



Abraham's Call

Genesis 12:1-9

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God cooperates with humanity:

- ❖ He works in us.
- ❖ He works through us.
- ❖ He works in spite of us.

Call narratives:

❖ Abraham

❖ Moses

❖ Gideon

❖ Isaiah

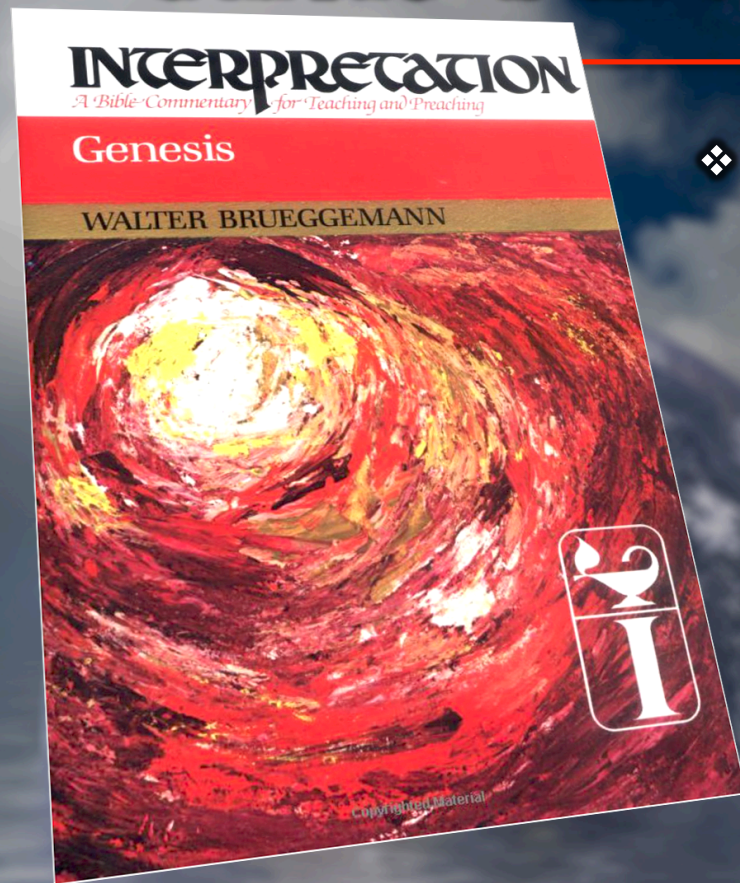
❖ Jeremiah

❖ Paul

Abraham's call/Your call:

- ❖ Where is he from?
- ❖ Where is he going?
- ❖ How will he get there?

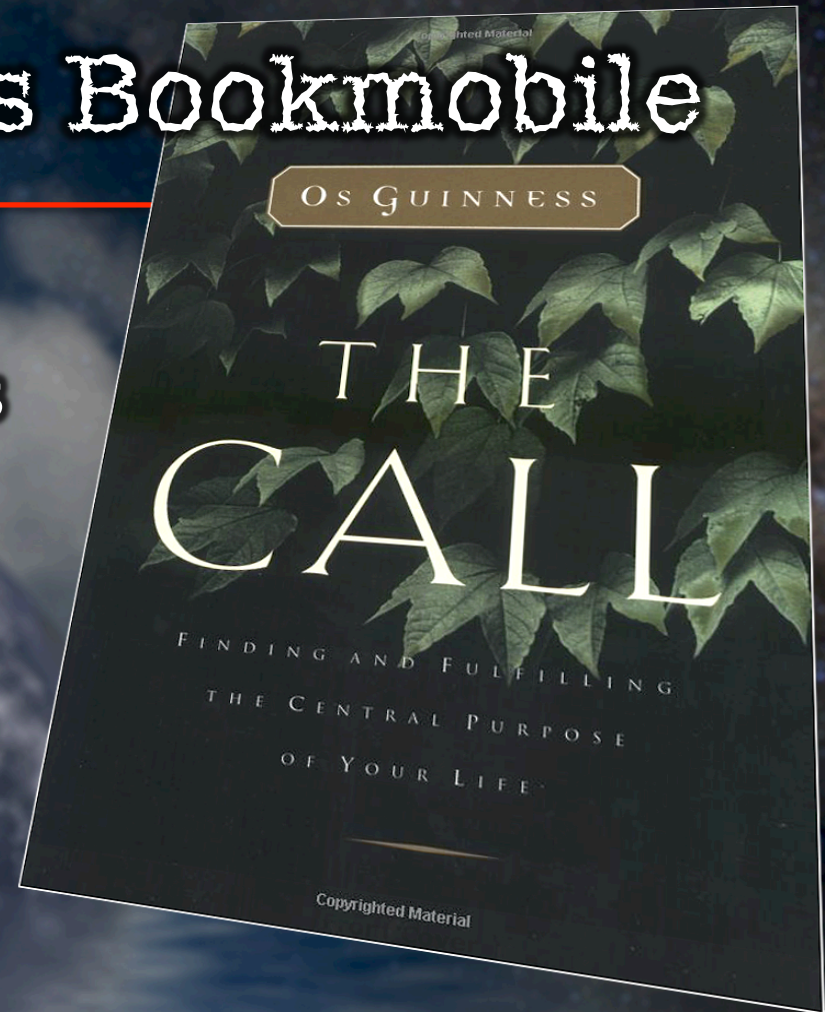
Uncle Curt's bookmobile:



❖ *Genesis*
— Walter Brueggemann

Uncle Curt's Bookmobile

- ❖ *The Call*
— Os Guinness



Genesis of Genesis:

- ❖ Creation (1-2)
- ❖ Fall and consequences (3-11)

Genesis 12:1

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

Genesis 12:2

**“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.**

Genesis 12:3

**“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 12:4

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him;
and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-
five years old when he set out from Harran.

Genesis 12:5

He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Abraham's Journey

From Ur, to Haran, to Egypt



Walter Brueggemann:

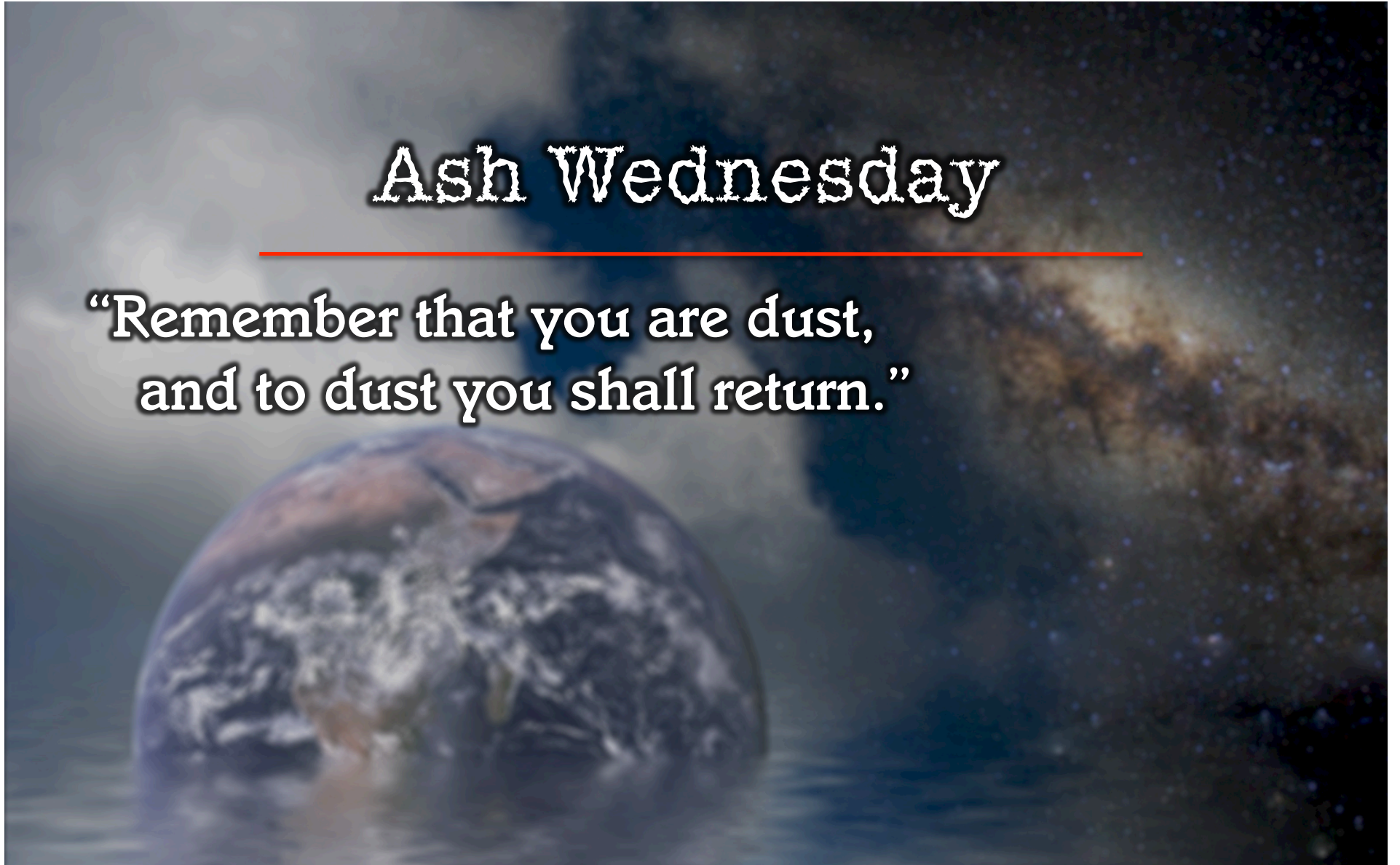
“It is there within and among us, for we are ordained of God to be people of hope ... Hope is the decision to which God invites Israel, a decision against despair, against permanent consignment to chaos, oppression, barrenness, and exile.”

James 4:14

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Ash Wednesday

“Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”



Genesis 1-2

- ❖ Creation
- ❖ + Blessing



Genesis 12:2

**“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.**

Genesis 12:3

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

Psalm 32:1-2

Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

God's call:

- ❖ From your current place/situation.
- ❖ To a new place/situation.



God's call =

- ❖ Come now.
- ❖ Come as you are (not after you work it out).
- ❖ Blessings + understanding will follow.

God's call:

- ❖ To conversion/salvation (once for all)
- ❖ To ordinary trust/obedience (daily)



Ezekiel 2:1-2

He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

Os Guinness:

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are but also of becoming what we are not yet but are called by God to be.”

Os Guinness:

“We cannot find God without God. We cannot reach God without God. We cannot satisfy God without God — which is another way of saying that our seeking will always fall short unless God’s grace initiates the search and unless God’s call draws us to him and completes the search.”

Genesis 12:6-7

Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 12:8-9

From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Romans 4:1-3

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about — but not before God. What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:4-6

Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

Romans 4:7-8

“Blessed are those
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

Double imputation:

- ❖ Jesus took our righteousness (= filthy rags) to the cross.
- ❖ We receive his righteousness.

Who is Abraham?/Who are you?

- ❖ Called by God
- ❖ Blessed by God
- ❖ Called to bless others
- ❖ Empowered by the righteousness of Jesus



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper