

# BETWEEN BETHEL AND HAI

## GENESIS 12

Text: Genesis 12:8

### **Genesis 12:8**

<sup>8</sup>And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, *having* Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

Introduction:

#### 1. Abram's Orders Gen. 12:1-3

(Gen 12:1-3) "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: {2} And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: {3} And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

A. Personal Order (vs. 1)

B. Promising Order (vs. 2)

## C. Protecting Order (vs. 3)

### 2. Abram's Obedience Gen. 4-9

(Gen 12:4-9) "So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. {5} And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. {6} And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. {7} And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. {8} And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD. {9} And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south."

A. Certain of God's Leading.

B. Confident in God's Strength.

C. Stayed in Contact With God.

### 3. Abram's Opposition

There was a famine in the land.

A. The Departure (vs. 10)

B. The Deception (vs. 11-13)

C. The Discipline (vs. 14-20)

Why did this happen?

Earlier Abram had built an altar between Bethel and Hai.

Keep in mind that names in the Bible had a more significant meaning than names today.

Illustrations:

Cain - Gen 4:1

(Gen 4:1) "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD."

Seth - Gen 4:25

(Gen 4:25) "And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she,

hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew."

Noah - Gen 5:29

(Gen 5:29) "And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed."

Reuben - Gen 29:32

(Gen 29:32) "And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me."

Simeon - Gen 29:33

(Gen 29:33) "And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon."

Judah - Gen 29:35

(Gen 29:35) "And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing."

Naphtali - Gen 30:8

(Gen 30:8) "And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali."

Moses - Exo 2:10

(Exo 2:10) "And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water."

Samuel - 1 Sam 1:20

(1 Sam 1:20) "Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD."

Jabez 1 Chron 4:9

(1 Chr 4:9) "And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow."

Abram had built an altar between Bethel which means the house of God. The place of God's presence. The place that we all should dwell. But instead of dwelling

at Bethel and worshiping in Bethel the place of God's presence, he built the altar between Bethel and Hai. Hai means a heap of ruins.

The longer I'm in the ministry the more people I see building their altar somewhere between the presence of God and a heap of ruin.

They worship but fail to dwell in God's presence.

What are the results of worshiping between Bethel and Hai?

1. Become discouraged when a test or famine comes along.
2. Easier to head to Egypt. (Egypt is type of the world)
3. Time & Testimony is lost.
  - Time was wasted in Egypt
  - Testimony was tarnished with Pharaoh
4. Disputes between family and brethren occur.  
(Gen 13:7)

(Gen 13:7) "And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's

cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land."

5. Wrong tastes and desires are developed. (Gen 13:10)

(Gen 13:10) "And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar."

- Abram took Lot out of Egypt but he could not take Egypt out of Lot.

6. Easier to make further mistakes later on.  
(Gen 16:1-4)

(Gen 16:1-4) "Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. {2} And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. {3} And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. {4} And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes."

Close:

Where are you dwelling at?