

# New Year, New Go

Genesis 12:1-9

1The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

- "Go"
  - I hardly ever see it say "stay" in the Bible
  - "Bloom where you are planted", yes but most flowers die
  - Commonly referred to as the "Call of Abram"
  
  - Go into the unknown, uncharted territory
    - Abram
      - Left that which was familiar
      - Left family, friends, 'home'
      - New, something different for him
  
- Reminds me of Matthew 28:19-20
  - 19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
  
  - Great Commission= The Church
    - "Go",
      - Count how many times "Go", "went" in NT
    - Last week Mark 16
      - Meant= Preaching the Kingdom, healing the sick, casting out demons, performing miracles, training disciples

2“I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.  
3I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”

- Lord **promises** to bless Abram in his going
  - Great nation, name great, will be a blessing, all people on earth will be blessed through him
  - The Lord’s promises never fail
- Great Commission
  - Promise v.20 “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
  - Not that it will be easy but that he will be with us

4So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

- Went
  - Obedience
  - Friendship with the Lord is obedience
  - We don’t always understand, hard for us but we are not called to ‘understand’ just be obedient
  - Me and giving up teaching/coaching
- Great Commission
  - Disciples went
  - The Lord was with them and confirmed their words with signs (Mark 16:20)

5He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

6Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At

that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

- Abram stopped again - built an altar; at Oak (teaching/instruction)
  - Received instruction and Divine Revelation
  - Built an Altar - place to worship and encounter God
    - Often need to stop, pray, rest, and let God speak and inform the next leg of the journey
    - God gave it, and then it's time for Abram move on...

8From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

9Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

- Abram didn't stop after the 1st leg/phase of the journey
- Kept moving on to the next 'stop' and then the next one and the next one
  - Different phases
- The call is one of going where the Lord is leading, sometimes we are to stop and rest catch our breath, but we keep moving where the Lord is leading

V.10 (NRSV) Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to reside there as an alien, for the famine was severe in the land.

- Reminds me of 1 Peter 2:9-12
  - 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. 12 Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.
- ALIENS

- Being different
  - Superman
- “Go” . . . . .and do the works of Jesus
  - Preach the Kingdom, get saved, baptize them
  - Heal the sick
  - Cast out demons
  - Perform miracles
  - Train disciples
  - Be different
- Looks different for all of us, Be obedient and “go” where the Lord is calling you as an individual and as a church