

Title: Sovereign Grace & Obedience

Text: Genesis 11:27-12:9

Introduction:

1. Abram is a great example of grace, obedience, and worship.
2. God recorded the life of Abram to help us today learn important spiritual lessons.

Proposition: The correct response to sovereign God's offer of grace must be obedience.

Question: Why must man respond with obedience to God's offer of grace?

Transition: The call, obedience, and pilgrim worship of Abram relates the blessings of God upon Abram.

I. The call of Abram (11:27-12:3)

A. The family of Abram (11:27-32)

1. *Now these are the generations of Terah... (27-32)*

a) **Three sons of Terah, not necessarily in chronological order, but in order of significance:**

- (1) Abram or high-father
- (2) Nahor or snorer
- (3) Haran or mountaineer

b) **The following verses give biographical information essential for understanding the call of Abram.**

- (1) The offspring of Haran are Lot and Milcah; Lot travels with Abram for a while; Milcah marries her uncle and Abram's brother Nahor.
- (2) We are told later that Sarai is Abram's step sister (20:12).

c) **Terah, as the head of the family, takes Abram and Lot and leave Ur of the Chaldees to travel to Haran.**

2. **Idol worshippers**

a) **Joshua 24:2 *And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.***

b) **This verse makes clear that before God called Abram, they worshipped idol(s).**

- (1) God came to Abram.
- (2) There was nothing of value or merit upon Abram's part.

B. The Abrahamic Covenant (12:1-3)

1. *...Get thee out of thy country...unto a land that I will shew thee...*

a) **The first part was leave.**

- (1) Abram was required to get out of the old country.
- (2) Away from all the idolatry of the country and family.

(3) This was the significance of this leaving, to get away from the wicked idolatry of the world.

b) **He was promised a Land which would be his.**

2. **The nation – a great nation**

a) **Although he had no heir, Sarai was barren (11:30), God said he would become a great nation.**

b) **He would receive the blessing of God, not just himself, but the nation which would proceed from him.**

c) **Ultimately the whole world would be blessed through the redeemer.**

C. Application

1. **The correct response to sovereign God's offer of grace must be obedience.**

2. **God's call upon man:**

a) **First, God approaches worthless, valueless, and meritless man with grace.**

(1) It is by His sovereign decision to save mankind.

(2) Just like Abram, man is dependent upon God revealing Himself to us and offering His grace.

b) **Second, God's call reveals everything we need to know.**

(1) God does not leave us in doubt what He expects.

(2) Biblical presentation of God will always reveal what God expects of the hearer.

(3) Instruction is clear.

(4) 1 Corinthians 14:33 *For God is not the author of confusion. . .*

Transition: The correct response to sovereign God's offer of grace must be obedience. Abram received the gracious call of God and then he obediently responded.

II. The obedience of Abram (12:4-5)

A. *So Abram departed. . .*

1. **Abram did exactly what he was told to do, he obediently acted in faith.**
2. **Lot, apparently also believed and followed Abram.**

B. Application

1. **The correct response to sovereign God's offer of grace must be obedience.**
2. **When God calls it requires a step of faith.**
 - a) **Abram never saw the promises fulfilled in his lifetime.**
 - b) **But he obediently left behind everything he had ever known and followed God in obedience by faith.**
 - c) **We also must be willing to obediently follow by faith.**
 - (1) The blessings Abram expected were not to be found in the old life.
 - (2) So our blessings may only be found in following the Lord wherever He leads.

Application: The correct response to sovereign God's offer of grace must be obedience. Abram received the gracious call of God, then he obediently responded and worshipped God.

III. The pilgrim worship of Abram (6-9)

A. *And Abram passed through the land. . .*

1. **The first place Abram came to was Shechem.**
 - a) **This was on the trade route from Mesopotamia to Egypt.**
 - b) **The Bible mentions three important facts about this location:**
 - (1) First, the land was inhabited by the Canaanite: this would have had significance to Israel as they would understand God's curse upon them.
 - (2) Second, God first appeared to Abram in the Promised Land at Shechem: therefore making it a holy place for Israel.

(3) Third, Abram begins to publicly proclaim his worship of God: he builds an altar which he will continue to do throughout his pilgrim wanderings.

(a) Although Abram dwelt in tents his whole life, he builds permanent places of worship throughout the Promised Land.

(b) This land would not always be a place to wander as a pilgrim, but to settle and worship God.

2. **After worshipping God he continues on to Bethel where he stops for a period of time and then continues his journey south.**

B. Application

1. **The correct response to sovereign God's offer of grace must be obedience.**

2. **The Promise Land was the place to receive God's blessing for Abram.**

a) **The Christian ought to desire God's blessing in life.**

b) **The blessing will only come when we are obedient to Him.**

(1) Obedient with our lives, every aspect

(2) Faithfully following wherever He may lead.

IV. Exhortation: Are you willing to obediently follow God's call in your life?