

11 Cheshvan 5779

י"א בחשוון
תשע"ט

October 20, 2018



I am Creation: Prepared for Greatness

Week #3 - The Journey Begins

*What has your journey been like until this moment?
Can you identify key events that have shaped you?*

Genesis 12:1

ויאמר יהוה אל-אברם
לך-לך מארצך וממולדתך
ומבית אביך אל-הארץ
אשר אראך:
Vayomer Adonai el-Avram
lech-lecha mayartz'cha
ume'molad'tcha u'mebayt
avecha el-ha'aretz asher
areka.

The LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your native land and from your father’s house to the land that I will show you.

Genesis 2-4 : I will make of you a great nation, And I will bless you; I will make your name great, And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you And curse him that

curses you; And all the families of the earth Shall bless themselves by you.”Abram went forth as the LORD had commanded him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

What happened here? How did Abram respond?

Bereishit Rabbah 38:13: Rabbi Hiyya the grandson of Rabbi Adda of Yaffo [said]: Terah was a worshipper of idols. One time he had to travel to a place, and he left Abraham in charge of his store. When a man would come in to buy [idols], Abraham would ask: How old are you? They would reply: fifty or sixty. Abraham would then respond: Woe to him who is sixty years old and worships something made today - the customer would be embarrassed, and would leave. A woman entered carrying a dish full of flour. She said to him: this is for you, offer it before them. Abraham took a club in his hands and broke all of the idols, and placed the club in the hands of the biggest idol. When his father returned, he asked: who did all of this? Abraham replied: I can't hide it from you - a woman came carrying a dish of flour and told me to offer it before them. I did, and one of them said 'I will eat it first,' and another said 'I will eat it first.' The biggest one rose, took a club, and smashed the rest of them. Terah said: what, do you think you can trick me? They don't have cognition! Abraham said: Do your ears hear what your mouth is saying?

If you were Abram, what might you be thinking?

Bereishit Rabbah 39:1-2 - (1) Adonai said to Abram, "Go you forth from your land..." ... Rabbi Yitzchak said: this may be compared to a man who was traveling from place to place when he saw a bira doleket/castle aglow/lit up (full of light/in flames). He said, "Is it possible that this castle lacks a person to look after it? The owner of the building looked out and said, "I am the owner of the castle." Similarly, because Abraham our father said, "Is it possible that this castle has no guide, no one to look after it?," the Holy Blessed One looked out and said to him, "I am the Master of the Universe." ... Hence, God said to Avraham, Lech Lecha.

What is this midrash about?

R' Zusha: "When I come to the Heavens for my judgment, they will not ask me why I wasn't like Moses, for I am not Moses, but they will ask me if I achieved what Zusha was capable of.

R' Aharon II of Karlin - Every Jew must go for himself - to himself - to his roots, because that is the Jew's purpose.

Moses Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Idolatry, 1:3 - After he was weaned, while still an infant, Abraham's mind began to reflect. Day and night, he thought and wondered, "How is it possible that this celestial sphere should continuously be guiding the world and have no one to guide it and cause it to turn, for it cannot be that it turns

itself?" He had no teacher, no one to instruct him in anything. He was surrounded, in Ur of the Chaldees, by foolish idolaters. His father and mother and the entire population worshipped idols, and he worshipped with them. But his mind was constantly active and reflective, until he had attained the way of truth, found the correct line of thought, and knew that there is one God, he that guides the celestial spheres and created everything, and that among all that exists, there is no God beside him.

Is this what the journey is about?

R. David of Lelov - The Jewish journey is a journey to the root of the soul.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks - "Jews," wrote Andrew Marr, "really have been different; they have enriched the world and challenged it." [6] It is that courage to travel alone if necessary, to be different, to swim against the tide, to speak in an age of relativism of the absolutes of human dignity under the sovereignty of God, that was born in the words *Lech Lecha*. To be a Jew is to be willing to hear the still, small voice of eternity urging us to travel, move, go on ahead, continuing Abraham's journey toward that unknown destination at the far horizon of hope.

"I AM CREATION" Week Three Action Items:
