

## ABRAM, THE TENTH FROM NOAH

Genesis 11:24 – 12:20

Genesis 1-11: Basic instructions before launching into rest of the Bible

These chapters lay out the players, the three lines of generations who, through history, live for God or work against God and his people. Those who bless God's chosen will be blessed and those who cause trouble will be cursed. Still holds true today.

The chapters show patterns that enable us to understand in later chapters who people are and why they do what they do.

Shem's line, from the beginning was God's chosen to be a beacon to the world, to show by example God's high standards and to point to the most High God, Yahoveh. Through that line the Messiah would come to bless the whole earth.

Read Genesis 11:24-31

Abram introduced to us. Later, we will read that he was a man of great learning, a wise man, respected, who became one of the richest men in that area of the world, and was called "the friend of God."

What do we know about Abram's early years? The Bible hints at some things, but there is more historically if one searches through Jewish writings. The Midrash mentions things passed down by word of mouth, then written; the book of Jasher (mentioned in the Bible) conforms these reports.

Abram, 10<sup>th</sup> generation from Noah, was born in the year 1948, after creation, in the month of Nissan (month of Passover) in the city of Cuthra, Mesopotamia. The Bible gives this city the name, EverhahNahar, which means "beyond the river." his father was chief officer of the world's first king mentioned in Bible, Nimrod of Babylon, called Shinar, Land of Chaldees.

Terah was an idol worshiper and had a workshop for making and selling idols.

Verse 26 says he had three sons. When Abram was born, Nimrod's stargazers (that group was the seed of those magi in Daniel's day) warned Nimrod that Terah newborn would someday be a danger to his throne. At that, Nimrod ordered Terah to bring the baby to him to be put to death, but Terah outsmarted him by switching babies with the newborn of a slave. Nimrod killed him with his own hands. Deed done is his eyes.

Meanwhile, Terah sent Abram, his mother and nurse to a cave where they lived in hiding 10 years.

All that time Abram's mother, Amathlaah, taught him of God, Noah and Shem, By age ten he decided to go to Noah still living near the mountain where he remained for almost forty years (40 = testing), learning the ways of God and all that Shem and Noah could tell.

When word came that Nimrod was building a tower to heaven, Abram committed himself to returning in order to teach the truth of God and the worthlessness of idols.

By this time, Terah was high priest of idol worship and had a booming business. With Abram's return, Terah expected him to follow him in the business, but instead Abram knocked off the heads of all idols but the biggest one. He then put the ax in the hand of that idol. When discovered, he was asked what happened, he answered, "the chief idol was jealous and did it"

Nimrod when he heard all, was fuming. The king said to Abram, "Do you think I'm so foolish as to believe the story you just said? How foolish do you think I am?"

Abram's answer: "I do not know? How foolish are you, my king? Woe unto thee forever."

The furnace was heated for 3 days and 3 nights. Note that this is in same area where Daniel's friends faced a similar situation. When Terah became fearful of his own life, he lied that his son Haran had talked him into all this. So, Nimrod threw Haran into the furnace and he was burned to ashes.. Abram, next, but he was protected by God as he walked about in the flames for three days. This terrified Nimrod, who feared Abram and presented him with gold and servants, one who was Eliezer who became his trusted servant and friend.

In verse 29, Abram and Nahor took wives, Sarai and Milcah. Who is Iscah? Like chapter 4:22, where Naamah was mentioned, Iscah is here mentioned without explanation. As Naamah's name concerns water and links her to Noah as his wife, we may get a clue from Iscah's name, which means "looked." She was Lot's sister and probably a half-sister, but it is very possible she was also Lot's wife. The meaning of her name fits with her "looking back" and turning to a pillar of salt.

It wasn't long before, like Pharaoh in Exodus, that Nimrod changed his mind and wanted again to kill Abram. Eliezer (we'll see later how Eliezer is a picture of the Holy Spirit) warned Abram and they set off for Canaan to worship the True God, taking with them 300 more who became followers.

On the way, Terah wanted to stop in Haran where Nahor had taken residence. Nahor, Abram's other brother, had 8 sons. Uz and Buz (twins?), Chesed (means "mercy"), Kemuel, Azau, Pheldas, Jadelph,,,, and Bethuel ("house of God, "dwelling in God")

The land of Uz was the place of Job's home. Could have been anywhere from Damascus to Dead Sea. Bethuel will come into play later when Abraham needs a wife for Isaac and sends Eliezer back to Haran, the home of Nahor. Bethuel was the father of Laben and Rebekkah.

There they remained until Terah's death.

Chapter 12:1-5

Abram being 75 years old, was reminded by God to continue to Canaan where he would grow into a great nation and be greatly blessed and would be a great blessing to the world.

Nations will one day be judged on this very thing (Revelation.)

Verses 6-7

Abram and his entourage finally reached Canaan and found themselves in the middle of the Canaanite Occultic Center, the Oak of Moreh, the place of Shechem. Shechem became the first capital of the kingdom of Israel, where, for almost 400 years they kept their tabernacle.

It was there that Abram built the first altar in Canaan, the land that was to be given to his descendants.

Verses 8-9

Bethel-"house of God"

By "pitching his tent," Abram was laying claim to the land; hints that they may have stayed awhile. They then moved on down through Canaan to the Negev, considered a wilderness area.

Verses 10-13

The area was hit by a famine and Abram made the decision to go to Egypt where food was more plentiful. His plan to stay in Egypt until things improved seems to be his own and not God's.

Having heard about those Egyptians and their "madness" for beautiful women, he had another plan. "Say you are my sister." a half lie.

As Sarai's husband, he might be killed if someone wanted her, but as a brother, he would be in position to make a monetary proposition for her. Doesn't seem to have much thought for Sarai, only himself.

Verses 14-16

Truly, at 65, she must have been a rare beauty, for even the Pharaoh learned of her and had to have her in his harem.

What Abram feared came to pass, but he ended up with even more riches and servants. The Egyptians were impressed with Abram's knowledge of Babylonian mathematics, astronomy, and his wisdom.

Verses 17-20

The Lord had to intervene in order to protect Sarai, for she was in God's plan to create a nation of Israel., so he sent plagues to Pharaoh and his house. Proverbs 21:1 tells us that the king's heart is in the hands of the Lord. The Lord has His ways.

Pharaoh found out the problem and confronted Abram. Perhaps Abram had misjudged Pharaoh and he was more honorable than Abram?

In any event, Pharaoh told him to "Go! And take your wife and all, and get out of Dodge!" it must have been a humbling thing for Abram, but we'll see later that he will repeat his plan.