responding to God in worship in the Old Testament (Remember Cain and Abel.) So the first time he builds the altar is because the Lord "appeared to him." The second time Abram built an altar we see him "Called upon the name of the Lord" for the first time. In other words, we don't see Abram respond verbally until vs 8.

4. Final Things To Note:

Do you find it interesting that although God has not used Abram's name (He will change his name to Abraham later), Abram calls upon "the name of the Lord"? What name is that? we are simply not told, apparently because it is part of Abram's personal relationship with the Lord. He was getting to know God and was starting to identify Him by His name. That is how relationships work. We can call people by their formal title or even by their last name. But when we are on a first name basis, it is usually because we are starting to get to know them.

Did you notice how it was not until Abram had obeyed God's first command, that God speaks to him again in vs 7? Interestingly, Abram obeyed God when he heard Him speak - and - he worshipped God when God appeared to him. There is a pattern here. When we first encounter God he will command us (Come to me, Follow me, Go), but once we have obeyed Him, we will discover who He really is. He makes himself know to us. It is in obeying God that we are able to really come to know Him, see Him, treasure Him, and Enjoy Him. Is this pattern at work in your life?

3RD AND FINAL READING: LIVE. READ THIS PASSAGE ONE FINAL TIME.

This time, Ask God... what should I start doing, stop doing or continue doing?

Ask God other questions about relating to him personally that you may have. What do you want me to learn from this and do, oh God? Have I obeyed you in what you have been asking me to do? Am I at a place of worship yet?