

YOU SHALL BE A BLESSING

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Lessons: Genesis 11 & 12

We think of the true story of Abram, who had from the Lord a call and a promise. “Go from where you are now to another place that I will show you, and this will lead to good and blessed things” (*Genesis 12:1-3*).

This is not only a true story about Abram; it is a true story about every single person there is. No matter how young or how old we are, we are ever being called to new things; and because the Lord is the one leading us, there is a promise of good things ahead.

The Lord called the place to which Abram was called, “a land that I will show you.” It was not a land Abram knew about, but the Lord knew about it, and He would show him. Think for a while about a baby. Think of the things you could say about the life of that baby, what the baby can do, what makes the baby laugh, what the baby understands. Among those things you must list is the fact that the baby is on its way to new things. The baby is being called from the state where it is to new things not as yet known. The baby is being called to worlds of new awareness, learning what numbers are, learning how to read, learning about peoples of the earth, learning about the Lord's creation, and the baby is destined to find a life of usefulness.

Think about a person who is engaged in an important work, like the mayor of a city. Did that person know during childhood that this is what life held in store? In a way there was during childhood a calling—a calling to different interests which led to a calling to other things, until gradually it became clear what that person wanted to do.

Some people know when they are fairly young what they want to do in this world. Their calling is clear to them. Most people take a fairly long time in the course of their education to find the use that best suits them. And when they do find that use, is that the end of the story? No, because we only spend some years in this world.

We know we have a destiny after we leave this world, and that knowledge is in us like a voice calling us to come at last to a land we have never seen. It is the land of heaven, which the Lord knows very well and which He will show us one day. And there we will find other things to do that we will greatly love and which will be genuinely useful to others around us.

Touching the lives of those around us in a helpful and useful way—that is the wonderful thing to which the Lord calls each one of us. And it does not have to wait until the life of heaven. We begin affecting other people more than we know very early in life. Our behavior and attitudes when we are children affects other people far more than we at first realize. Remember that Abram was not only told that he would be blessed, but that in him *other* people would be blessed. “You shall be a blessing” (*Genesis 12:2*). What a promise that is!

Do you want your life to be a blessing to others? That is a very real thing to wish for. In fact, that is the thing to which the Lord is calling you. As you do your best in each stage of your life, the Lord works more than you realize to bless others through you. Through you He wills to touch their lives, to help them and encourage them. Whenever you faintly realize how true this is, then you are like Abram hearing a call from the Lord.