

● Lesson 7

THE CALL OF ABRAM

Read Genesis 11:31 – 12:7.

Ur of the Chaldeans (kal-DEE-ans), the home of Abram, was a beautiful and influential city during the time of the ancient Babylonians. It was the city Abram was living in when God called him. God called Abram to leave this home and go to a place God would show him. He didn't even know *where* he was going! But Abram chose to obey God (12:4). Abram left Ur with his father, his wife, and his nephew Lot (11:31). They traveled as far as Haran where they stayed for awhile. Abram's father, Terah, died there. Then Abram again set out to travel to the land God had promised to give him and his **descendants**.

Look at the map to see how far Abram traveled. Keep in mind that Abram did not have a car that could travel 500 miles in a day. He either rode a donkey or camel or walked. Imagine how long this 1,500-mile journey must have taken him!

Abram had faith in God. God promised many blessings to Abram (12:2-3), but He also asked Abram to leave everything that was familiar to him. Abram did not ask God how He was going to make these promises come true. He simply believed God would do what He promised, and Abram obeyed and left his home for the land God promised to him.

Abram's faith continued to grow throughout his life. This is only one example of how Abram (who was later called Abraham) trusted God. Genesis 22 also records how God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, and Abraham obeyed without question. At the last moment, God provided a ram for the sacrifice, and Isaac was spared.

God blessed Abraham and kept His promise to him. Abraham became known as the "father of many nations."



Abraham's exercise of faith is a good example for all believers. We, too, are called to obey and trust God. God still calls people today—children and adults—to be obedient to His Word and to walk each day by faith in Him, even when we do not understand His will and ways.

Read Hebrews 11:1, 8-12, 17-19.

1. What is faith? (see also Genesis 15:6) _____

2. Where does faith come from? (see Romans 10:17, Ephesians 2:8-9, Philippians 1:29) _____

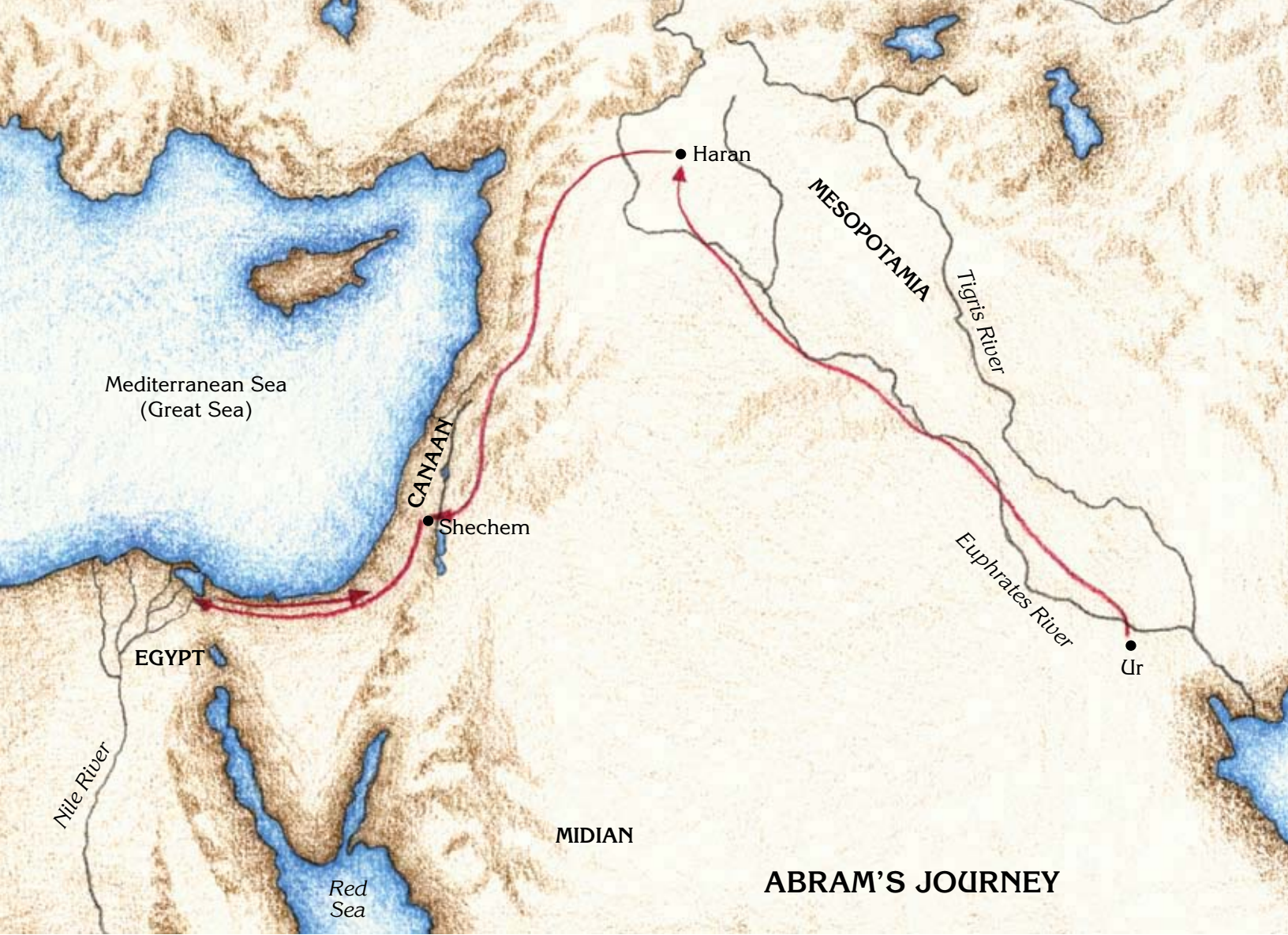
3. How did Abraham show his faith in God? Hebrews 11:8

4. Even though events in Abraham's life sometimes made it seem like God had forgotten him and His promises to him, Abraham still believed. Why? Hebrews 11:11b; Romans 4:18-22, especially v.21 _____

Memory Verse

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1



Fast Fact: Chaldean home

- Houses in Ur at Abraham's time were usually two stories high and were quite adequate and attractive.
- The center part of the structure was an open courtyard with rooms surrounding it.
- Downstairs rooms were used for work areas and guests. Upstairs rooms were used for sleeping.
- A drain in the center of the courtyard saved rainwater into a tank, and evidence of running water has been discovered in some wealthy residences!

CANAANITE CULTURE

Abraham and his family finally reached the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:5). What were the people like who already lived in this land? We have some idea because of archeological evidence that has been found at a city called Ras Shamra. Findings there indicate it was culturally a very advanced **civilization**. The people were among the most skilled artists and craftsmen of their time. They were inventive and creative people. Many wealthy homes contained private libraries, so we know they were interested in learning. One source even claims the finest pottery ever seen in Palestine was made by the Canaanites.

However, they were also an extremely wicked society and worshiped many false gods. All of Israel's Ten Commandments were broken without hesitation by those who served these gods. The Canaanite religion was intensely **corrupt**, **immoral**, and violent, even demanding that children be sacrificed to appease the anger of their gods. The Canaanites were a **depraved** people who needed to hear about **Yahweh**—the one true God.

4000 B.C.

..... The Flood

(Dates are approximate, exact dates unknown)

5. What are some things that may lead us away from the one true God? _____

God made many promises to Abraham, and God kept His promises.

6. What are some promises we can claim from God's Word?

Psalm 32: 8 _____

Psalm 55:22 a _____

Isaiah 26:3 _____

Psalm 91:11 _____

Word Works

Part 1

Make up your own acrostic using the word FAITH.

Forsaking F _____
 All A _____
 I I _____
 Take T _____
 Him H _____

Part 2

Genesis 15:6 says Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness. Follow the directions for the word RIGHTEOUSNESS and see if you can find one word to describe this verse.

R I G H T E O U S N E S S

1. Delete the last four letters.

2. Replace the R with an F.

3. Remove the fifth letter and place it between the third and fourth letters.

4. Exchange the last four letters for the first letter of the alphabet.

5. Delete the third letter.

6. Move the last letter and put it between the F and I.

Catechism Corner

1. What is the true and living faith in Jesus Christ? (Q. 212)

This is true and living faith:

That a repentant sinner lays hold of Christ as his only Savior from sin, death, and the power of Satan; and

That he takes refuge in Christ and His righteousness and builds thereon with the confidence of his whole heart.

2. God made a covenant with Abraham. Abraham believed God's word and obeyed. In what areas of my life do I find it difficult to trust and obey the Lord? _____

3. Is not Baptism also called a covenant? (Q. 346)
Yes; Baptism is a covenant. In Baptism God gives us a new life and His grace, and we promise Him to renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways and to believe in the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

4. According to Psalm 18:30, why can I confidently trust God's Word and will for my life and obey Him? _____

2300 B.C.

Tower of Babel

2166 B.C.

Birth of Abram

2091 B.C.

God calls Abram

1991 B.C.

Death of Abraham