

Go Without a Map

Genesis 12:1–9

An Expository Sermon by Dr. Bradley Rushing

Big Idea

God calls His people to follow Him by faith when His word leads beyond what they can see.

I. Obey before you know where God is leading you (vv. 1–4)

- God speaks first. Grace begins with God’s word, not Abram’s searching.
- The command is simple and costly: “Go.”
 - Leave your country.
 - Leave your kindred.
 - Leave your father’s house.
- God is uprooting Abram from identity and security so his life will be rooted in God’s promise.
- Abram is called out of a world of idols and into belonging to the Lord.
- “To the land that I will show you” means guidance comes as you obey.
- Abram went as the Lord had told him, at seventy five years old.
- Faith is obeying God while you are still scared, not after you feel ready.

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II. Trust what God has promised (vv. 2–3)

- God takes full responsibility for Abram’s future: “I will” over and over.
- Babel said, “Let us make a name.” God says, “I will make your name great.”
- God promises blessing, protection, and a purpose bigger than Abram.
- The blessing is global: “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- Abram is not the finish line. He is the instrument.
- God’s promise points forward to Christ, the true blessing for the nations.
- Three takeaways:
 - Stop chasing a name. Receive identity from God.
 - Stop hoarding blessing. God blesses you to bless others.
 - Stop thinking small. God’s heart has always been for the nations.

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III. Worship on the way (vv. 4–9)

- Abram arrives in Canaan, and the Canaanites are still in the land.
- Promise is real, but possession is not immediate.
- God appears again and promises land to Abram’s offspring.
- Abram responds by building an altar.
- He builds another altar and calls on the name of the Lord.
- Worship is allegiance. It is planting a flag in a land full of other gods.
- Worship anchors faith in the in between.
 - It keeps you from panic.
 - It keeps you from building Babel towers for security.
 - It keeps you steady while you wait on God’s promise.
- Abram keeps moving. Faith rarely gets the whole plan. It usually gets the next step.


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