



FATHER ABRAHAM

OPENING COMMENT

The beginnings of God's redemptive plan is found in the story of Abram. Through this unlikely character we begin to understand the scope of God's vision for humanity and the means by which He will accomplish this vision. In God's providence, these accounts are outlined in historical narrative as opposed to polemical argumentation, which allows us to understand this redemptive history in vivid color. Through the imperfect characters of Genesis we see God as faithful, gracious and concerned with global redemption. Abram is the first in a line of flawed, but faith filled, conduits of God's blessing to the world.

READ THE TEXT: Genesis 11:27 – 12:9

²⁷ Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸ Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹ Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.



12 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1. Verse 27 – 30 outlines some of the details surrounding Abram's family. What are the family details worth remembering?
2. Where was Terah's family heading? What was the route they took? (Map attached for reference)
3. What are all the things Abram is asked to leave behind? (12:1)
4. What are the promises God makes to Abram? (12:2-3)
5. What is the purpose of these promises?
6. What is Abram's response to God's promise in verse 7?

APPLYING THE TEXT

1. Why are the verses outlining Abram's ancestry and family circumstances important?
2. How does a clear understanding of Abram's circumstances help us understand God's promises to us in the New Testament?
3. God calls Abram to radical obedience. He is called to leave his country, his family, and his people, which means he left all semblance of safety and security behind. How and where might this challenge our understanding of God's calling on our life?
4. God's purpose, from the very beginning was to have his people be a global blessing. How should this understanding inform our engagement in the world today?
5. How does God's promise in 12:3 help us navigate our way in the current world?



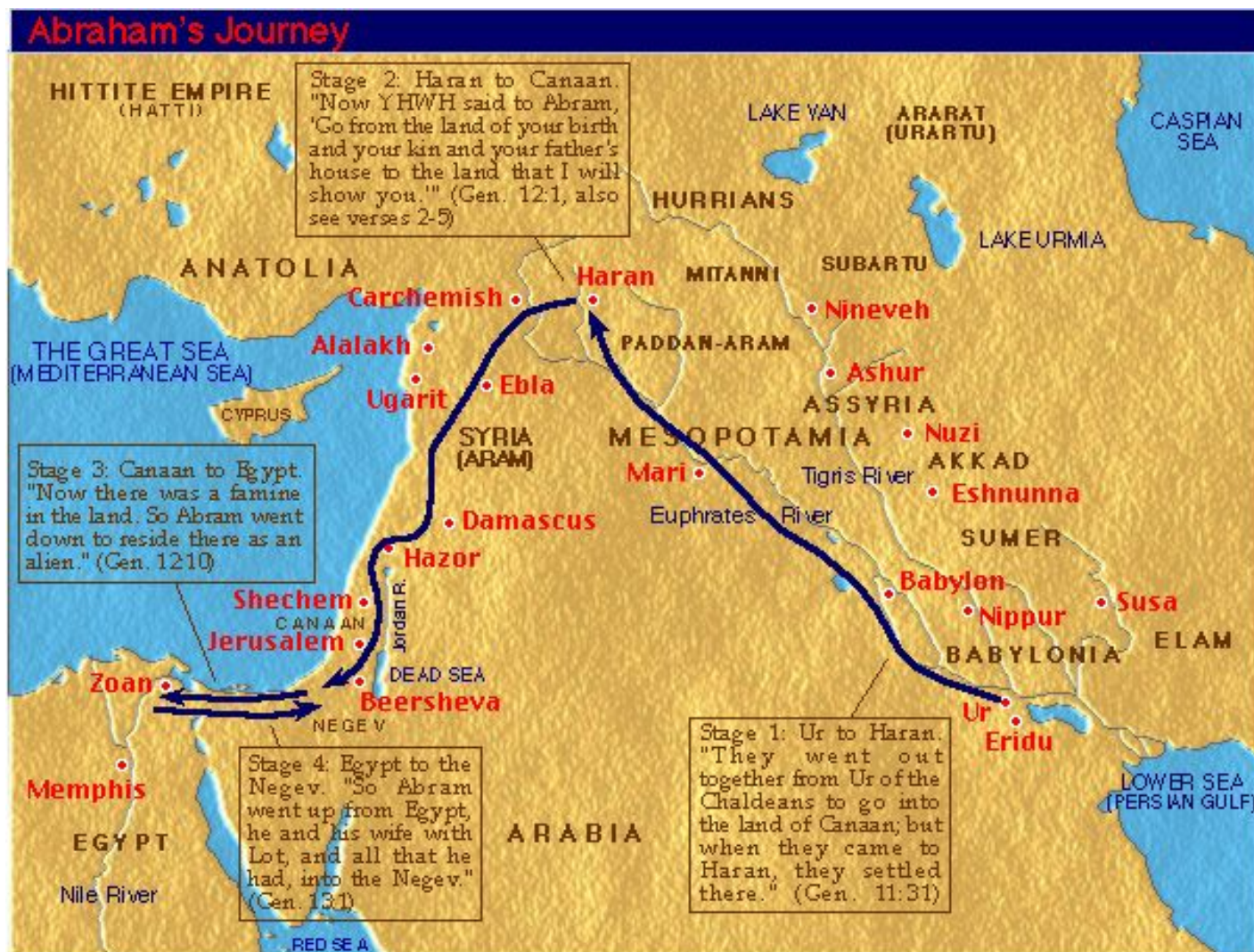
BIBLICAL THREAD

1. Genesis 22:15-18 – God will bless the Nations because of Abraham’s righteousness.
2. Genesis 28:14 – Being a blessing to the nations is repeated to Jacob.
3. Psalm 117 – The culmination of remembering God’s salvation in the exodus.
4. Matthew 5:13-16 – The purpose to our good works is so that those around can see them and praise God.
5. Matthew 28:16-20 – The culmination of God’s redemptive story is that the nations have access to salvation through the proclamation of the word.
6. Romans 11 – the nations (gentiles) are now grafted into the family of God bringing to fruition the promise God made Abram in Genesis 12.

CONCLUSION

As the story of Abram begins to unfold we get a clear picture who God is and how He operates. It is clear from Abram’s call that God is the God who blesses and curses (seen in his promises), He is the God who makes the impossible happen (seen in the barren Sarai), and He is a God who asks for radical faith (seen in his command to leave everything Abram knew). Not only does God reveal who He is, but also gives us a glimpse into the grandeur of his salvation plan. God’s purpose in calling Abram out of his culture, family, and safety was to bless the globe. Through Abram the world would be granted grace unimaginable in Christ.





SHARE & PRAY

LIFE GROUP VISION:

The goal to meeting together around the word of God is three fold. First, we want to more clearly understand what God is saying to us through his Word and apply it to our own hearts and minds. Secondly, we want to build a loving community with each other to disciple one another toward maturity in Christ. Thirdly, we desire each of us, as ambassadors of Christ, to look outwards to our community and ask how we can bring the truth of the gospel to bear on those whom God has placed in our lives.

