



## *Genesis 12*

Perfect — Problem — Promise — **Plan — Promise — Patriarchs** - Prophets

Easy memory Genesis timeline:

4000 - Creation  
2500 - Noah  
2000 - Abraham  
1500 - Moses

Author Moses: 1440 BC    Audience: Israelites post Exile

Genesis: 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram,  
“Go forth from your country,  
And from your relatives  
And from your father’s house,  
To the land I will show you.

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;  
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.”

Why Abraham?

1. God is faithful to His promises.

## *The Seed Promise*

First Gospel

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her seed;  
He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.

Luke 3:34 - places Abraham's father in the line of Christ. Terah.

God then chooses Abram out of Terah's sons: Abram, Nahor, and Haron.

2. Abram was childless

Key Truth:

Our big callings in life will be fulfilled through God's power. Miracle after miracle  
And step by obedient step.

3. Abram believed in the Creator God: notes

Some Sources:

Genesis, Victor Hamilton (great resource)

Josephus - book Antiquities of the Jews - written in the 1st century.

God first introduces Himself as Creator - at minimum what does it say about Him?

1. His word alone is the power of creation.
2. He creates out of nothing "bara" or ex nihilo in Latin.
3. He is a God of order.
4. God is abundant and generous.

5. Creation was an undeserved gift.
6. Every creation has a purpose in His universe.

Jesus notes: John 9:1-7

As *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man *who had been* blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” Jesus answered, “*It was* neither *that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must carry out the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” When He had said this, He spit on the ground, and made mud from the saliva, and applied the mud to his eyes, and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he left and washed, and came *back* seeing. (John 9:1-7)

The centurion: Matthew 8:5-11

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?” The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

**When** Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Why do humans accept foreign gods?

Confirmation bias -

- We seek information that supports our preconceptions.
- We avoid objective information that could disprove our beliefs.

- We interpret facts to fit and even reinforce our existing views.
- We remember information that confirms our beliefs
- We downplay or ignore evidence that challenges our beliefs.
- We have strong emotional reactions to confirming information.

Ancient gods: Similar to the gods of our day (a good thing to meditate on for us today).

1. Ancient gods were from one city-state.
2. Ancient gods had limited power.
3. Worshipers could gain some of their gods power.
4. Ancient gods had worship preferences.
5. False gods required food or sacrifices to stay alive.
6. What happened on earth happened in heaven.
7. Ancient gods were temperamental and high-maintenance.

Notes: Jesus as a Rabbi

Abram's homeland: You will read that he is from 4 places.

Mesopotamia - a large area that included cities.

Sumer - similar to a county

Ur - similar to a city

Chaldea - describes a people group (identical to the word Europeans).

City-states had a government, Laws, and functioned independently from the rest of the world.

Shem's descendants settled here, the Elamites. (also the Semites)

The Amorites: Ham's descendants were in that area, and probably many in UR.

HUGE: Mesopotamia is the first recorded civilization in world history.

Key Truth:

*God's timing is always perfect.*

*He prepares all that is needed for His big moves.*



Ziggurat - in current day Dhi-Qar

Field Trip the city of Ur notes:

Notice: Abraham is moving West in obedience to God's call.

Hermeneutic: In the Word sin in is taken care of east and west.

**This will not always translate** (as Jonah runs away to the West), but if the writer uses the words East and West, take note.

Going West - Obedience or towards repentance

Repentance is also turning at it's root.

Going East - Disobedient

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And I will bless you,  
And make your name great:  
And so you shall be a blessing;  
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."

Break it down:

Leave 3 things (complete) 7 promises as 7 is complete:

1. Great nation (descendants and land)
2. I will bless you (prosperity)
3. I will make your name great (reputation)
4. You will be a blessing
5. I will bless those who bless you

6. I will curse those who curse you
7. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you.

5 x the words bless, blessed, or blessing: 5 is the number for mercy or grace.

**Pattern:** a consistent pattern of God's is to ask someone to complete an action before God makes a move. A step of faith... before God delivers.

God is giving 3 commands followed by 4 blessings. 7 - complete for God.

What are the things Abram is asked to leave?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

3 - I call this complete for man in most cases. The Hebrews call it complete, harmony, fullness.

Hermeneutic: This is a biblical triad. A biblical triad places the most significant emphasis last. Jesus uses this in the Sermon on the Mount several times. In this case, the most significant emphasis is on leaving his father's house.

We can't call all commands in 3 - Triads - BUT it is here, and it can be relevant when studying to find the main point.

Rabbi's thoughts?

What are the first three promises?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The most significant emphasis again: Your reputation. In the ancient world, all is lost if you lose your reputation.

Jewish thought:

Leaving birthplace: leaving our emotional and behavioral self  
Leaving your father's house is seen as leaving your intellect behind.

Luke 14:26:

If anyone comes to Me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters - yes, even their own life - such a person cannot be my disciple.

4th promise is for the World: And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

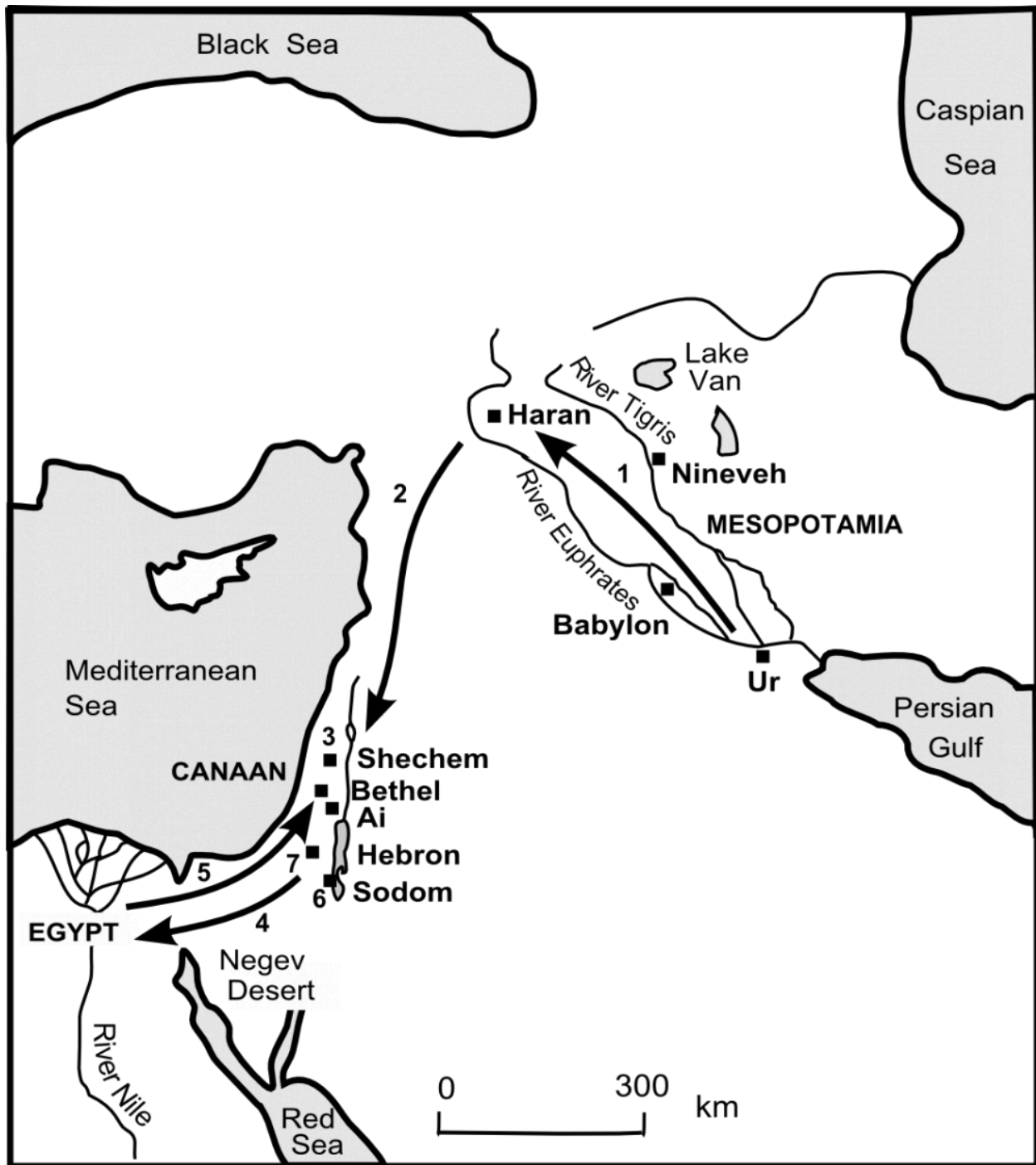
The number 4 represents the World.

Abraham's call is for the World.

Nation of Israel notes:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)





The entire journey from Ur to Shechem is 1000 miles.

First Mention: First Water Crossing  
Root of Baptism  
Abraham and his entourage cross the Euphrates  
Leaving many gods for One God.  
Hebrew means: one who crossed over or passed through

Altar Near Oak of Mamre.  
Altar between Bethel and Ai.

Called upon the name of the Lord is a Jewish Idiom. This is declaring the name of the Lord and His essence but mostly demonstrating that you are a servant.

The Lord is my Master.

Famine notes:

Key truth  
*Creation and Redemption move together.*  
*There is a twinship between the two.*  
*It is impossible to redeem anything without Creation's power.*

The mini Exile and the Exile pattern notes:

Key Truth  
*God always provides the sacrifice. There is nothing  
that we can sacrifice that was not first given to us by God.*

