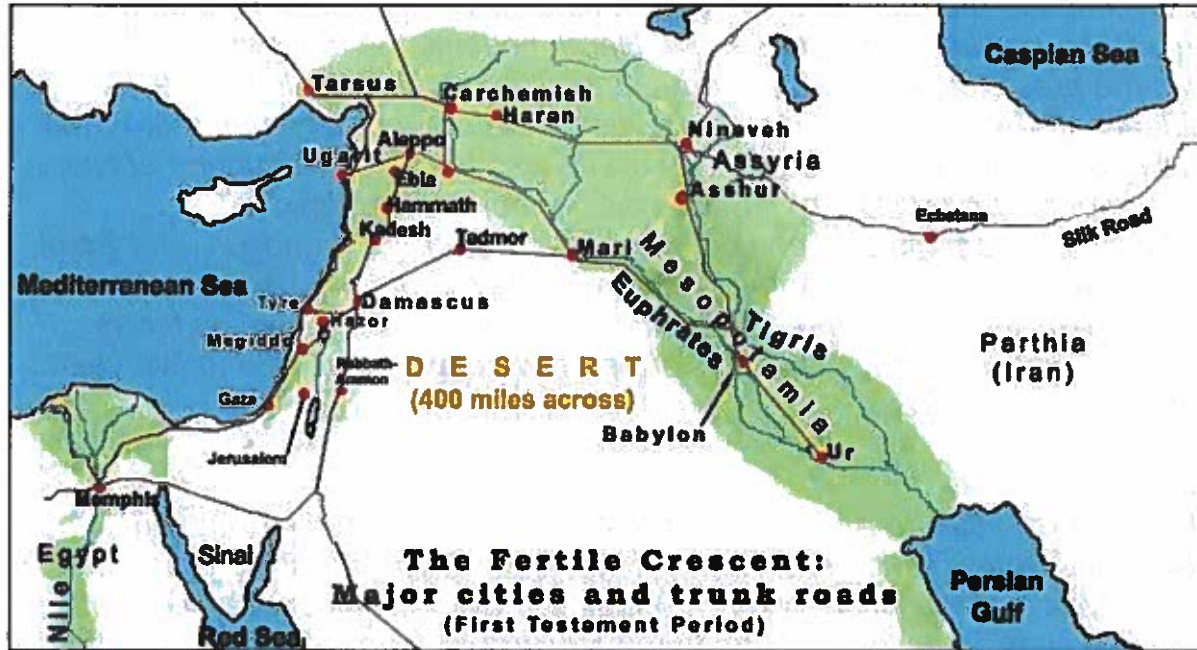


## Abraham -- the Man Who Obeyed, Sorta



What happened before God called Abraham? (c1900 B.C)

- Old cities in Palestine including Jericho
- Scientific and political accomplishment in Mesopotamia
- Wonders in Egypt

What's the point of all of this? To show that Abraham was a \_\_\_\_\_

- Abraham lived during a time of change and disruption
- The first intermediate period in Egypt
- The rise of Amurra or "Western" states like Mari in the Fertile Crescent

Why is this important? These were the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel. Haran (where Abraham moves) was a city of Mari.

Abraham was more than a simple family man. He was the head of a large clan

- What had happened in Palestine
- There was a time of semi-nomadic invasions. Every main city was destroyed by Amorite invaders

Abraham arrived at a time of partial rebuilding and settled life among the coast, the Jezreel Valley and in the north but very few cities in the south and the central mountains which is where Abraham lived as a nomad.

### Genesis 11

<sup>27</sup> Now these are the records of the generations of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran; and Haran became the father of Lot. <sup>28</sup> Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. <sup>29</sup> Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah. <sup>30</sup> Sarai was barren; she had no child. <sup>31</sup> 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 out together from Ur of the Chaldeans in order to enter the land of Canaan; and they went as far as Haran, and settled there. <sup>32</sup> The days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran.

### Genesis 12

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; <sup>2</sup> and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; <sup>3</sup> and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." <sup>4</sup> So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land. <sup>7</sup> The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> Then he proceeded from there to the mountain 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. <sup>9</sup> Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.

The story of God's liberation of humanity begins with God's call to Abraham. The story of Abraham contains the first mention in the Bible of God's \_\_\_\_\_ given to people as the sole means of salvation and that this righteousness is given as reward of \_\_\_\_\_. Luke declares that the birth of Jesus occurred in response to God's promise to \_\_\_\_\_.

It's a story for us: "In you all the families of the earth \_\_\_\_\_."

Why so long. God is not \_\_\_\_\_.

What was there about Abram? What made him the chosen one?

There's \_\_\_\_\_ about Abraham – except the fact that God, for God's own reasons, said, "\_\_\_\_\_."

We know from Stephen's speech in Acts 7 that God's call came first to Abraham when he lived in Ur of the Chaldees. Abraham was a \_\_\_\_\_ worshipper.

Why did God chose Israel? Deuteronomy 7 "The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because you were more in number than any people; for you were the fewest of all people. But because the Lord loved you."

God calls Abraham to go to Canaan. The first thing Abraham does is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Abraham began the one thousand mile journey. And yet, at the end of Genesis 11, we find that Abraham stops with his family at Haran, a city in Syria. Yes, he's hundreds of miles from his starting point in Ur. But he's still several hundred miles from Canaan. Like Ur, Haran was a center of moon worship. It feels like what he's left. The land to which he was called was unknown. I cannot be known until it is experienced. So Haran, a combination of "sorta obedience" and "sorta disobedience" is safer.

God calls Abraham a \_\_\_\_\_

## Genesis 12

*<sup>10</sup> Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. <sup>11</sup> It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; <sup>12</sup> and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. <sup>13</sup> Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you." <sup>14</sup> It came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. <sup>15</sup> Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. <sup>16</sup> Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels.*

*<sup>17</sup> But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. <sup>18</sup> Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? <sup>19</sup> Why did*

*you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go."*<sup>20</sup> *Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.*

### Genesis 13

*13 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him. <sup>2</sup> Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. <sup>3</sup> He went on his journeys from the <sup>[a]</sup>Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, <sup>4</sup> to the place of the altar which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.*

As Genesis 12:10 opens, Abram has finally arrived in the land. Then he

Why is Abraham's decision to finally obey God by moving to Canaan immediately met by an obstacle to that obedience?

What happens to Abraham in Egypt?

The \_\_\_\_\_ is off!

But when Abraham loses his \_\_\_\_\_ he also loses his \_\_\_\_\_.

The problem of Sarah (Sarai)

Not only is Sarai endangered, but Abram's nephew Lot is \_\_\_\_\_.

Abraham becomes very rich...which is the source of a lot of trouble

Abraham becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ to the people with whom he lived.

Abraham is driven out of town.

Abraham leaves Egypt before he is ready. But at least he seems to have learned something. When he reaches Canaan the first thing he does is to call on the name of the Lord!

Why does God's word paint people as they really are – with all their warts and wrinkles?