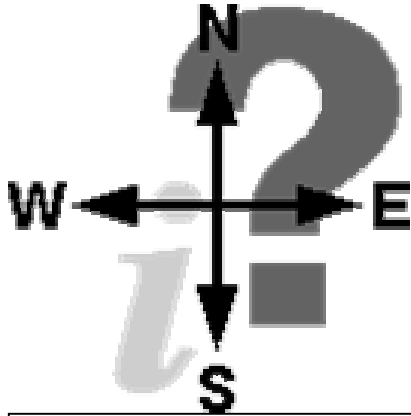


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



What about  
the Old Testament?

**Genesis 12:1-3**

**The Call of Abram**

1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

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.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

**Genesis 15:13-16**

13 Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

**Genesis 15:1-6**

**God's Covenant With Abram**

1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

2 But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit <sup>[c]</sup> my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." 5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

## LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, August 5

**Big Idea:** The God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament is the same God in three ways.

**Key Verse:** *Malachi 3:6*  
*I the Lord do not change*

**Opening Question:** What is the most significant thing that has happened to you in the past week?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.  
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders notes.

Read the passages.

David Brickner, Executive Director of Jews for Jesus, shared three ways that God is the same in the Old Testament and the New Testament from the passages in Genesis:

- God is the same in choosing
- God is the same in saving
- God is the same in judgment

### Discussion Questions

#### Choosing

1. What was the nature of Abram's call: it had three dimensions, what were they?
2. **What had Abram done to have God call him?**
3. **What is the basis for God's call on Abram?**
4. Is this "choosing" different from any "choosing" in the New Testament? How or how not?
5. **What has God called you to do?**

#### Saving

1. What is Abram's righteousness credited towards?
2. What is Abram's faith in?
3. **Look at Hebrews 11:11-12. What does this tell us about Abraham's faith?**
4. **What then is the basis for God's salvation?**
5. Is this any different from being saved in the New Testament? How or how not?
6. **On what are you trusting in for God's salvation?**

#### Judgment

1. What is the judgment passed on the Amorites and even the Israelites?
2. **What does the delay of judgment teach us about God?**
3. **What does this delay teach us about our responsibilities and actions?**
4. Is this judgment any different from the New Testament? How or how not?
5. **What is your answer to the judgment of God?**

#### *Leader's Notes*

1. *You may lead this session as a focus on one section or a study of all three. Remember the big idea—God is the same. The take away from this session is that all people will leave your study knowing that the God of the Old Testament is the God of the New Testament and there is no difference in His choosing, saving or judgment.*