

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalms 33:1-12

Romans 4:3-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-25

Abram was from the lineage of Shem (eldest son of Noah).

In the Genesis reading here's what we read; Now the LORD had said to Abram; "Get out of your country, away from your family and your father's house to a land ***I will show you. I will make you*** a great nation; ***I will bless you*** and make your name great; and ***you shall be a blessing***. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you ***all*** the families of earth shall be blessed. ***God called ...***

Abram was seventy-five years old. He took his wife Sarai, and his nephew, Lot, all of their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Harlan, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan.

***Abram recognized God's voice and obeyed!***

He went on God's word alone without human knowledge of where He would end up.

Paul reminds us of this in Romans; For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Now to him who works, the wages are **not counted as grace** but as debt.

Romans 4:13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world ***was not*** to Abraham or to his seed ***through the law, but through the righteousness of faith***. v16 Therefore ***it is of faith that it might be according to grace***, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (***as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations"***)

Paul goes on to say how Abraham, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your

descendants be.” He did not waver; he was fully convinced that what God promised He was able to perform AND  
**“It was accounted to him for righteousness.”**

Abraham and Sarah are both mentioned in the **Hall of Faith** Hebrews 11

**By faith Abraham obeyed** when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, **not knowing where he was going.**

**By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country,** dwelling in tents with **Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;** for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

**By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed,** and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

Therefore, from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

The following lyrics sum up the Genesis reading and the gospel reading of Matthews calling.

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus, I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

***John L Bell (Will You Come and Follow Me)***

*Father, give us ears to hear and faith to believe that Your grace is sufficient to carry us wherever or whatever You call us to.*

*Amen*

