

## Genesis 12:1-5

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-אַבְרָם לֵךְ-לְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ  
אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲרָאָךְ: 2 וְאָעֲשֶׂה לְגוֹי גָדוֹל וְאֲבָרְכְךָ וְאֲגַדְלֶה שְׁמֶךָ  
וְהָיָה בְרָכָה: 3 וְאֲבָרְכָה מְבָרְכֶיךָ וּמִקְלָלֶיךָ אֲאָר וְנִבְרָכוּ בְּךָ כָּל  
מִשְׁפַּחַת הָאָדָמָה: 4 וַיֵּלֶךְ אַבְרָם כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֵלָיו יְהוָה וַיֵּלֶךְ אִתּוֹ  
לוֹט וְאַבְרָם בְּן-חָמֵשׁ שָׁנִים וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה בְּצֵאתוֹ מִחָרָן: 5 וַיִּקַּח  
אַבְרָם אֶת-שָׂרִי אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת-לוֹט בְּן-אָחִיו וְאֶת-כָּל-רְכוּשָׁם אֲשֶׁר  
רָכְשׁוּ וְאֶת-הַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר-עָשׂוּ בְּחָרָן וַיֵּצְאוּ לָלֶכֶת אֶרְצָה כְּנָעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ  
אֶרְצָה כְּנָעַן:

### Vocabulary

#### **Verse 1**

אברם name: "Abram"

מולדת noun: "kindred"

### Syntax & Miscellaneous

- The imperative verb form, לֵךְ, is easily confused with לְךָ, the inseparable preposition plus 2ms suffix that follows.
- Third *he* verbs lose their final *he* with the addition of suffixes, thus ראה becomes אֲרָאָךְ.
- Notice the different affects that the preposition מִן has when combined with ארץ (nun assimilates, aleph cannot be doubled, and hireq lengths to sere), מולדת (nun assimilates causing the mem to be doubled) and בית (nun assimilates with doubling of beth).

#### **Verse 2**

גוי noun: "people"

ברכה noun: "blessing"

#### **Verse 3**

שפה noun: "family"

#### **Verse 4**

לוט name: "Lot"

חרן name (of a place): "Haran"

חמש numeral: "five"

## Genesis 12:1-5

שבעים numeral: “seventy”

### Verse 5

שרי name: “Sarai”

רכוש noun: “property”

רכש verb: “acquired”

כנען name: “Cannan”

### Syntax & Misc.

### Verse 2

- Many have made much of the different semantic domains of the words *goy* and *'am*. Although there is divergence in usage, the semantic domain of each overlaps substantially (see [TDOT](#)). We should not be influenced by the modern negative connotation of *goy* in the translation of the biblical Hebrew word.
- How should the last clause be rendered? וְהָיָה בְרָכָה The editor of BHS wants to read the verb as a perfect 3ms.

### Verse 3

- Notice the use of parallel substantive participles “those who bless you” || “those who curse you.”
- The last clause begins with a *Niphal* verb whose subject is not found in the normal second position after the verb but at the end of the clause. This subordination continues the emphasis upon God’s blessing through Abram.

### Verse 4

- The third clause demonstrates the idiomatic presentation of the age of Abram: “Now Abram was a son of five years and of seventy years,” meaning he was 75 years old

## Genesis 12:6-9

וַיַּעֲבֹר אַבְרָם בְּאֶרֶץ עַד מְקוֹם שְׁכֶם עַד אֵלוֹן מוֹרָה וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי אָז  
בְּאֶרֶץ: 7 וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה אֶל-אַבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר לְזָרְעֶךָ אֲתָן אֶת-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת  
וַיְבִן שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה הַנִּרְאָה אֵלָיו: 8 וַיַּעֲתֵק מִשָּׁם הָהָרָה מִקְדָּם  
לְבֵית-אֵל וַיֵּט אֶהְלֵה בֵּית-אֵל מִיָּם וְהָעִי מִקְדָּם וַיְבִן-שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה  
וַיִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה: 9 וַיִּסַּע אַבְרָם הַלּוֹךְ וַנְּסוּעַ הַנֶּגֶבָה: פ

### Vocabulary

#### Verse 1

אברם name: "Abram"

עד preposition (spatial marker): "unto"

שכם name (of place): "Shechem"

אלון מורה name (of place): "the terebinth of Moreh"

כנעני "Canaanite" (Canaani)

אז "then"

### Syntax & Miscellaneous

- Bound (i.e. Construct) phrases with proper nouns are definite; hence אלון מורה "the tall tree of Moreh."
- The last verbless clause uses a disjunctive waw.
- The vocalic suffix, *hireq yod* (not "ite"), indicates a gentilic noun that is a name of a group or people (e.g. *Canaani*, not Canaanite; *Israeli*, not Israelite; *Benjamini*, not Benjamite; etc.).

#### Verse 7

וירא verb (*Niphal*): "appear"

הנראה participle (*Niphal*): "appeared"

#### Verse 8

עתק verb (*Hiphil*): "move forward" (BDB, 801)

קדם "east"

מים "westward"

#### Verse 9

נסע verb: "sojourn, journey"

הנגבה name (of place): "Negev"

### Syntax & Misc.

#### Verse 7

- Adjectives must agree in person, number and definiteness (הארץ הזאת).
- The substantival participle, הנראה, modifies the preceding noun phrase (ליהוה).

#### Verse 8

## Genesis 12:6-9

- The directional marker, **דָּבָר**, literally means “seaward” or “toward the sea” which is west of Israel/Canaan.

### **Verse 9**

- As with the sea/westward direction of verse 8, **הַנֶּגֶב** could indicate the place called “the Negev” or the direction of the Negev—south.

## Genesis 12:10-13

וַיְהִי רָעָב בְּאֶרֶץ וְיָרַד אַבְרָם מִצְרַיִם לְגֹר שָׁם כִּי־כָבַד הָרֶעִב  
בְּאֶרֶץ: 11 וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר הִקְרִיב לְבֹא מִצְרַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־שָׂרַי אִשְׁתּוֹ  
הִנֵּה־נָא יֹדַעְתִּי כִּי אִשָּׁה יִפְתַּח־מְרָאָה אֹתָּ: 12 וְהָיָה כִּי־יִרְאוּ אֹתְךָ  
הַמִּצְרַיִם וְאָמְרוּ אִשְׁתּוֹ זֹאת וְהָרְגוּ אֹתִי וְאֹתְךָ יַחֲיוּ: 13 אָמַרְיִנָּה  
אֲחֹתִי אַתָּה לְמַעַן יִטְבַּח־לִי בְּעַבְדְּךָ וְחִיתָה נַפְשִׁי בְּגִלְלָד:

### Vocabulary

#### Verse 10

רָעָב noun: “famine”

מִצְרַיִם name: “Egypt/Egyptians”

#### Verse 11

שָׂרַי “Sarai”

יִפְתַּח “beautiful” (BDB, 421)

מְרָאָה noun: “appearance”

### Syntax & Miscellaneous

- The final clause of verse 10 is a verbless clause. It follows the typical clause construction: predicate + subject (P–S).
- The relative marker, כַּאֲשֶׁר, probably indicates a temporal clause—“when.”
- The final clause of verse 11 is also a verbless clause. Following the P–S construction, אֹתָּ is the subject and the predicate is the phrase יִפְתַּח־מְרָאָה אֹתְךָ.

#### Verse 12

הָרַג verb: “kill”

#### Verse 13

לְמַעַן “so that”

בְּעַבְדְּךָ “on account of, for the sake of” (BDB, 721)

בְּגִלְלָד “for the sake of” (BDB, 164)

### Syntax & Misc.

#### Verse 12

- The first verb is a *waw*-consecutive perfect (*weqatal*).
- Should the phrase, אִשְׁתּוֹ זֹאת, be understood as “this wife of his” or as “this is his wife”? Why?
- The juxtaposition (also chiasmic structure) of the last two clauses demonstrates the use of conjunctive and disjunctive *waw*.

#### Verse 13

- Normal P–S construction: אֲחֹתִי אַתָּה “You are my sister.”