מדרש

Midrash

ON GENESIS 12:1

How Avraham first discovered there is a G-d

Bereshit Rabbah 39:1

Rabbi Yitzchak, through the parable of a traveler who sees a lit building and wonders whether it has an owner, teaches that Avraham looked upon the world and perceived that it must have a Master guiding it. In response, the Holy One blessed be He revealed Himself to Avraham, declaring, "I am the owner of the world," affirming that his perception was correct. This encounter is identified as the moment described in "The Lord said to Abram," showing that Avraham's call began with his own independent recognition of G-d as Creator and Ruler of existence. AI SUMMARY

“The Lord said to Abram: Go you, from your land, and from your birthplace, and from your father’s house, to the land that I will show you” (Genesis 12:1). “The Lord said to Abram: Go you, from your land…” – Rabbi Yitzḥak began: “Listen, daughter, see, and incline your ear. Forget your people and your father’s house” (Psalms 45:11).

Rabbi Yitzḥak said: This is analogous to one who was passing from place to place, and saw a building with a [candle] burning in it. He said: ‘Is it possible that this building has no one in charge of it?’ The owner of the building looked out at him and said: ‘I am the owner of the building.’

So, because Abraham our patriarch was saying: ‘Is it possible that this world is without someone in charge?’ The Holy One blessed be He looked at him and said to him: ‘I am the owner of the world.’ “The king will desire your beauty, as he is your master” (Psalms 45:12) – to show your beauty in the world. “And bow to him” (Psalms 45:12) – that is, “the Lord said to Abram.”