

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 12

Genesis twelve is one of the watershed chapters in all the Bible. This is true in several ways. One, it takes us from the first period of the ten sections of the Bible which has been labeled the *Primeval Period*, which is all the material covered in the Bible in the first eleven chapters in Genesis. The Time Period spans creation to 2100 B.C. Genesis twelve begins the *Patriarchal Period*, that lasts from 2100-1500 B.C. Two, this is a monumental chapter in that we are introduced to a key figure in God's great story, Abram, whose name was later changed to Abraham. His father is Terah, introduced in chapter eleven, and they lived in Mesopotamia (it means *the land between the rivers*). The rivers are the Euphrates and the Tigris. They lived in the city of Ur. Next, God called Abram to leave Ur and travel to a place where he had never been, and there God would make him a great nation, bless him and make Him a blessing to all the earth and would give him the land where he was being led to go. God would later make a covenant (which we will discuss in tomorrow's reading) that is introduced here in chapter twelve with its various elements of blessing. Abram obeyed, and after a period in the city of Haran, Terah, Abram's father died, and Abram left for the land God would one day give to he and his descendants. Abram came into the land and west of the Jordan river journeyed to a city called Shechem. God appeared to Abram there outside

of Shechem and promised Abram that He was going to give him the land where he was. The rest of the chapter tells of Abram building his first altar in a place he called *the house of God* or *Bethel* in Hebrew. God watched over Abram even when he didn't always do the right thing. Sound familiar? The great story continues...

Prayer and Action Steps

Begin to imagine in your mind the great trust Abram must have had to follow God to a place where he had never been. He left everything he knew and was comfortable to him and went to a place that He would know was the right place only when God said, "this is it!" Notice the first thing Abram did when he was settled; he built an altar to sacrifice and worship the God who had brought him to the place where he was. Abram had a lot of responsibility in that he not only cared for his own wife and servants, but he had taken on the care of a nephew whose father had died, whose name was Lot. Thank God for His provision and His providential leading in your life. God has led you to where you are, or God can take where you are by your own choosing and begin to write His story in your life. Ask God to take the good, bad, and ugly parts of your journey and teach you to trust Him and right now give for the first time, or recommit, the rest of your days to Him. After all He is the only one who knows the way to heaven or a life worth living here on earth...He is the way!

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
