

***The Big Picture:***  
**A Blessing to All Nations (Gen. 12, 17 & 22)**

***God's Call to Abram (Gen. 12:1-3)***

- Generations after the Flood & the Tower of Babel, God called Abram of Ur
  - He had left Ur with his father years earlier, but they had settled in Haran, failing to go to Canaan (Gen. 11:31)
- Now, God called him and his wife Sarai to leave their family behind and travel to an undisclosed place
  - It is Abram's faith in trusting God that sets him apart (Gen 15:6)
- God's promises to Abram
  - He will become a great nation
  - He will be blessed
  - He will become a blessing to all people

***A Sign of the Covenant (17:4-8)***

- God called Abram to show his commitment by taking a mark upon himself: Circumcision
  - A reminder that God is the source of his offspring
- With it comes a name change
  - Abram: Great father
  - Abraham: The father of many nations
    - This was all before Isaac was even born
- There is also a provision for land for his family to dwell in

***A Blessing for All (Gen. 22)***

- God further clarifies His covenant promises when He tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac
  - Abraham trusted God to fulfill His promises, even if that involved resurrecting the dead (Heb 11:19)
- The story of Abraham fits into the metanarrative of Scripture as God brings clarity to how He will fulfill His promise to eradicate evil through a human agent
  - It will be through a descendant of Abraham that God will fulfill His promise and bring blessings to all people
  - That descendant is JESUS! (Matt 1:1)

***So What?***

- God's promise to Abraham was to bless the world
  - Through Jesus He is doing that
- Do we know that blessing?
- Are we sharing that blessing?

**Meditation Verse: *Genesis 22:18***