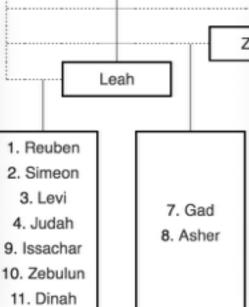


Call. So Abram, a descendant of Shem, lived on in dark Ur until God spoke, as the famous opening verse of chapter 12 recalls: "Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.' " The shocking immensity of God's command and the agonizing nature of Abram's decision are indicated by the ascending order of Abram's personal sacrifice: Leave your country—leave your people—and leave your father's household (nuclear family). [Hughes, R. K. (2004). Genesis: beginning and blessing (p. 182). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.]



In Genesis 12 the promises offered to Abram have an obvious association with the original blessing to all people. They differ, however, in the way that they indicate the ability to appropriate the blessing successfully. God does not just offer the blessing, be fruitful and multiply; he says that Abram will indeed be fruitful and multiply with the result that he will become a great nation. God does not just give permission to eat food; he promises a land that will provide bountifully for them. God intends to be more than one who grants privileges; he is going to assure success and personally impart the benefits to Abram and his family. [Walton, J. H. (2001). Genesis (p. 399). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.]