

Chapter 11

From the Flood to Abram

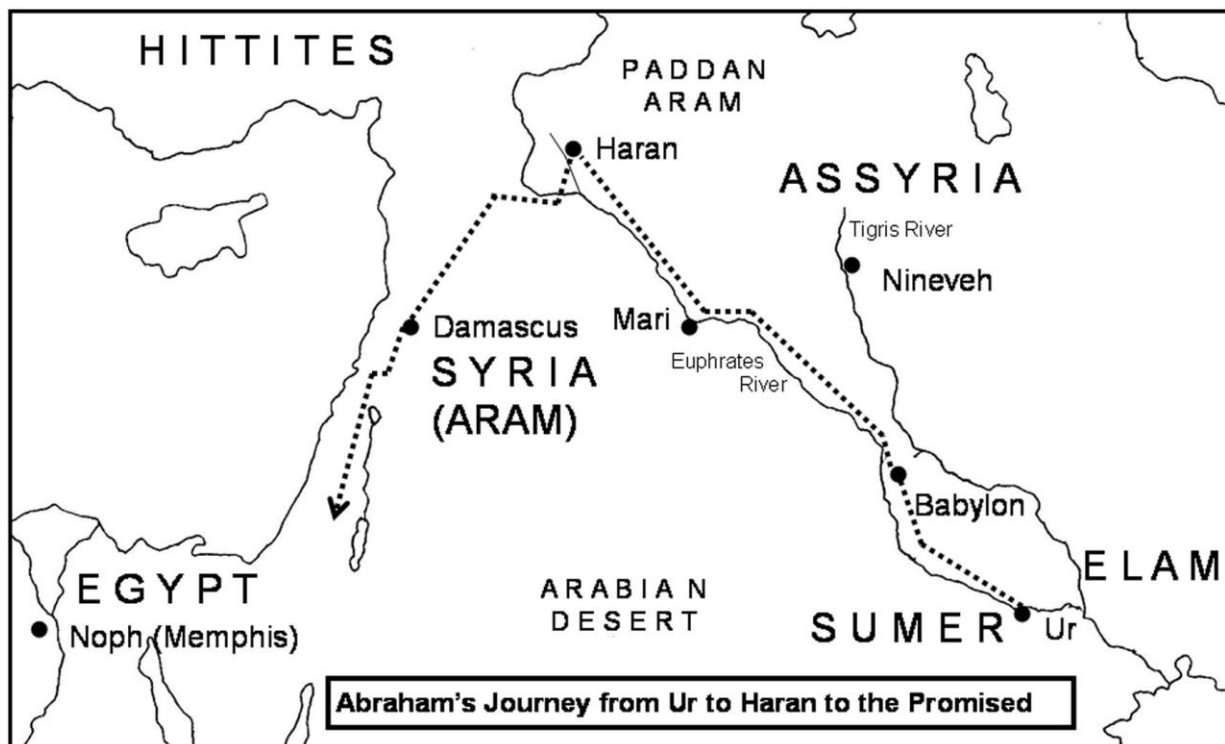
Genesis 11:10-26 (Toledoth of Shem)

- Looking at the chart below, what do you notice?

| Name | Age at birth of son listed in the genealogy | Rest of life | Whole life | Year of Birth (From Creation) | Year of Death (From Creation) |
|---------------------|---|--------------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Adam | 130 | 800 | 930 | 1 | 930 |
| Seth | 105 | 807 | 912 | 130 | 1042 |
| Enosh | 90 | 815 | 905 | 235 | 1140 |
| Kenan | 70 | 840 | 910 | 325 | 1235 |
| Mahalalel | 65 | 830 | 895 | 395 | 1290 |
| Jared | 162 | 800 | 962 | 460 | 1422 |
| Enoch | 65 | 300 | 365 | 622 | 987 |
| Methuselah | 187 | 782 | 969 | 687 | 1656 |
| Lamech | 182 | 595 | 777 | 874 | 1651 |
| Noah | 500 | 450 | 950 | 1056 | 2006 |
| To the flood | 100 | | | | |
| Total | 1656 | | | | |
| Shem | 100 | 500 | 600 | 1559 | 2159 |
| Arpachshad | 35 | 403 | 438 | 1659 | 2097 |
| Shelah | 30 | 403 | 433 | 1694 | 2127 |
| Eber | 34 | 430 | 464 | 1724 | 2188 |
| Peleg | 30 | 209 | 239 | 1758 | 1997 |
| Reu | 32 | 207 | 239 | 1788 | 2027 |
| Serug | 30 | 200 | 230 | 1820 | 2050 |
| Nahor | 29 | 119 | 148 | 1850 | 1998 |
| Terah | 70 | | 205 | 1879 | 2084 |
| Abram, Nahor, Haran | | | | 1949 | |

Read Genesis 11:26-32 (Toledoth of Terah)

- The Toldeoth of Shem only included on man from each generation. Why does the Toledoth of Terah now include three sons?
- (Verse 31) Where was Terah's homeland? Where was he going? Where did he stop?
- It seems like Terah and family took the long way to get to Canaan. Didn't they have a map? Why would they end up in Haran on the way to Canaan?

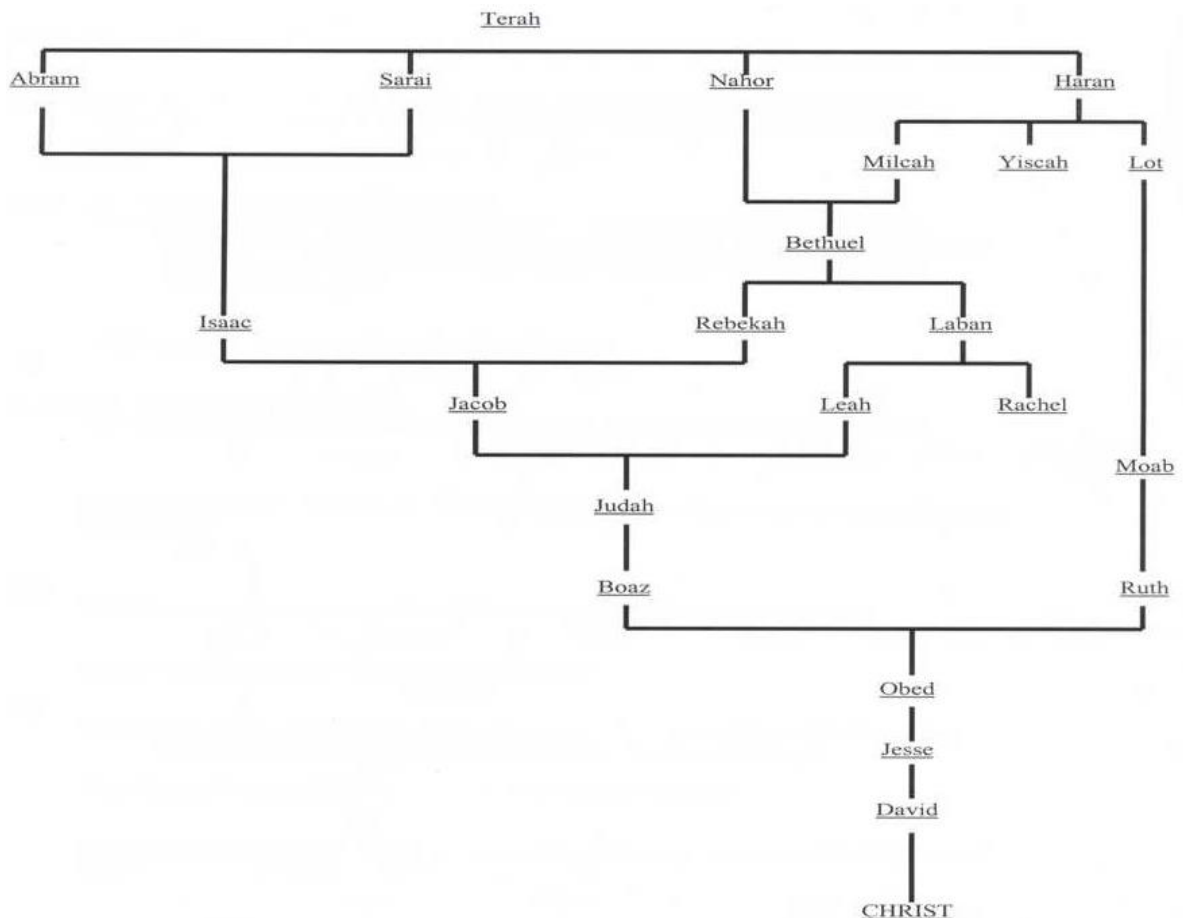


Chapter 12

The Call of Abram

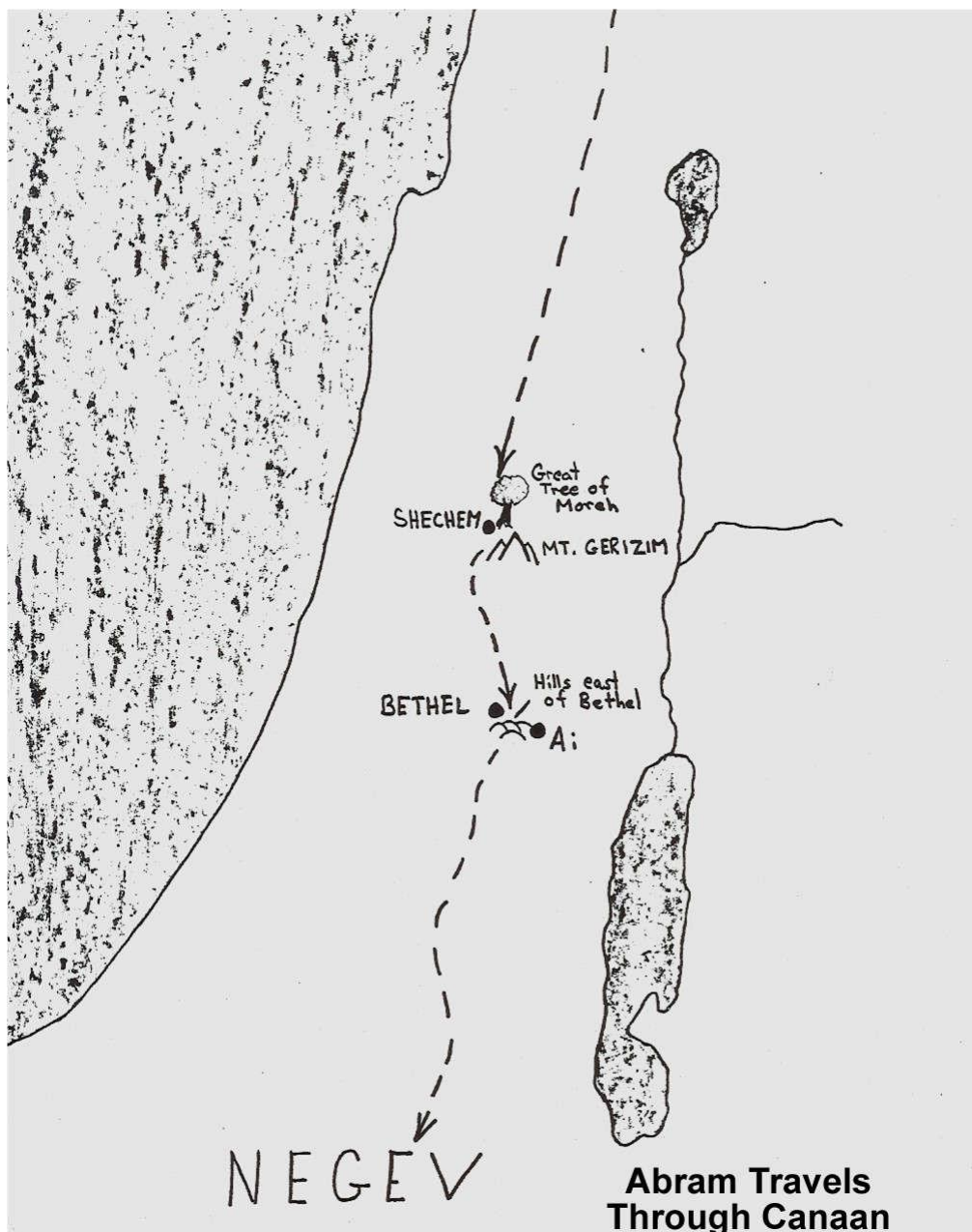
Read Genesis 12:1-3

- Note that it was the LORD who spoke to Abram here. What is significant about that name? How is that name especially fitting considering what is said in these three verses?
- What might make following God's command in verse 1 difficult?
- To build in Abram a willingness to follow his call, God gave Abram a cluster of promises. What strikes you when you look at these promises?
- *Genesis 12:1-3 is the driving force of Old Testament history. This promise moves history from Abraham to the time of Christ.*



Read Genesis 12:4-9

- What detail in verse 4 is absolutely amazing?
- Read again verses 5-6. If you were Abram, what thought would be going through your mind?
- What three amazing details can you find in verse 7?



- Note how Abram and company continue to move southward. What are some possible explanations for this?
- “The only safe foundation for faith is not what we see and feel but what God has said. That’s what God was after with Abram, and that’s what he’s after with us.”

(People’s Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.123)

Read Genesis 12:10-20

- Why did people always go to Egypt when there was a famine?
 - “Canaan has always been a land of what we would call minimal rainfall. Since ancient Canaan’s agriculture was rain-fed, draught was a recurring problem. One could guess that this would be especially hard on a nonresident like Abram, who didn’t own a square inch of land but depended on the goodwill of landowners for water and grazing rights for his cattle. Egypt, by contrast, practiced irrigation agriculture. In ancient times the Nile River, swollen by snowmelt from the interior of Africa, each year brought life-giving water and nutrients down through the valley of the Nile, that green 5 percent of Egypt’s territory that supported the other 95 percent, and made Egypt the breadbasket of the Mediterranean world. It’s not hard to understand why, in a time of drought, Abram would take his household and his flocks and head south for Egypt.”

(People’s Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.124-125)

- When they went to Egypt, Abram was afraid for his life because of how beautiful Sarai was.
 - What was wrong with Abram’s fear?
 - What is so amazing about this detail of Sarai’s beauty?

- A similar event takes place again later in Abram’s life. Note what Abram says later in Genesis 20:11-13:

¹¹ Abraham replied, “I thought, ‘There is absolutely no fear of God in this place. They will kill me because of my wife.’ ¹² Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. ¹³ So when God had me wander from my father’s house, I said to her: Show your loyalty to me wherever we go and say about me: ‘He’s my brother.’ ”

- What light do these words shed on this episode of Abram’s life? What is Abram really asking Sarai to do?
- Explain the ramifications (the expected results) of verse 15.
- (Verse 17) Note the name of God used here. What does that tell you?
- “This episode has a familiar ring to it. Like Abram, we are often strong in faith when it comes to the big things in life—like accepting God’s pardon or trusting in Christ’s merit to make us members of God’s family. But then in some earthly matter we stumble in doubt and unbelief, and we fall. Perhaps it’s a problem with our earning our daily bread that trips us up. Maybe our particular problem is learning to face life one day at a time without running to the medicine cabinet or reaching for a bottle. ‘Satan will climb the fence where it’s lowest,’ Martin Luther once remarked. Fortunately for us, Satan is not the only one who knows what frail creatures of clay we are. It was only the loyal love of God that rescued Abram. If you and I are to be kept from falling and preserved to inherit God’s promised blessing, God’s free and faithful love is our only hope.”

(People’s Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.126)