

Sunday, January 13, 2019

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The Journey

Genesis 12

(black Bibles page 8; Children's Bibles page 26)

We continue our new series *The Gospel According to Abraham*.

- Even though Abraham lived 2000 years before Jesus, the life of Abraham will teach us about the gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as how to live our lives by faith.
- Last week we read Abram's **Call** from God (12:1-3)

And now the **Journey** begins... with the next big revelation in 12:6-7

Why build altars? (12:7-8)

The strange episode in Egypt

- Journeys have unexpected events: it's strange Abram has to immediately flee the land he will inherit due to a famine (12:10)
- His life endangered, Abram encourages Sarai to tell a partial lie (12:13)
- We see (only) one of these promises begins to be fulfilled. Which one?
 - "I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse..." (12:3a)
 - "...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (12:3b)

We know Abram's faith matters. But do Abram's actions matter?

- "For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." (Genesis 18:19; see also 17:1-2, 22:15-19)
- Obedience to God → blessings to others! This is true for us, too.

To the Lord's Supper: the importance of Christ's obedience

Questions for Community Groups and further study:

[1] What is the big revelation early in Abram's journey? (12:6-7)

[2] What should we think of this statement? "It's about the journey, not the destination." Consider Hebrews 11:8-16.

[3] Abram's faith is important (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:1-5). His obedience is also important (Genesis 17:1-2; 18:19). What is the relationship between faith and obedience?

[4] When you are obedient to God, how does that bless those around you? Give examples.