

God's Calling in the Old Testament

Lesson Seven

GOD CALLED ABRAHAM (1) (Josh. 24:2; Gen. 12:1-4)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that although all mankind once again turned its back on God and insulted Him by worshipping false gods, idols, God had mercy on one man, Abraham, and his wife, Sarah. *God appeared to Abraham* (who also was an idol-worshipper, the same as all the others around him) and *called him to leave his idols, family, and country and follow Him, the true God, to a new country and begin a new family. Abraham believed in God and followed God's calling.*

Memory Verse:

"By faith Abraham, being called, obeyed to go out onto a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8).

Facts to Teach:

1. After the great flood that destroyed all the living things on the earth, Noah's sons and daughters-in-law began to have children and filled the land. After many, many years and generations passed, mankind again became very sinful and rebellious in the eyes of God. The people were filled with pride and were building a great city out of bricks and a tower that would reach up into heaven. It was as if they were saying to God, "We don't need you!" Man was totally rebellious.
2. Everybody had turned away from the true God and they all worshipped false gods; gods they had made with their own hands, idols.
3. Instead of destroying all the wicked human race again, this time God called out just one man, Abraham, and his wife, Sarah.
4. No one in Abraham's family knew the true God; just like all the rest of their relatives and friends, they also worshipped idols (Josh. 24:2).
5. One day, however, the "God of glory" appeared to Abraham and called him (Acts 7:2-3; Gen. 12:1). God told Abraham to leave everything behind, to leave his old, sinful, idol-worshipping country and family. God made some wonderful promises to Abraham, if he would obey his call and follow Him to a new land, a new country, that He had prepared for him and his descendants.
 - a. God promised that He would make of Abraham a very great nation. That meant that Abraham and Sarah would have many, many children, descendants. This "great nation" includes all of the many millions and millions of the Jews and the Christians also.
 - b. God also promised Abraham that He would bless him, that He would make his name great, and that through him all the families on the earth would one day again be under God's blessing.
6. Although Abraham was seventy-five years old, he answered God's call. He, his wife, and his nephew, Lot, left their country and all their family and obeyed God to go to a land they had never seen before. They neither had a map, nor did they know the way to go.

They only had the real and living “God of glory” who had appeared to Abraham and had called him to follow Him. They followed His invisible presence and safely arrived in the land of Canaan, far, far away. They hoped to soon have children and begin that “great nation” that would only love and serve the living and true God.