



Happy Father's Day

Don't be afraid to make this journey; remember when God cared for you in Egypt & in the wilderness all the way to this place - JUST LIKE a father carries his son. (Deut. 1:29-31)

ABRAHAM

Abraham's Extended Family

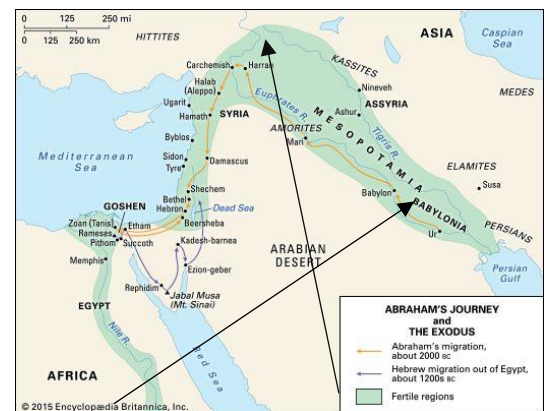
Genesis 11:27-32 Now these are the family records^[1] of Terah: Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot.²⁸ Haran died during his father's lifetime in the land of his birth, that is, in Ur of the Chaldeans.²⁹ Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. She was the daughter of Haran, who was the father of Milcah and Iscah.³⁰ Sarai was barren, so she had not borne children.³¹ Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot (Haran's son), and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife; they journeyed together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan.

1. Who was Abraham's father? _____
2. Who were Abraham's brothers? _____
3. Which brother of Abraham died? _____
4. Where did the brother who died live his whole life? _____
5. How do you think that affected the nephew, Lot? _____

A Few Thoughts

- The Chaldeans lived in Mesopotamia ("between the rivers") which is now modern-day Iraq.
 - "Ur" was a very thriving trade center (a very wealthy place) due to the two great rivers.
 - "Ur" was called the "home of the moon god" & Marduk's (god of all gods) temples were there.
 - In Joshua 24:2, it says that Terah (Abe's father) worshipped idols there.
 - In Genesis 24:10, there is a city in Mesopotamia called "Nahor". It looks like brother Nahor never left.
6. What kind of religious upbringing did Abraham & his brothers have?

 7. Brother Nahor did not move when Abraham's father took his clan & left town. How would you describe the harmony in the family? _____
 8. According to Jewish custom, what would happen to Lot, son of Abraham's deceased brother?
 Dropped him off at JUVE
 Raised by Abraham's father's clan
 Left him with Uncle Nahor
 Put him in foster care
 9. Why would Abraham's father, Terah, decide to move from Ur to Haran. There is no command for Terah to do so? (650 miles, 35-day trip)



UR

HARAN

A Few Thoughts

- Abraham's father was an idol-worshipper as would be most of the clan
- Lot, Abraham's nephew, would have been involved in idol worship too
- Abraham's brother, Nahor, stayed behind to live in an idol-worship center, Ur of the Chaldees.
- Terah, Abraham's father, had to take someone else's kid (Lot) into his home.
- Terah made the whole clan move to unknown territory, someplace they had never been

10. Abraham left with his father for Haran. He went because Jewish custom dictated it; however, that does not mean he wanted to go. He may not have agreed; Afterall, his brother did not go.

How could these circumstances affect his character? _____

Abraham is on his own

Genesis 11:31-32 But when they had gone as far as Haran, they settled there, ³² where Terah died at the age of 205 years.

Acts 7:2-4 Stephen said, "The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran"; God said to Abraham, "Get out of your country and from your relatives and come to a land that I will show you."

Genesis 12:1 Now the Lord **HAD** said to Abram, "Get out of your country, from your family, and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you."

1. Where was Abraham living when God spoke to him? _____

2. What three things was Abraham commanded to get away from? (Gen. 12:1)

a. _____ (Ungodly society)

b. _____ (Ungodly people)

c. _____ (Ungodly responsibilities)

3. Abraham took over his father's business in Haran. Why do you think it took him possibly 5 years to leave Haran & continue on his journey to Canaan? _____

4. It was obvious that God wanted Abraham out of Haran.

___Yes ___No Can we assume that God had a plan for Abraham that required him getting away from sinful stuff?

5. Abraham's father was probably an idol-worshipper until he died. Abraham watched and probably had to participate in the evil family functions. Abraham had already been called by God; how would he handle this ungodly lifestyle he had to live in?

When were kids, the last thing that we probably had on our minds was thinking about being a father someday. However, God does think about it. Here I was, an eight-year-old living in a middle-class family. We were existing like all families did. I had no dreams except to be a baseball player & a fireman. My father found a house for sale, so we moved. There was a church right around the corner. That was the beginning of a new direction for me. I didn't know what was going on, but I knew I had to go to that church. Abraham was told to move by God too. He knew he had to go to Canaan.

Let's Review

- Abraham grew up in a home of idol-worshippers (They did not know God.)
- He had godly ancestors dating all the way back to Noah & his son, Shem.
- He experienced the death of a brother (Haran).
- His father made them move to another territory (of course, they were nomads).
- He had to be responsible for the care of his nephew, Lot.
- He had memories of family grief with no healthy way to cope with it.
- He also had memories of the prior evil religious practices (He may have even missed them).
- Inside of him, there seemed to be a hunger for a true God or some better way of life.

6. ___Yes ___No Could any of these things affected the way he grew up?

7. What things could have **HURT** his ability to grow up healthy?

8. What things could have **HELPED** his ability to grow up healthy?

Abraham Decided to Follow God

*Genesis 12:4 [After God called Abraham into His family, & after God promised him blessings in his life] So Abram **departed** from Haran as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was 75 years old when he **departed** from Haran. Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they **departed** to go to the land of Canaan.*

The word "departed" in Hebrew means "to walk after a decision has been made, a decision that results in constant growing." (Yikes, can you believe that?)

9. ___Yes ___No Isn't it true that Abraham made a decision here to follow God even though he had previous baggage, and did not have all the answers?

It could be that Abram really had begun to grow in his faith, even while he was still living in Haran.

10. ___Yes ___No Since he "took all the possessions" he had gathered while in Haran (no one protested him taking them), is it possible that he conducted his family business in an honest way that everybody respected?

11. ___Yes ___No Since he "took all the people he had acquired" while living in Haran (the people apparently willing to go with him), is it possible that he treated people with honor and respect even though in his employ?

Genesis 12:6-9 Abram came to a town (area) called "Shechem". God promised to give Abraham this land. Abraham talked to & worshipped God there. Then he moved on to a place called "Bethel"; there, he talked to and worshipped God also. Then, Abram continued south on his journey.

12. Abram arrived in this new country (Canaan). God appears to Abram in this new place. How encouraging for Abram. He obeyed God back in Mesopotamia & he got a "congrats".

Your thoughts: _____

Abraham's Journey Continued

Genesis 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram **went down** to Egypt to dwell there ...
Genesis 13:1 Then Abram **went up** from Egypt...
Genesis 13:3 And he continued on his journey from the south & **went back** to Bethel
Genesis 13:18 Then Abram moved his tent, and **went & lived** in Hebron.

1. Abram seemed to have forgotten that God led him to Canaan without him having to figure everything out and fix the problems. **What brilliant scheme did he come up with to protect his wife from the Egyptians? (Gen. 12:10-20)**

Remember Abram's background back home in Mesopotamia. That religious culture did not value women for anything more than having kids and building the clan.

2. What damage was done in Egypt because of Abram's scheme? (Gen. 12:17-20)

-
3. When he was "sent away" from Egypt, where did he go? (Gen. 13:3) _____

4. Yes No When we mess up, we need to go back to friendly ground where previous decisions were made. Did Abram do this?

Notice this ...

Gen. 12:1 -	"Now the Lord had said to Abram ..."	[Abram was just listening]
Gen. 12:7 -	"Then the Lord appeared to Abram ..."	[Abram built an altar]
Gen. 12:8 -	"Abram called on the name of the Lord."	[Abram built an altar]
Gen. 12:10-	[Abram did not call on the Lord]	[Abram went to Egypt]
Gen. 13:4	"Abram called on the name of the Lord"	[Abram returned to Bethel]
Gen. 13:8	[Abram did not call on the Lord]	[Abram has conflict with Lot]
Gen. 13:14	"The Lord said to Abram..."	[Abram moved to Hebron]

5. Yes No Since Abram was in charge of a huge clan running a huge business, wouldn't he be used to taking charge of things?
6. Notice that Abram has the same flaw we have: sometimes he talks to God about his life and sometimes he does not _____.

Let's Review Again

- Some of Abram's decisions & actions hurt other people.
- He did make a good decision to follow God and travel to Canaan.
- There were times when he really felt close to God. Other times, he did not.

7. Yes No If you replace your name with Abram's in this lesson, would you ever qualify to be a father?

8. Look back over your childhood. How did your father fall into these traps?

-
9. Think about your experience as a father. Explain how anything in this lesson has had an impact on your behavior, habits, words, or decisions as a father.

Read the rest of Abraham's story (Gen. 12-25). His poor choices might make more sense now.