

Sunday School Lesson – Tuesday, August 30th – Sunday, September 4th, 2022
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Fall Quarter's Theme: "GOD'S Exceptional Choice!"

[Exceptional, adj., unusual, uncommon, extraordinary—Choice... Doctrinal terms: *Elect; Predestination, Foreordained* (not 'whatever will be will be' ... not 'my circumstances were all pre-determined'). As we study the Lessons of this quarter, please remember, **The BIBLE teaches** us that "we are '**FREE**' to make '**CHOICE**' that *affects* **GOD!** **GOD interacts** with us as we '**FREELY**' make our '**CHOICES.**' **The BIBLE teaches** that only part of what happens has been Eternally **Predetermined!**

The Lessons we will study will cover "**The Arc of Salvation,**" that is **GOD'S Exceptional Choice** in Creation—in Creating us; **GOD'S Exceptional Choice** in the Fall, our Fallings.

GOD'S Exceptional Choice in **HIS Redemption—Redeeming** us and **GOD'S Exceptional Choice** in Consummation, bringing **HIS Divine Purpose** (including us) to Fulfillment!

Lesson Themes...

Unit 1, "GOD Calls Abraham's—Abram Family" ... September—4 Lesson from Genesis. Unbroken Promises; An Unexpected Choice; Persevere in Times of Difficulty; Dynamics of Family Leadership.

Unit 2, "Out of Slavery to Nationhood" ... October—5 Lessons from Exodus, Deuteronomy, Judges, and I Samuel. A Protective Family; Expressing Thankfulness; Confidence Provides Necessary Courage; We Want A Human King; The Heart of a Leader.

Unit 3, "We Are GOD'S Artwork" ... November—4 Lessons from Ephesians.

Chosen! **WISDOM** as Enlightenment of Heart; Made for a Purpose; Tools Available to Withstand Injustice and Evil.

SCRIPTURE Lesson Text: Genesis 12: 1-5, 7; 15: 1-7

Subject: "Unbroken Promises!" [Don't start with *the Problem* in pursuit for **THE SOLUTION...**
Unbroken, uninterrupted, unceasing, non-stopped—Promises

Introduction...

Genesis 11: 27—12: 1-9 entails "**A New Beginning!**" Except for Genesis, Chapters 1 and 2, Chapters 3-11 records 'one *failure* after another [repeated *failures* of our day] ...

--Genesis 3, Adam, and Eve *disobeyed* **GOD** and were cast out of the Garden.

--Genesis 4, Cain *murders* his brother Abel and lied about it.

--Genesis 6-8, Humanity become so *corrupt* that **GOD** cleansed the earth with a Flood.

--Genesis 9, Noah got *drunk* and exposed himself to his son Ham.

--Genesis 10, In their *defiance* of **GOD**, men built a City and a Tower, and **GOD** had to send *confusion* to end the *rebellion*.

[Disobedience, murder, deception, drunkenness, nudity, and rebellion, marks today...

If you were GOD, what would you do with such people? Such circumstances?

We need "A New Beginning!"

Topic I: Chosen and Called to Let GO (Genesis 12: 1-3)

Topic II: Committing to The Call (Genesis 12: 4-5, 7)

--GOD Called... **Salvation** comes because **GOD** calls in **GRACE** and *sinners* who respond by **Faith** (Ephesians 2: 8-9) GOD Called Abram from 'idolatry' when he was in Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 11: 28, 31) A City *devoted* to *Nannar*, "the moon-god." Abram did not know **The One True Living GOD** and had *done 'nothing'* to deserve knowing **HIM**, *But GOD...*

"**JESUS** said, "**Ye have not chosen ME, but I have chosen you...**" (John 15: 16)

Abram was 75 years old when **GOD** called him. [So, age doesn't need to be an obstacle to **Faith**. Isaac his son was born when Abram was 100 years old. (Genesis 21: 1-5) Abraham died at 175 years old. (Genesis 25: 7) Abraham married his half-sister Sarai (Genesis 20: 12). Yet **GOD** used *them* to start a New Nation. Point: Isaiah 51: 2, "I called him (Abraham) alone, and blessed him, and increased him." Why would **GOD** call such unlikely couple? **GOD** answered this through the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 1: 26-31.

How GOD called... Acts 7: 2, "The **GOD** of glory appeared unto Abraham..." The revelation of **GOD'S glory** showed Abram the *vanity* and *folly* of the 'idol worship' in Ur. [Why worship a *lifeless god* when you've met **The Living GOD**. (I Thessalonians 1: 9, 10 and 2 Corinthians 4: 6)]

--GOD spoke to Abram (Genesis 12: 1-3) **The WORD of GOD** brought about **The Miracle of Faith** (Romans 10: 17). It was The Call of GOD that separated Abram from the *corruption* around him and Abraham *obeyed* by **Faith in GOD** (Hebrews 11: 8).

Note, **GOD** spoke to Abram *directly*... **GOD** established a **Covenant** with Abram [we are not saved by making promises to **GOD**. We are saved by *believing* and *receiving GOD'S promises*.

Why GOD Called... **1. HIS Love** for Abram and Sarai *and* beyond them. (**GOD** was concerned about their/our Salvation) **2. GOD'S Purpose** in blessing the whole world. (I Corinthians 15: 1,3-4, 14; I John 2: 2; 4: 14; Mark 16: 15) **3.** That Abraham be an example for all **CHRISTIANS**—Walk by Faith in GOD (Genesis 15: 6; Romans 4: 1-5). Abraham Lived by Faith in GOD (Hebrews 11: 8-19). Abraham Obedience was evident of his **Faith in GOD** (James 2: 14-26)

Note the Contrast between Genesis 11: 1-9 and Genesis 12: 1-3

At Babel men said, "Let us!"

To Abram **GOD** said, "I Will!"

At Babel, men wanted to make a name for themselves

To Abram, **GOD** Will make his name great

At Babel, the workers tried to *unite* men only to *divided* them

GOD through Abraham a whole world has been blessed. All are *united* in **CHRIST**

--**Topic III (Genesis 15: 1-7), Confirming Commitment**

AFTER THESE things... chapter 14, speaks of Abrams actions... after *battling* and *winning* against 4 Kings of Sodom and *rescuing* his nephew Lot and all their possessions. Chapter 15, Abram started 'listening to himself' [his emotions]. 'People with **Faith** are also people with *feelings*, and *feelings* must not be discredited or ignored.' [Abraham knew that the 4 Kings could return with reinforcements and attack again, lightly defeat him.] But he 'Listens to GOD.'

This is the *first time* in **The BIBLE** we find the phrase "**The WORD of The LORD came...**"

"The **Faith** that conquers fear is **Faith in The WORD**, not *faith in feelings*."

The LORD spoke to Abram by name (John 10: 3). **GOD** assures, **I AM**—thy shield... thy exceeding great reward." *Protection* and *Provision*. Look to **GOD**, **HE** made it *clear* to Abram, Heirship depends on *SONship* (vss. 4, 5) Believe **GOD** (v. 6), lean your whole weight on **GOD**... **GOD counted** or impute—to put to one's account—on The Cross, **The Love of GOD** put all our *sins* on **JESUS'** account. We are declared *justified*—*right* by our **Faith in GOD.**" (Romans 5: 1, 2)