

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

PERIOD TWO

THE PATRIARCHS - ABRAHAM

LESSON 7

Time	PERIOD TWO THE PATRIARCHS			
Main thought	THE MESSAGE OF FAITH IS FOUND IN THE LIVES OF THESE MEN			
Great men	ABRAHAM	ISAAC	JACOB	JOSEPH
Chapters that tell of each part	Genesis 12 to 23	Genesis 24 to 26	Genesis 27 to 36	Genesis 37 to 50
what this part tells about	Faithful friend of God. Father of a great nation. Job may have	Man of peace, Son of a great man. lived during	A Prince of God. this time.	Good man.

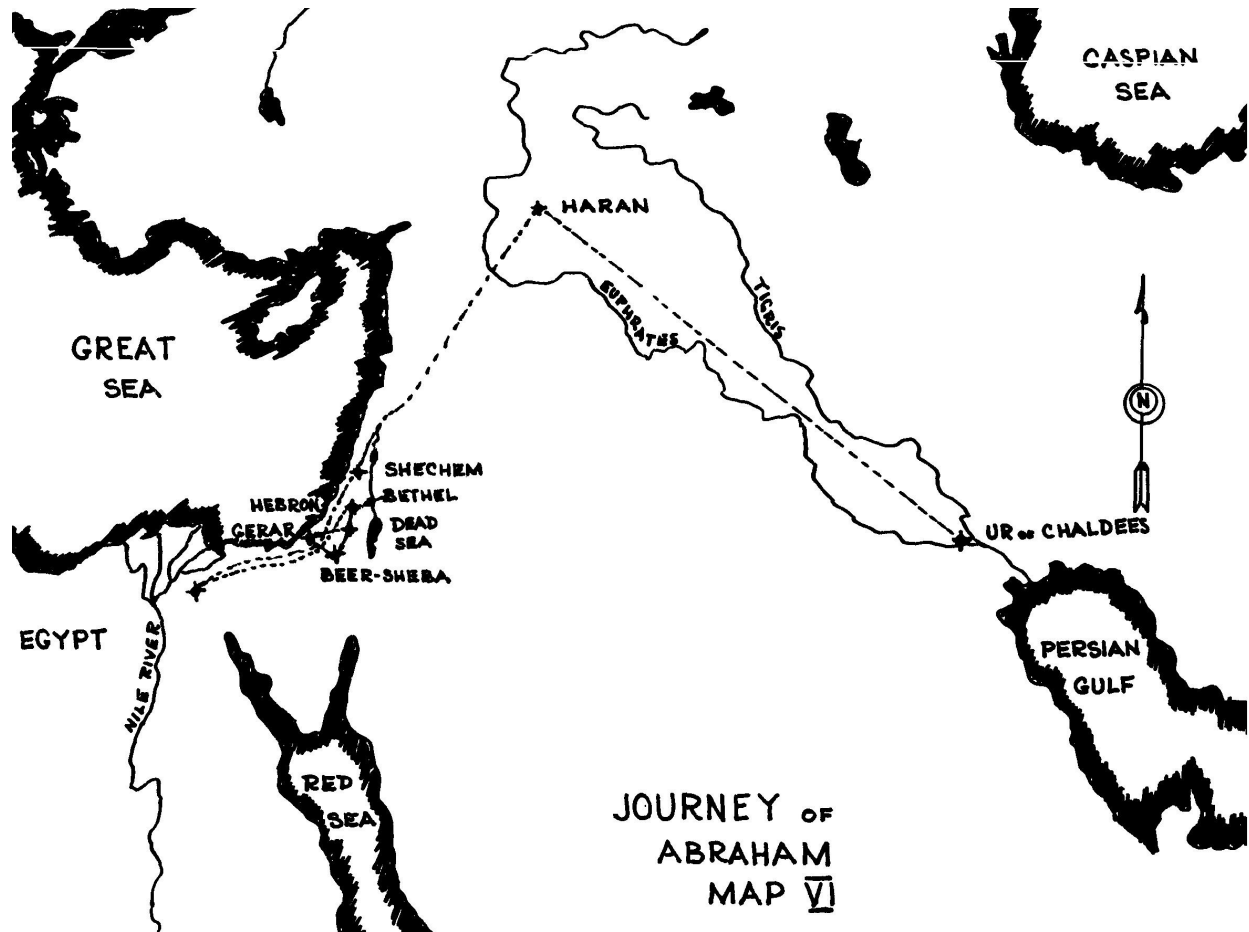
From the flood to Abram was a long time. We do not know how long it was from the flood to Abram. During this time some tribes became great nations. These great nations were Mesopotamia, Syria, Canaan and Egypt. It is believed that some of these nations were 1000 years old when Abram was born. While Abram lived, the two largest nations were Mesopotamia and Egypt.

As early as 2800 to 2400 BC. people knew how to write. They made clay tablets to write on. Some of these tablets have been found and can be seen today. Since 1929 people have found ruins of old, old cities. They dug the cities up and found many things made thousands of years ago. The people who lived many thousands of years ago knew how to make things out of metal. They even had chariots (wagons). They used these chariots in war.

The graves of people long, long ago show that they believed in life after death. The people buried clothing, tools and ornaments with the dead. The graves of kings would often have several servants laying beside the body of the king. It is believed that the servants took poison and laid down beside the king so they could be with him in the next world.

People no longer had fellowship with God because Adam sinned. Yet they knew there was a God. They tried to find God by worshipping the things they could see. The pictures and writings on old, old tablets show that the people worshipped the moon and the sun. The people also had other gods. Their old cities had altars to their gods.

The true and living God wanted the people to worship Him. This is why He sent them away from Babel. This is why He told Abram to leave his father, mother, brothers and sisters.



1. MAIN THOUGHT OF PERIOD TWO

The main thought of the period of the Patriarchs is: **Faith in the true God.**

2. ABRAM

READ GENESIS CHAPTERS 12 to 23. READ THEM CAREFULLY.

A. Where Abram was born.

Abram was born in Ur. Where is Ur found on the map?

Abram lived about 2000 years before Christ. He was first called Abram. Abram means great father. Later he was called Abraham. Abraham means father of many.

Abram belonged to a very rich family. His family had much cattle, money and servants (Genesis 13:2).

B. God called Abram.

Abram loved God. He did not worship the gods of his father and mother. God asked Abram to leave his father, mother, brothers and sisters. God wanted to take him to a new country. This was so that his friends and relatives would not teach him to worship false gods. In the new country he could teach his children to worship the true God.

What did God promise Abram if he obeyed (Genesis 12:2,3)?

A descendant of Abram would bring blessing to all the people of the world. Who was this descendant (Matthew 1:1)?

When Abram left Ur, his father went with him. Abram went as far as Haran. Find Haran on the map. We do not know how many years he was there. Abram stayed in Haran until his father died. After his father died, Abram went to Shechem in Canaan. It was about 400 miles from Haran to Shechem. Shechem is 30 miles north of Jerusalem. Find Shechem on the map.

C. Abram worshipped God.

The people of Canaan also worshipped false gods. What did Abram do when he came to Canaan (Genesis 12:7)?

Abram was not afraid to show his faith in the true God. Whenever he moved to a new place, he built an altar and worshipped God (Genesis 12:8; 13:4; 13:18).

D. Abram sinned.

Abram pleased God because he would not worship other gods (Galatians 3:6; James 2:23). Abram would not worship them even though his family did.

Abram pleased God because he was obedient (Genesis 26:2-5). Abram did not know where God was taking him, yet he left home. Abram went where God told him to go.

Abram trusted God even when God wanted him to sacrifice someone very precious to him (Hebrews 11:17).

From this we would think that Abram was a perfect man. But he was not. The Bible tells us that all have sinned (Romans 3:23). Abram sinned. In what way did Abram sin (Genesis 12:11-13)?

In what way did Abram sin (Genesis 16:1-4)?

In what way did Abram sin (Genesis 20:2)?

E. Abram did good works.

Abram was a man who shared much with others (Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7:2,4). He was a great man.

- **Abram was not selfish.**

Abram let Lot, his nephew, come with him to the land of Canaan. The servants of Abram and Lot started to fight over the land. What did Abram do (Genesis 13:5-11)?

Who should have been able to choose the land first?

What kind of people lived in Sodom (Genesis 13:13)?

Did Lot choose right when he went to Sodom? Why?

What did God promise Abram after Lot left him (Genesis 13:14-17)?

THIS IS CALLED THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE.

- **Abram had courage to help others.**

Five kings from the north fought against Sodom. They took the people from Sodom with their kings. They also took Lot. It would have been easy for Abram to say, "It serves him right."

What did Abram do (Genesis 14:14)?

How many men did Abram have?

God helped Abram to win the fight. When Abram was coming home, who met him (Genesis 14:18)?

Melchizedek is a picture of Christ (Hebrews 7:1; 5:6,10).

What did Abram give to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:2,4)?

What did Abram take from the king of Sodom for helping him (Genesis 14:22-24)?

Abram did not have to take things from others by fighting. Abram showed he trusted in the true God to give him what he needed.

- **Abram talked to God.**

God came to visit Abram. Abram asked God about the child he had promised. God made this promise again. He also made more promises. What were they (Genesis 15:5-7)?

In verse 13 God told Abram that his descendants would live in another country for 400 years. This happened after Abram died. God promised his descendants their land back when they would come out of the other country. How much land would they get (Genesis 15:18-21)?

Even though Abram sinned and had a child by Hagar, God still kept His promise. What did God tell Abram (Genesis 17:1-4)?

God changed Abram's name to _____ (Genesis 17:5). This means father of many.

How long was God's promise to last (Genesis 17:7)?

God changed Sarai's name to _____ which means mother of nations (Genesis 17:15).

What was the name of Abraham's son (Genesis 17:19)?

What was Abraham to do to the men living in his house (Genesis 17:13)?

This was to remind Abraham and his children of God's promises. God wanted Abraham's people to be different from all other people in the world.

- **Abraham prayed for others.**

What did Abraham do when he learned that God was going to destroy Sodom (Genesis 18:23-33)?

Did Abraham stop praying after he asked the one time?

When we have a great need, do we go to God in prayer? Do we keep praying till He answers? Do we keep praying till we know He is going to save a loved one or a friend? Do we keep praying to God till we know that He is going to save many people in our settlement?

Did God answer Abraham's prayer (Genesis 18:32)?

How did God answer Abraham's prayer (Genesis 19:15,16)?

What happened to Lot's wife (Genesis 19:26)?

God had much patience with Lot. He took him out of the city. Yet, Lot sinned again right after his life was saved.

F. How the faith of Abraham was tested.

- Abram had fellowship with God every day. He was called "the friend of God," (James 2:23). We read about this in chapters 15 to 17 of Genesis.
- Why did God say Abraham was righteous (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3)?
- Abraham was getting very old. When he was almost too old to have children, he still believed God would give him a son (Genesis 15:6). Sarah lost faith. She told Abraham to take Hagar for a wife. Hagar had a son from Abraham. How did Sarah feel after she did this (Genesis 16:1-5)?
- Abraham's faith was tested for many years. The son which God promised had not come. Sometimes Abraham had doubts (Genesis 15:2,3). We would have doubts also. YET DEEP IN HIS HEART HE BELIEVED GOD.

Isaac was born to Sarah. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born (Genesis 21:5)?

How old was Sarah (Genesis 17:17)?

- Abraham's faith was greatly tested, Genesis 22. What did God ask Abraham to do with Isaac (Genesis 22:2)?

What would you do if God asked you to do this? What did Abraham do (Genesis 22:3)?

What did Abraham believe God would do (Genesis 22:8)?

How far did Abraham go in sacrificing his son (Genesis 22:9,10)?

What did God do (Genesis 22:11,12)?

What did God send (Genesis 22:13)?

- Abraham's faith was made strong through testings. God can make our faith strong through testings (James 1:2,3; I Peter 1:6,7).

G. Abraham was used of God to bring salvation to the world.

Because Abraham believed God, God made him the father of a great nation. This nation was to give the Bible to the world. It was through this nation that the Savior was born, Matthew chapter 1.

Isaac was to be sacrificed. A ram took his place. Like the ram took the place of Isaac, so Christ takes our place. This is why Jesus is called "the Lamb of God."

WORDS TO LEARN

1. chariots - wagons.
2. courage - a strong heart that can face danger.
3. descendants - those children and children's children coming from one father.
4. doubt - to not really believe, not to be sure.
5. fellowship - when two or more people believe and enjoy the same things. They tell each other everything. They think and feel the same about many things.

6. obedient - to obey at all times.
7. patriarchs - great fathers of long ago.
8. ram - a male sheep.
9. ruins - that which had fallen down and could not be used anymore.
10. selfish - to want things only for oneself.

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