

ABRAHAM, HIS TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS

<p>Lesson One - Trusting God's Promises, Restored by God's Grace Genesis 12:1-7, 10-20</p>

A. We have good reason to look at Abraham, the Father of the Faithful

1. Because of what he's called

a) "friend of God" 2 Chronicles 20:7, Isaiah 41:8, James 2:23

2 Chronicles 20:7 O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

b) his name coupled with God's name

Exodus 3:6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

2. Because of the space devoted to him

a) more than 12 chapters of Genesis

b) 74 references in the New Testament

c) 2 chapters at length (Romans 4, Galatians 3)

3. Because of what we can learn from him

a) picked by God's grace (Genesis 12)

b) example of intercessory prayer (Genesis 18)

c) eyes on heaven

Hebrews 11:10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God....16 Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

d) example of faith

Genesis 15:6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness

Romans 4:16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

Genesis 15:6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

4. Because of Abraham's God

a) gracious in promising

b) faithful in keeping his promises

5. Because of the current world situation

Genesis 16:9 Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count." The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

Genesis 25:13 These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, listed in the order of their birth: Nebaioth the firstborn of Ishmael, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. These were the sons of Ishmael, and these are the names of the twelve tribal rulers according to their settlements and camps. Altogether, Ishmael lived a hundred and thirty-seven years. He breathed his last and died, and he was gathered to his people. His descendants settled in the area from Havilah to Shur, near the border of Egypt, as you go toward Asshur. And they lived in hostility toward all their brothers.

Genesis 21:14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob. God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

B. By grace God called Abraham, gave him great promises, and the faith to believe them

Genesis 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

1. Where was Abram at this time?

Genesis 11:31 Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there. 32 Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.

2. Why did God choose Abram?

Isaiah 51:2 look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many.

Nehemiah 9:7 "You are the LORD God, who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him Abraham.

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

3. What seven promises did God give to Abram?

- a) promise and meaning for Abram
- b) promise and meaning for Abram
- c) promise and meaning for Abram
- d) promise and meaning for Abram
- e) promise and meaning for Abram
- f) promise and meaning for Abram
- g) promise and meaning for Abram

h) promise and meaning for Abram

Genesis 12:4 So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. 6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

1. Why was Abram willing to follow the Lord's call to go to a strange land?

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

2. Why according to Hebrews 11:8 was it remarkable that Abram left his home country

3. How does verse 5 indicate Abram considered this move to be permanent?

4. Who lived in the land when Abram arrived?

5. What assurance did God give Abram that the land would be his?

C. Abram falters in his trust, but a gracious God restores him

Genesis 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. 11 As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. 12 When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. 13 Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you." 14 When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that she was a very beautiful woman. 15 And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. 16 He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, menservants and maidservants, and

camels. 17 But the LORD inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. 18 So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!" 20 Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

1. What caused Abram to go to Egypt?

2. What was Abram's plan to protect his wife?

Genesis 17:17 Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

Genesis 23:1 Sarah lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old.

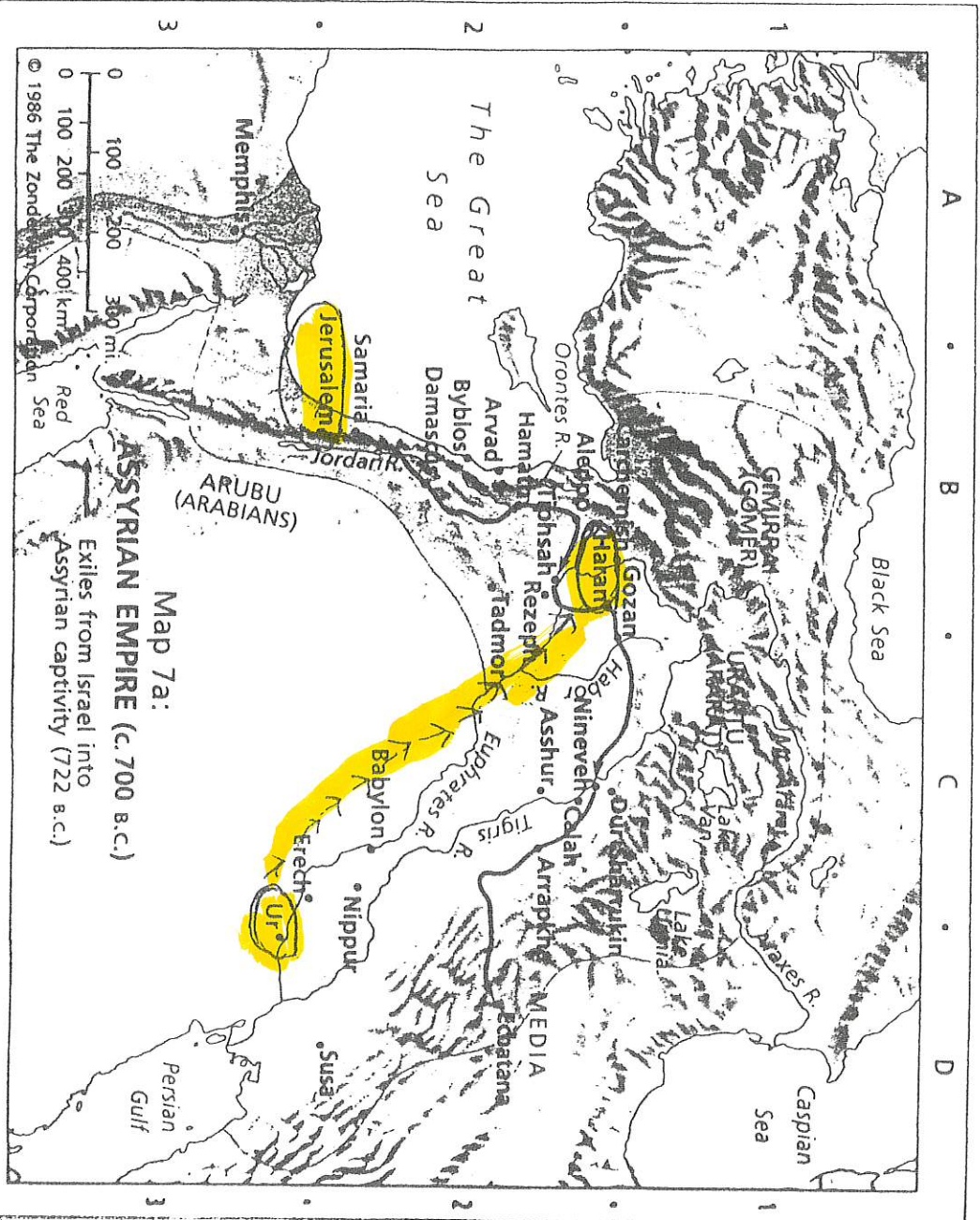
Genesis 20:11 Abraham replied, "I said to myself, 'There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.' 12 Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. 13 And when God had me wander from my father's household, I said to her, 'This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother."'"

3. What was wrong with Abram's plan?

4. How did God protect Abram and Sara?

5. Why did God record this event?

Map 7: ASSYRIAN AND BABYLONIAN EMPIRES



Map 7a:
ASSYRIAN EMPIRE (c. 700 B.C.)

Exiles from Israel into
Assyrian captivity (722 B.C.)

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