



2/9/26

I was thinking about something Tim said in the message... God spoke to Noah, and the next time He spoke to a human was hundreds of years later when He spoke to Abram. That is a long time! And now... We have His spoken word written down in black and white, available to us every single day of our lives. God WANTS us to know Him, so He makes Himself extremely accessible. I pray that we will not miss the incredible privilege we have in studying His word. I pray that we will never take it for granted.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Genesis 12:4-9, 13:14-17 ~

Genesis 12:4-9 ~ In Genesis 12:1, God said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you." And so Abram went. This in itself is a big deal to me. Joshua 24:2 says that Terah, Abram's father, served other gods... not the Lord. It looks like maybe Abram joined him in that. And yet when the one true God spoke to Abram and told him to go... without even telling him where he was going... Abram went as the LORD had told him.

Lot, Abram's nephew, and Abram's wife, Sarai, went with him. They took all their possessions and all the people they had acquired in Haran, and they went to the place Terah had planned to go with them in the first place when they got sidetracked in Haran. They went to the land of Canaan.

Abram went to Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that point, the LORD spoke to Abram again. This time He made another specific promise to Abram. Not only did God promise to make Abram great, and make him the father of a great nation, and that He would bless Him (vs. 1-3), but now God promised that He would give this land, the land that was now being occupied by Canaan, to Abram's offspring. There's a lot of promise in this because Abram and Sarai had no children, and Abram was already 75. Most people were having kids around 35 years old. But

Sarai was barren.

How did Abram respond? In faith. How do I know? He built an altar of worship to the Lord. He put something in place to acknowledge the promise God had given him. He didn't settle in that spot, but he did make sure he put something there to show his worship.

He built another altar to the Lord when he got to the hill country of Bethel. At that place, he called upon the name of the LORD. But he didn't settle then either. Apparently, God had not made it clear to him that it was time to stop... so he kept going, still going toward the Negeb. All the way, he built altars to the Lord and worshiped Him. He believed God. He obeyed God.

True faith always follows with obedience. Let me not forget that. If I'm not being obedient to the Lord, there's something I'm not believing about Him. O Lord, I pray that I will obey You wholeheartedly, even when I don't know what You're going to do. Help me to trust that You know, and that Your plan is always good.

Genesis 13:14-17 ~ I know from earlier in chapter 13 that things weren't working out for Abram and Lot to live in the same area. So Lot settled in Sodom... among very wicked people. That wasn't going to go well... but that's a different story. Abram settled in Canaan, in Hebron by the Oaks of Mamre. God continued to remind Abram of the promises He was going to fulfill in him, giving him offspring and land.

God promised Abram that the land he saw, spreading north, south, east, and west would be given to Abram's offspring... forever. Let me not miss this... Abram was living in a tent. He settled in this land, but it was not viewed as HIS land in that moment. God was fulfilling a much bigger plan. He had prophesied that Canaan's descendants would serve Shem's descendants, of whom Abram was one... and that was going to come eventually. But it was not so at this moment.

God promised to Abram that He would make his offspring as the dust of the earth. That's a lot of dust and a lot of people. Then He told Abram to take a walk. Walk through the whole land, far and wide. Take a look around. This will all be yours, Abram. It would be years and years before this promise was fulfilled. It would be 25 years before Abram and Sarai would even have a baby together, let alone having a nation of people who occupied the land. And yet Abram believed Him.

This is a great reminder to me that God keeps ALL His promises. If I don't see the promise being fulfilled, the answer is not to think God is too weak or He's forgotten or He doesn't care to fulfill His promise. What I need to say emphatically is, "Hold on. God is still working. He's doing something. He's laying the foundation. Whatever He's doing, this absolutely WILL work out as God has planned."

If I truly believe that God is who He says and does what He says He will do, is there anything I need to fear? Do I need to worry? Do I need to be anxious? I will only get stuck in worry or anxiety if I'm trying to define the plan rather than follow His plan. I will only get stuck in

worry or anxiety if I think I have to MAKE it all happen, like I have to figure it out. But if I'll rest in Him and His plan, trusting that He loves me and wants to supply me with all I need to fulfill HIS plan, then I will have peace instead of fear, trust instead of anxiety.

O Lord, let my heart be constantly building altars for You and Your goodness, and let me only settle in the places where You tell me to settle. Let me open my ears to hear what You will say, when You say it, and how You say it. Let my faith in You be proven in my obedience.