

GENESIS

Grace from the Beginning

21/22 October 2017

Vol. 39, No. 43

The Chronicles of Abraham the Called with Whom God Covenants

Genesis 11:27-12:9 and Acts 7:2-5

English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Worship through Giving
Testimony
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Elder Dylan Halili
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-awit
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Patotoo
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Sam Rendal
Pangwakas na Panalangin
at Basbas

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



The Chronicles of Abraham the Called with Whom God Covenants

Today's Message (21/22 October 2017) /
Genesis 11:27-12:9 and Acts 7:2-5

WHEN GOD
COMMANDS
OBEDIENCE,
HE COVENANTS
TO BLESS THE
OBEDIENT
WHILE NEGATIVE
CONSEQUENCES
OR A CURSE
AWAIT THE
DISOBEDIENT.

This sermon chronicles the Chaldean background of Abraham, God's call of Abraham, and his compliance to God's call. GCFers are encouraged to be obedient to the call of God in their lives because only through immediate, complete and continuing obedience to God's calling can the believer experience the fullness of the spiritual blessings of God's promises.

1. THE **CIRCUMSTANCES** OF ABRAHAM WHEN GOD CALLED HIM: ABRAHAM'S CHALDEAN BACKGROUND (*GENESIS 11:27-30*)

- a. God calls people no matter what background they are from to serve his purposes (*Genesis 11:27-29*).
- b. God is sovereign to accomplish His sovereign plan even through those who are not called and despite circumstances that appear not promising (*Genesis 11:30*).

2. THE **COMPONENTS** OF GOD'S CALL TO ABRAHAM: THE COMMAND TO GO, AND GOD'S COVENANT PROMISES (*ACTS 7:2,3 & 5, GENESIS 12:1-3*)

- a. When God calls us into a relationship of faith with him it is a call not only towards a future state but also away from an original state (*Genesis 12:1, Acts 7:3,4*).
- b. When God commands obedience, He covenants to bless the obedient, while negative consequences or a curse await the disobedient (*Genesis 12:2-3*).

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Giving

Worship in Music

Doxology

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

Elder Dylan Halili

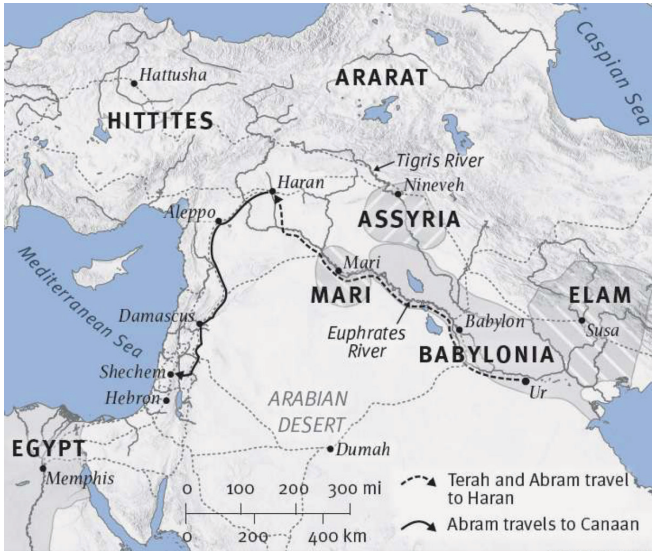
Response Hymn

Benediction



The Chronicles of Abraham the Called with Whom God Covenants

Today's Message (21/22 October 2017) /
Genesis 11:27-12:9 and Acts 7:2-5



THE SOJOURNS OF ABRAHAM. Abraham originated from the city of Ur (of the Chaldeans) along the Euphrates. Terah, Abraham's father, had thought of bringing his family to Canaan even before God called Abraham (Genesis 11:31), but along the way they settled in Haran. God called Abraham while he was in this city (*Map by Good News Publishers*).

3. THE **COMPLIANCE** OF ABRAHAM TO GOD'S CALL: OBEDIENCE AS A LEARNING CURVE (*GENESIS 11:31,32, ACTS 7:4, GENESIS 12:4-9*)

- There will always be impediments that, if allowed, can hold us back from obeying God completely (*Genesis 11:31-32, Genesis 12:4-5, Acts 7:4*).
- God's many promises await us when we are obedient to His commands (*Genesis 12:6-7, Acts 7:5*).
- Worship of God is the appropriate response to His grace, favor and faithfulness (*Genesis 12:8*).

4. PRACTICAL **CHRONOLOGY** FOR HEEDING THE CALL OF GOD TO A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE: THE SIX BASIC PRIORITIES

- Obey the call of the Gospel
- Obey the call to worship God
- Obey the call to share the Gospel with others
- Obey the call to grow spiritually
- Obey the call to serve in ministry
- Obey the call to remain faithful to our calling ■

WETFOOT TEAM UPDATE

The Wetfoot (WF) team is GCF's short-term mission (STM) program. Through WF, we hope to expose GCF members to missions and missionary work, disciplining them towards long-term mission involvement.

Last August, the team went to Chiang Rai, Thailand. They were able to serve the local ministries and learn about how the Lord is working in unreached people groups (UPG). However, their journey began long before the actual trip, and still continues. After much prayer, they applied and went through trainings for cross-cultural ministry. They were also tasked to partner, raise support, and spread awareness about missions. Coming back, the team members had to go through re-entry debriefing to help them reflect on their journey and evaluate how they can move forward.

Reverse culture shock is one of the common experiences missionaries go through. That is why it is important for us to give them opportunities to share their stories, to help them reflect, and for us to learn about the Lord's work among unreached peoples. We can invite them for coffee, to our Growth Groups, or simply ask them how they are and pray for them. These simple gestures are a ministry that can go a long way for God's kingdom.

For those who partnered with them, we thank you and hope that you continue to pray for

the team and their journey in the Mission of God.

SHORT-TERM MISSION TO JAPAN

Japan, though a country open to the gospel, is very hard ground for missions. Out of the 126 million Japanese, only 0.58% are evangelical Christians, making them one of the largest unreached people groups today. It is important for us therefore to be praying for Japan and for missionaries working there.

Theo Espinosa, a homegrown member of GCF and a missions apprentice for the past year, is exploring opportunities to be a long-term worker in Japan. He will be going on an STM visit under Wetfoot for six weeks, from November 13 to December 21. He will be hosted by one of our supported missionaries, Ken Taylor. This vision trip will help Theo see the possibilities as he prays for long-term mission work.

Harvest, one of our singing groups, will also go on an STM to Japan. As a singing group, they will be assisting with Ken Taylor's ministry as well. Their trip will be ten days in June next year, and they will also be going through the trainings and orientation to be conducted by the Wetfoot team.

I encourage you and your Growth Groups to be partners and senders by praying for them. If you are interested to be part of Theo Espinosa's or Harvest's prayer teams, please contact us at 0917 628 2583 ■

GCF MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Lloyd P. Estrada, GCF Corporate Secretary

We thank God for all the members He has been blessing GCF with. Posted in front of the ground floor elevator and the entrance of Auditorium B (escalator side) is an updated list of GCF members. **This list is not final and exhaustive**, and will be updated as soon as new and/or corrected information is provided.

If your name is not present on the list, or wrong information about yourself was posted, kindly visit the Ministry Information Booth to

affirm your membership or to help us rectify any error on the list. You may also contact either **Pastor Emerson Manaloto (0920 906 2623)** or **Ministry Assistant Zark Binag (0917 531 8267)** for further help.

Please bear with us as we pursue this endeavor. We need all the help we could get from you in keeping our Membership Roll up-to-date so that we could better pursue the Mission of God together ■

Ablaze Devotional

For we are of God's making, created in union with the Messiah Yeshua for a life of good actions already prepared by God for us to do.

- Ephesians 2:10 (CJB)

The first pages of Scripture tell us the story of God's creation. Everything that He had made was good. And God decided that He will make humans in His own image. And it was so; both male and female were created in God's image.

But what does it mean to bear God's image? When we read "God's image," we tend to form a mental picture of what we look like and then attribute this picture to God himself. But the Hebrew meaning of the word image concentrates not on the appearance but on the function. This creation story emerged from a culture where a king was said to rule in the image of a particular god. The king was seen as the manifestation of a particular god on earth. If one wanted to see what a god looks like, one should look at a king.

In Scripture, we find that there is something different about humans. Although not God, nor demi-gods, in some recognizable and deliberate way, God's image is placed in them. Human beings, from the beginning, reflect who God is. Each are called to rule and continue God's creative work. It was God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

But sin marred this image. Man wanted to rule in his own image. But that only brought discord, division, and death. But God, in His great love, for His creation, became flesh. He lived and restored humanity to its Creator and created purpose. That is salvation. That is redemption.

In Jesus, we see how it is to be fully human. He brings into being a new humanity. We are saved so we could be what we were created to be—to rule in God's image, sustaining and cultivating His created order ■

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



HELLO ME!

Picking Up the Pieces to Discover the New Me
A S.U.P.A. Moms Fellowship

October 28 (Sat.) 9 a.m. - 12 nn. at BM07-08
Contact **0917 532 1921** for more information



WELCOMING INTERNATIONALS

A workshop in partnership with the
OMF Philippines Home Council

November 11 (Sat.), 9 a.m. to 12:00 nn. here at GCF
Contact **0932 371 3457** for more information



JAPAN PRAYER DAY

November 11 (Sat.), 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
here at GCF (Sunken Lobby)

Contact **0932 371 3457** for more information



ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Nomination Period: October 15 to November 5
Election Days: December 9 and 10

Nomination forms are available at the Ministry Information Booth.

Weekly Stewardship REPORT

- Week of October 15, 2017 -

General Fund	4,684,558.58
Missions Fund	740,045.00
Designated	254,980.00
Total	5,679,583.58

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for all His blessings by an anonymous donor, Mr. & Mrs. Martin, the Basilad family, and the Messiah College.

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Would you like to read our weekly church bulletin on your mobile device? Just sign-up with your e-mail address at the Ministry Information Booth at the lobby.



Love God, love others. THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Justine Yambao has struggled with depression and anxiety for 12 years due to mental abuse and trauma. Her year-long internship in the US last year has been one of the most faith-stretching experiences she has undergone. Suicide seemed like an easier option for escape, as she had no one she was accountable to. But God kept unraveling His truth and love for her.



Coming back to Manila was harder than leaving. The reality of a chaotic environment did not help with processing her internship experience. Feeling more alone and unable to find joy in serving in church, she was ready to leave God's side.

However, it wasn't that easy to end a relationship with the One she has known her entire life. Her last Youth Camp ended being the beginning of a genuine relationship with God. He had called her back and overwhelmed her with His blessings. The love and grace He continues to show her makes her want to do the same to others. Her depression and anxiety has not gone away, but she's finding much hope and purpose in living. The outflow of everything God has given her allows her to joyfully serve as a 4Word trainee and a full-time ministry assistant, and train as a disciple and missions team member ■

You may also bless others by sharing your own shepherding or discipleship journey in loving God and in loving others. You may e-mail your story to lifejourney@gcf.org.ph.

ON THE COVER: Ruins of a household complex called "Abraham's House," found among the excavations of the ancient city of Ur, located in modern-day Iraq ([Wikimedia](https://www.wikipedia.org)). Iraq is a Muslim-majority nation where there are at least 26 people groups classified as unreached. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send more laborers in this field, at the same time strengthen the hearts of missionaries already working there.

Join a GROWTH GROUP

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Y-GROUP

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.,
and 4:30-5:30 p.m.
At GCF (Youth Center, 6th flr.)

ICU (Intimacy Care Unit) GG

for Couples aged 30 up
Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. at GCF (Rm. A109)

GREEN MEADOWS GG

for Couples aged 40 up
Every other Thursday, 8-10 p.m.
at Green Meadows Subdivision

NEW GG (GATHERING CONTACTS)

for Single Men aged 21-30
Tentatively scheduled on Sundays,
3-5 p.m. at GCF

YACIES TUESDAY GG

for Single Men and Women aged 30 up
Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m. at GCF (Rm. BM07)

SPORTS GGs (THREE GROUPS)

for Boys aged 11 to 18
Saturdays, 12 nn.-3 p.m. at GCF Multi-
purpose Gym (6th flr.)

Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B123
Get a feel of what a Growth Group is
like before you participate in one. Come
and join us!

*If you are interested in joining any of the
small groups above, fill out the tear-off
form inside this bulletin, drop it in the
offering bag or submit it to the Growth
Group booth at the lobby. For more
information, you can text or call us at
0917 532 7740.*



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **14/15 October 2017**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.