



In the beginning...

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים

The Call of Abraham

Chapter 12



The Book of Genesis

Part 1

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Genesis 1, 2 | Creation |
| Genesis 3 | Fall of Man |
| Genesis 4 | Cain & Abel |
| Genesis 5 | Genealogy of Noah |
| Genesis 6-9 | Flood of Noah |
| Genesis 10-11 | Table of Nations & Tower of Babel |

Part 2

- | | |
|---------------|---------|
| Genesis 12-20 | Abraham |
| Genesis 21-26 | Isaac |
| Genesis 27-36 | Jacob |
| Genesis 37-50 | Joseph |

The Book of Genesis

Part 1

Genesis 1, 2	Creation
Genesis 3	Fall of Man
Genesis 4	Cain & Abel
Genesis 5	Genealogy of Noah
Genesis 6-9	Flood of Noah
Genesis 10-11	Table of Nations & Tower of Babel

Part 2 Job The Divine Challenge

Genesis 12-20	Abraham
Genesis 21-26	Isaac
Genesis 27-36	Jacob
Genesis 37-50	Joseph

Enter.... Job!

¹ There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

Job 1:1

- The reason for Satan's hatred
 - Reminiscent of Noah ('just & perfect' – Gen 6:9)
 - Satan is not omniscient – what problems might Job cause him?
 - Unwittingly, Satan masterminds his own failure

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

Job 1:6

- Rev 12:10 – the accuser of the brethren
- Sons of God – Heb: Bene Ha Eloheim
 - Lit. *A direct creation of God*
 - Used of Angels - Gen 6:2 / Job 38:7
 - Adam - Luke 3:38
 - All believers - John 1 / 1 John 3

⁷ And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Job 1:7

- The earth is the Lord's and everything in it?
– Psalm 24:1
- Who holds the title to the Earth?
- Originally Adam – Gen 1:28
- Adam forfeited it – Psalm 8:5

8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Job 1:8

9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Job 1:9-10

- “Job only fears you because you protect him!”
- Satan confirms that the blessings are from the LORD (“every good gift...” – **James 1:17**)

11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 1:11-12

- *'Job only serves God for the benefits'*
- This is a challenge to the age old issue of free will
- Free will is required if there is to be true love

6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but **save his life.**

Job 2:6

- If Satan loses the argument this time, he loses the argument for all time!
- If a man (or woman) can love God, simply because God is God, then Satan's claim that a man only loves God because of the blessings and protection is falsified.
- This is a challenge to the plan of redemption and must be settled once and for all.

Missing Piece of the Jigsaw

- God's plan of redemption depends on man being a free moral agent, capable of accepting or rejecting.
- If we were coerced into accepting Salvation (which is in a sense what Satan is suggesting) it would not be free choice,
- God would not justly be able to 'claim' the restoration of the Edenic relationship with man (see Rev 21:3).

Missing Piece of the Jigsaw

- This had to be settled before the Cross – for from that point faith has given way to sight.
- The blessing of salvation through the blood of Christ eclipses all other benefits derived from God's hand.
- Job had faith in a coming Redeemer
 - Job 19:25

Missing Piece of the Jigsaw

- The book of Job summarises a direct attack by Satan on the plan of redemption
- If man can be shown to only love God for the blessings, redemption is a farce
 - Redemption = to restore, purchase back
- If Satan can 'win' this one, he wins the day
- If God wins, the justification for His 'master-plan' of Salvation is established!
 - The basis of redemption is LOVE (1 John 4:19)

Missing Piece of the Jigsaw?

- The book of Job is pivotal to the plan of redemption
- Why did God allow Satan to attack Job?
- To settle the question in a 'court of law'
- And to remove any claim Satan would try to make as to the legitimacy of God's plan.
- Thus, this 'exercise' will never need be repeated!

Missing Piece of the Jigsaw?

- Who wins?
- God!
 - God is justified
 - Job is vindicated

The Book of Job

“The book defends the absolute glory and perfection of God - It sets forth the theme echoed in Ps 18:3 (“I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised”). God is deserving of our praise simply on the basis of who He is, apart from the blessings He bestows. Satan denied this (1:9-11), but Job proved him wrong (1:20-22; 2:10)”

Wayne Jackson

Missing Piece of the Jigsaw?

- What happens when this divine challenge is settled?
- God is free to begin unveiling His plan of redemption
 - A plan that was settled in Heaven before the foundation of the world
- Enter....
- Abraham!

The Call of Abraham

- ¹ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:
- ² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:
- ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

The Call of Abraham

- The reason for the call:
 - To have a people to whom God could entrust His written revelation to mankind
 - To have a witness to One-True-God in the earth in the midst of the nations
 - To provide a safe way for the Messiah to come into this world at the appointed time

Three Vines

- Scripture speaks of three 'vines':
 - Vines produce fruit!
- Israel
- Babylon
- Christ

Three Vines

- Israel were to be a witness to the nations, testifying to the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
- Through this vine, the nations were to come to the knowledge & fear of the One true God
- But... Israel (through disobedience) became a degenerate plant ([Jer 2:21](#)), thus a byword & a proverb
- Rather than being a witness they brought God's name into disrepute
- However, the Jewish religious leaders still thought they were the only way to God

Three Vines

- However, there is also a vine of deception
 - It is spoken of in Revelation 14:19
- This is the ‘Babylonian vine’
- It is the epitome of false religion
 - And will unite all religion under it’s banner
- It promises a way to spiritual security...
- But leads to destruction
- It started at Babel, and seemingly will conclude there...
- ...itself being judged of God (Rev 17/18)

Three Vines

- However, there is one other vine...
- ... in John 15 we read:

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

John 15:1

- It is in contrast to these two vines (neither of which can lead anyone to the Father) that Jesus says 'I AM the genuine Vine'
 - A vine produces that which is presented to a king

Abraham

- Mentioned 74 times in NT
- Venerated by all 3 monotheistic religions
 - Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Distinctive titles
 - “Father of the Faithful” Heb 11:8
 - “Friend of God” Jas 2:23

Evidence of Design

- “Friend of God”

- Abraham

- Disciples

- “Beloved”

- Daniel

- John

Prophetic Privilege

James 2:23; Gen 18:17

John 15:15

Apocalyptic Privilege

Daniel 7-12

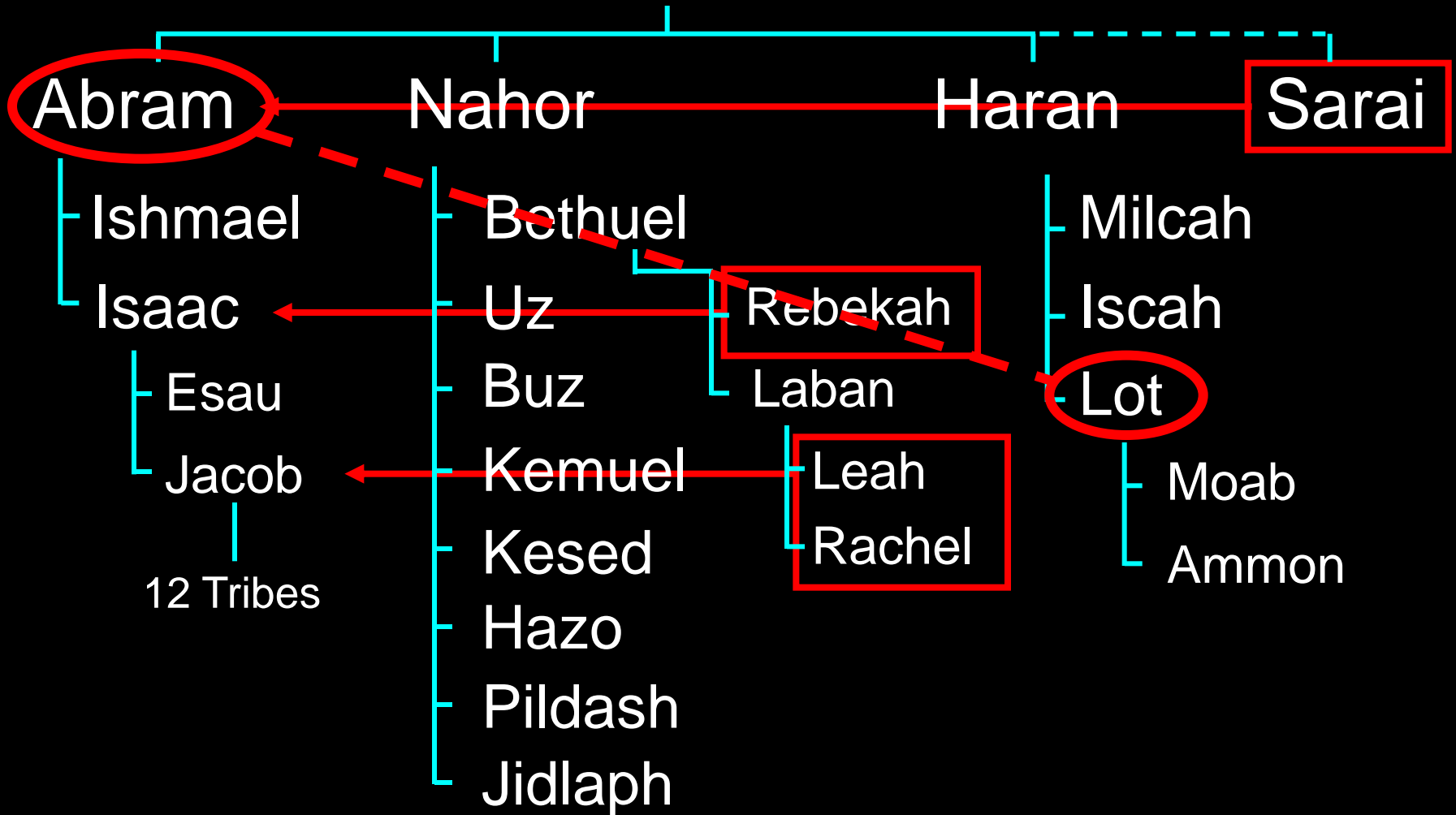
Revelation

Abraham (Highlights)

- Everlasting Covenant
- A struggle between the flesh and Spirit
 - Abraham's personal life
 - Ishmael vs Isaac;
 - Sarah vs Hagar; Gal 4:21-31
- Melchizedek
 - King and Priest of the Most High
- *Akedah*: Isaac offered Gen 22

Terah's Family

Terah



Genesis 12

The Call of Abraham

Genesis 12

¹ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

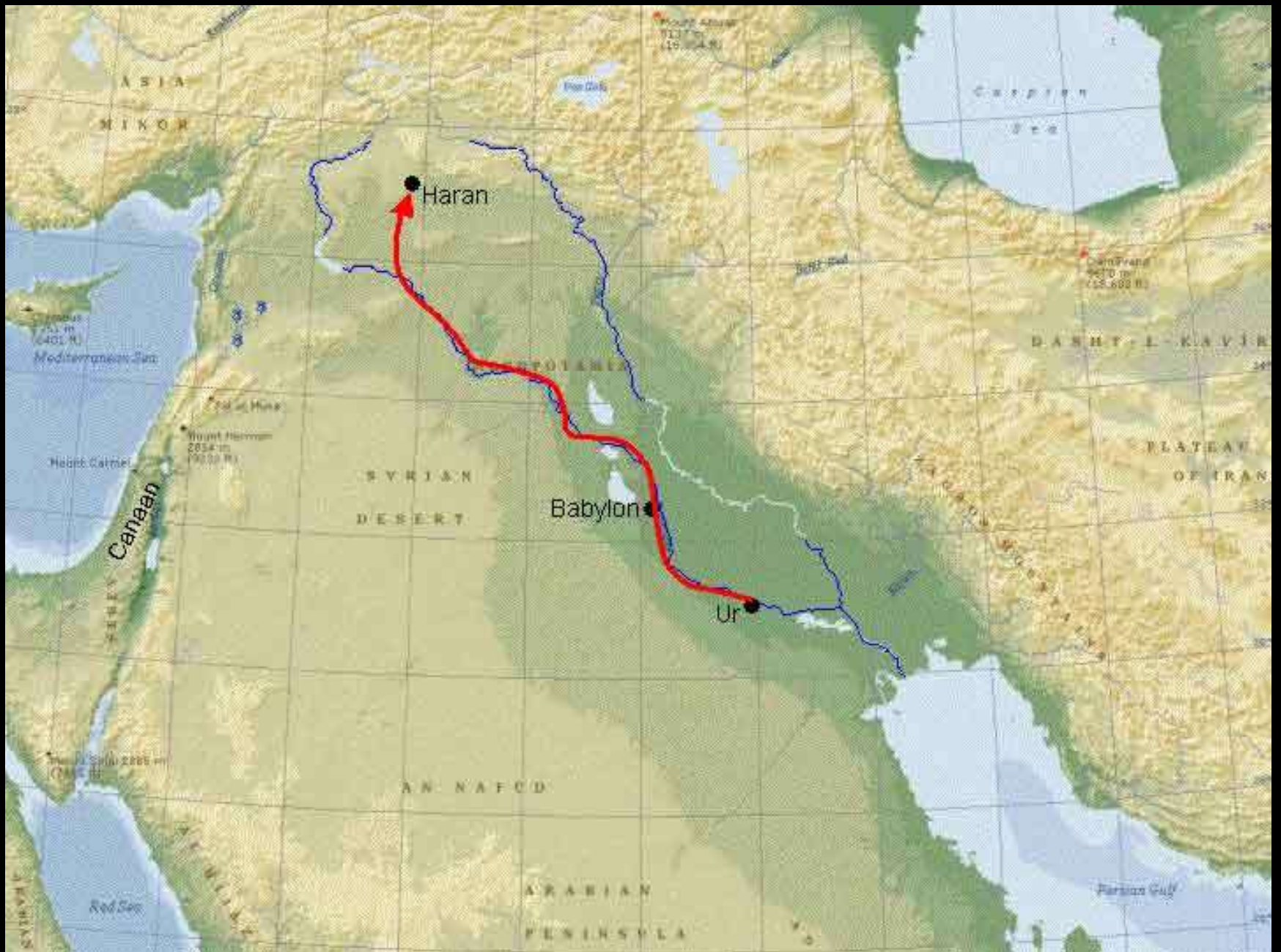
Genesis 12:1

And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken;
The God of glory appeared unto our father
Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before
he dwelt in Charran,

And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country,
and from thy kindred, and come into the land
which I shall shew thee.

Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans,
and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his
father was dead, he removed him into this land,
wherein ye now dwell.

Acts 7:2-4



The Cost of Discipleship

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple

Luke 14:26

- Bet Sefer (age 5-12) Learn to read & write from the Torah
- Bet Midrash (age 13-15) for gifted students, Learn the T'Nach
- Bet Talmid (age 15 on) Chosen by a Rabbi to become a Tal Muddein (disciple)

The Cost of Discipleship

15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 15:15-16

Genesis 12

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:1-3

Seven Unconditional Promises

1. And I will make of thee a great nation,
2. and I will bless thee,
3. and make thy name great;
4. and thou shalt be a blessing:
5. And I will bless them that bless thee,
6. and curse him that curseth thee:
7. and *in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

Genesis 12:2-3

Abrahamic Covenant

- God's contract is still intact
- Nations to be judged Mat 25:31-46
- Forsee the blessing of the family of the entire earth Gal 3:8
Before the Throne of God Rev 5:9

Genesis 12

⁴ So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was **seventy** **and five** years old when he departed out of Haran.

Genesis 12:4

- Critics like to tell us this is a contradiction!

A Contradiction?

²⁶ And Terah lived **seventy years**, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

³² And the days of Terah were **two hundred and five** years: and Terah died in Haran.

Genesis 11:26,32

- If Terah had Abraham aged 70, and dies aged 205...
- Abraham would have been 135 when he left Haran for Canaan (?)

A Contradiction?

- We are told that at aged 70 Terah 'begat'
- He had 3 children Abram, Nahor & Haran
 - But unless they were triplets they couldn't have all been born the same year!
- Terah dies aged 205yrs (11:32)
- At that time Abraham was 75 (12:4)
- Therefore, Terah must have had Abraham when he was 130 *not* 70.

A Contradiction?

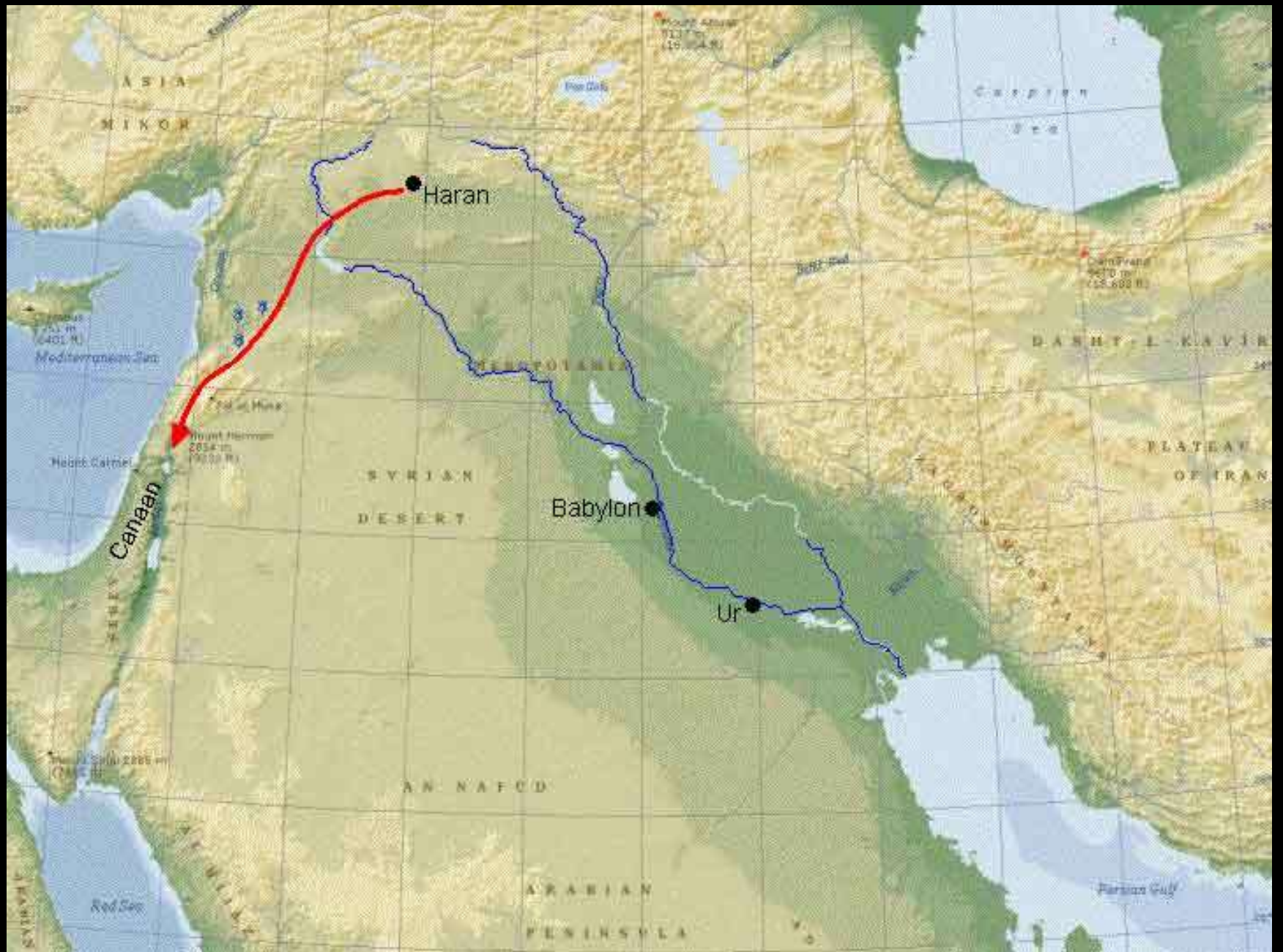
- We can safely deduce that Haran was the eldest, and Abraham the youngest
 - God often takes the youngest / least
- As is consistent with Scripture, Abraham is placed first in the list in Genesis 11:26 because he is the one we are to focus on
- *“When Terah was 70 he began to beget his children – who were (in reverse order) Abraham, Nahor & Haran”*

Genesis 12

⁴ So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Genesis 12:4-5



Haran

Canaan

Babylon

Ur

ASIA

MINOR

Caspian Sea

Sea of Galilee

Mediterranean Sea

Mount Carmel

SYRIAN DESERT

MESOPOTAMIA

DASHT-E-KAVIR

PLATEAU OF IRAN

AN-NAFUD

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Red Sea

Persian Gulf

Mount Atlas
112,795 ft
(34,384 m)

Mount Everest
29,029 ft
(8,848 m)

Mount Sinai
5,891 ft
(1,801 m)

Mount Sinaï
2,850 m
(9,367 ft)

Genesis 12

⁶ And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. ⁷ And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Genesis 12:6-7

Genesis 12

8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

Genesis 12:8

Abraham's Altars

- This is the first of 3 Altar's Abraham builds of his own volition
- He will build a 4th at God's command
 - 1st at Shechem (12:7)
 - Speaks of the world & the flesh “a place of burdens”
 - 2nd between Bethel and Ai (12:8)
 - Between the ‘House of God’ and ‘Ruins’
 - 3rd at Hebron (13:18)
 - Hebron speaks of associated with God / Fellowship
 - 4th at Moriah (22:9)
 - The place of ultimate sacrifice

Abraham's Altars

- This is the first of 3 Altar's Abraham builds of his own volition
- He will build a 4th at God's command
 - 1st at Shechem (12:7) 75% Abraham
 - Speaks of the world & the flesh “a place of burdens”
 - 2nd between Bethel and Ai (12:8) 50% Abraham
 - Between the ‘House of God’ and ‘Ruins’
 - 3rd at Hebron (13:18) 25% Abraham
 - Hebron speaks of associated with God / Fellowship
 - 4th at Moriah (22:9) 100% God
 - The place of ultimate sacrifice

Abraham's Altars

- Each Altar marks a milestone in Abraham's walk with God
- Each Altar sees Abraham moving more from his self sufficiency to dependence on God
- The Altar was a place of sacrifice
 - Almost certainly a place where blood was shed
- Relationship is based on sacrificial love
- The greatest discovery is that God has done is all – we just have to come

Genesis 12

⁹ And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

¹⁰ And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

Genesis 12:9-10

- A famine is an indication that something is not right
- Rather than seek man we should seek God!
- Famines are a test of loyalty
- Do we trust God?

Genesis 12

¹¹ And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:

¹² Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

¹³ Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

Genesis 12

¹⁴ And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.

¹⁵ The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

¹⁶ And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

Genesis 12

¹⁷ And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife. ¹⁸ And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? ¹⁹ Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way. ²⁰ And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

Gen 12:17-20

Anticipatory Parallel?

- The famine in the land Gen 12:10; 47:13
- The descent to Egypt to sojourn Gen12:10; 47:27
- The attempt to kill the males but save the females Gen12:12; Ex. 1:22
- The plagues on Egypt Gen. 12:17; Ex. 7:14-11:10
- The spoiling of Egypt Gen. 12:16; Ex. 12:35-36
- The deliverance Gen 12:19; Ex. 15
- The ascent to the Negev Gen. 13:1; Num. 13:17, 22



The Book of Genesis

In the beginning...
מִיְהוּא אֵרָא תְּיָוָא