

## Fun facts about Genesis 12.1-3

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- J First direct speech from God to a human since 7.1
- J First of ten “tests” of Abra(ha)m:
  1. call to leave Haran
  2. famine leads to Egypt
  3. strife with Lot over wells/land
  4. royal battle to save Lot
  5. threatened loss of Ishmael
  6. circumcision as test
  7. Lot/Sodom-Gomorrah
  8. Sarah before king Abimelech
  9. departure of Ishmael at Isaac's birth
  10. sacrifice of Isaac

"we observe an unmistakable progression in the successive tests" (U. Cassuto, vol. 2, 294-296)
- J 12.1's opening words in Hebrew, *lekh-lekha*, frame the narrative as repeated at 22.2, and nowhere else in the Hebrew Scriptures
- J Similarly, the threefold call of what to leave matches the threefold naming of Isaac at 22.2
- J There are ten Hebrew words in these three verses that end with “*kha*,” creating a rhyming pattern
- J First use of Hebrew, *bayith ‘ab*, “father’s house,” in Genesis, but found 14 times in Genesis after this
- J In 12.2-3, we have
  - the seventh use in Genesis of Hebrew, *goy*, “nation”
  - the seventh use in Genesis of Hebrew, *brk*, “to bless”
  - the seventh use in Genesis of Hebrew, *mishpachah*, “family”
- J In 12.1-7, we have ‘*eretz*, “land, seven times.