Helps for Parsing Weak Verbs in Gen 12: 5-9
Hebrew Grammar: Dr. Marshall

In this handout, I help you with several of the weak verbs that you have not studied yet. I will parse and translate them for you, so that you can use that knowledge to understand the rest of the clauses, given what you have studied.

12:5

a. וַיִּקַּח I'm not going to parse this for you, since you just learned this in Ross ch. 34 (last section). Hint: although it acts like a I-nun verb, it's not I-nun.

b. עָשׂוּ From עָשָׂה, Qal pft 3cp: This verb normally means “to do, make,” but that gloss doesn’t make sense here. Look at your Holladay lexicon under עָשָׂה in the Qal and look for the best meaning (there are 16 possible definitions given). Note: “Gen 12:5” is given as an example under the section that provides the best meaning here.

c. וַיֵּצְאוּ From יצא, Qal wci 3mp: “(and) they went out/departed.”

d. לָלֶ֫כֶת From הלך, Qal infc (+ prep ל): “to go, walk.” Question: What is the function of the preposition ל attached to an infinitive construct?

e. וַיָּבֹ֫אוּ From בָּאוּ, Qal wci 3mp: “(and) they went in/entered/arrived.”

12:6 No weak verbs! Actually, וַיַּעֲבֹר is weak (I-gutt), but we’ve covered weak gutts in chapters 32-33.

12:7

a. וַיֵּרָא From אַהֲרָא, Niph wci 3ms: “(and) he appeared.” Note: in the Qal, ראָא means “to see.” The Niph could mean “to be seen,” but it is more commonly rendered “to appear, become visible.” [See Holladay, pp. 327-8 for the entry in the lexicon.]

b. וַיִּבֶן From בָּנֶה, Qal wci 3ms: “(and) he built.”

c. הַנִּרְאֶה From רָאוֹ, Niph ptc ms [+ article ה]: “who had appeared.”

12:8

a. טוַיֵּ From נָטָה, Qal wci 3ms: “(and) he pitched (a tent).”
b. וַיִּבֶן From בָּנָה, Qal wci 3ms: “(and) he built.”

12:9 The weak verbs in this verse you have already seen in Ross.