



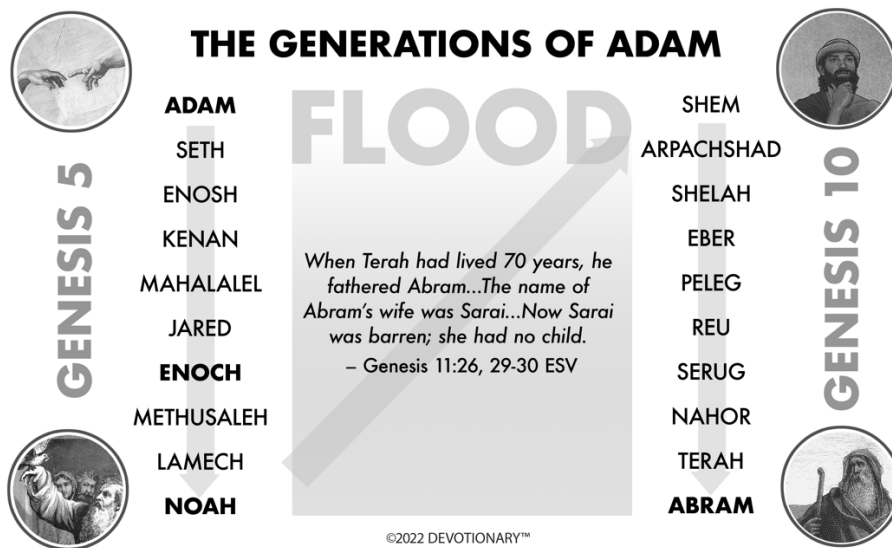
Genesis 11:10-15:21: Back to Eden

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

– Genesis 12:2-3 ESV

• **The call of Abram**

- Chapter 11 links **primordial history** with **patriarchal history**
- From **Adam** to **Abram**



- A divinely ordained decision and delay – Genesis 11:31-32
 - o Terah “decided” to relocate his family
 - o He “just happened” to choose Canaan
 - o But it was all the work of God
 - Abram’s birth
 - Terah’s decision to move
 - And his choice of Haran

- An unlikely choice of a patriarch
 - o Abram was the son of a pagan from Ur
 - o His family was somewhat inbred
 - Abram’s brother, Nahor, married his niece
 - Abram married his half-sister Sarai
 - And the whole family were idol worshipers

Joshua said to the people, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors, including Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River, and they worshiped other gods.” – Joshua 24:2 NLT

*“Most important is that we understand that at this time Terah’s tiny, inbred family were moon worshipers residing in the leading center of lunar religion....Abram’s family, including Abram himself, were polytheistic idolaters.” – R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing**

- **A divine intervention** – Genesis 12:1-3
 - Abram had switched teams
 - His spiritual transformation had begun in Ur
 - Stephen addressing the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem:

This was Stephen’s reply: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me. Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia before he settled in Haran. God told him, ‘Leave your native land and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.’ “So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran until his father died. Then God brought him here to the land where you now live.” – Acts 7:2-4 NLT

- o Abram had already received a call from God
- o He knew his final destination was Canaan
- A costly calling
 - o God was asking a lot
 - Your country
 - Your kindred
 - Your lands
 - Your friends
 - Your security
 - Your gods
 - o God didn’t divulge a lot
 - *“Go... to the land that I will show you”*
 - Details about the destination were few
 - But God gave plenty of incentives
 - *I will... make you into a great nation*
 - *bless you*

*make your name great
 bless those who bless you
 curse those who dishonor you
 bless the nations of earth through you*

- *So Abram went – Genesis 12:4-5*

THE FIRST AND SECOND EXODUS

	ABRAM	ISRAEL
Delivered from...	Ur	Egypt
Sent to...	Canaan	Canaan
Released from...	Idolatry	Slavery & Idolatry
Left behind...	Nanna – the moon god	Ra – the sun god
Called by...	Yahweh	Yahweh
Promised...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offspring • A land of their own • To bless them • To make them a blessing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom • A land of their own • To bless them • To be their God

- **The importance of the land**

“To your offspring I will give this land.” – Genesis 12:7 ESV

- The land will become a recurring theme
 - But Abram will find it hard to come by
 - It was destined for his **offspring**
 - Abram was meant to be a **conduit**
 - **From** him would come the **offspring**
 - **Through** him would come the **land**
 - **Because** of him there would come **blessing**

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. – Hebrews 11:8-9 NLT

- **Faith on trial – Genesis 12:10-20**

Now there was a famine in the land... – Genesis 12:10 ESV

- A famine in the land of fruitfulness
 - All part of God’s plan
 - And a test of Abram’s faith
- Abram seeks sustenance in Egypt

- But fear replaces his faith
- So, he comes up with a plan

“When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife. Let’s kill him; then we can have her!’ So please tell them you are my sister.” – Genesis 12:12 NLT

- Abram is acting “as God”
- He is determining good and evil
- He is deciding what is best for himself
- And he risks his wife’s life and reputation
- But God intervenes

- **Problems in the land of promise – Genesis 13:1-7**

- Abram has kin and Canaanite problems
 - So, Abram comes up with a plan
 - He decides to play god again
- Conflicts arise between Abram and Lot – Genesis 13:8-13
 - Abram gives Lot his choice of the land
 - But the land was not Abram’s to give
 - Yet Lot chose the best for himself
 - Abram had given away the inheritance
 - But God would intervene

- **Battle in the land of blessing – Genesis 14**

“...all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.” – Genesis 13:13 ESV

- The land belonged to Abram’s offspring, not Lot
 - Yet Lot had chosen “the Jordan valley...the garden of God” (Genesis 13:10)
 - And he had settled near the city of Sodom
- Ch 14: Abram finds himself at war
 - The land is a war zone
 - And Lot has become collateral damage
 - His poor choices put Abram on the spot

When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men...and he defeated them. – Genesis 14:14, 15 ESV

- A preview of things to come
 - Abram enjoys a victory over his enemies
 - The nations were no match for him
 - And he receives a blessing from God

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

*Creator of heaven and earth.
And blessed be God Most High,
who has defeated your enemies for you.” – Genesis 14:19-20 NLT*

- Melchizedek the king of Salem

*This Melchizedek was king of the city of Salem and also a priest of God Most High. When Abraham was returning home after winning a great battle against the kings, Melchizedek met him and blessed him. Then Abraham took a tenth of all he had captured in battle and gave it to Melchizedek. The name Melchizedek means “king of justice,” and king of Salem means “king of peace.” There is no record of his father or mother or any of his ancestors—no beginning or end to his life. He remains a priest forever, **resembling the Son of God**. – Hebrews 7:2-3*

- **Disillusionment in the land of hope** – Genesis 15

*“O Lord God, what will you give me, **for I continue childless**, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” – Genesis 15:12 ESV*

- Abram expresses his doubt and despair
- God’s plan does not appear to be working
- But God intervenes again

*“**You can be sure** that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. (As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.) “After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction.” – Genesis 15:13-15 ESV*

- God made a covenant promise
- Of an heir, countless offspring, and more
- And all Abram had to do was trust God’s plan

- **Discussion questions**

Abram encountered trials, conflict, and disillusionment in the land of promise. How should this have encouraged the Israelites as they prepared to enter the same land?

Abram always seemed to have a plan ready to implement at a moment’s notice. How do we do the same thing?

Read Hebrews 11:8-10. How do you think the man we studied today ever became a role model for faithful living?



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2022 – WEEK 7 HOMEWORK

WEEK 7: Genesis 16:1-18:15 – Waiting on God

These chapters include some powerful lessons about trusting God. In them, we have the story of Sarai’s barrenness and her plan to fulfill God’s promise through human means. God had made a promise, but Sarai and Abram were growing impatient. Years had passed and she remained barren and unable to bear her husband a son. This lesson will emphasize the danger of trying to accomplish God’s will through human means. Rather than wait on God, Sarai took matters into her own hands and the consequences would be painful and long-lasting. Yet, God made another covenant with Abram, reassuring His struggling servant that he would become “the father of a multitude of nations” (Genesis 17:4 ESV). And this lesson ends with the promise of a son – Isaac – because nothing is too difficult for God.

- Slowly read through Genesis 16:1-18:15 and write down anything that catches your attention. Remember, try to read this passage through the eyes of the Israelites.
- Read pages 191-218 of Ken’s Devotional™ on Genesis.
- What seems to be the primary problem as chapter 16 opens?
- What flaws do you see in Sarai’s plan?

How does Sarai react when her plan begins to fall apart, and how are we guilty of doing the same thing?

- Look at verses 7-15. What do these verses reveal about the character and heart of God?

What lesson can we learn from Hagar's description of God in verse 13?

- Now, turn your attention to chapter 17, verses 1-14. First, what do you think God means when He commands Abram to walk before Him blamelessly? Read the following quote from this week's Devotional™ reading before you answer.

...what about God's demand that Abram "be blameless?" Was He requiring sinless perfection? Once again, the Hebrew language sheds some light on these questions. God demanded that Abram be תָּמִים (*tāmîm*), a word that is rich in meaning. It conveys the idea of completeness, wholeness, and integrity. God is not requiring Abram to live a life free from all sin. He is demanding that Abram recognize the wholeness of his calling. God wanted all of Abram. He had not chosen him simply as a biological vessel through whom He would create a mighty nation. No, God wanted every area of Abram's life: body, mind, soul, and spirit. There was to be no compartmentalization. Abram was not free to hold back any area of his life from God's control or use. In other words, Abram was being told to live the entirety of his life before God's all-seeing eyes. There was nothing that God could not see. There was no area of Abram's life that he was to consider as off-limits to God's control.

- God spends a great deal of time outlining the covenant sign of circumcision. Why do you think God chose this strange rite as a way to seal the covenant relationship?
- According to Genesis 17:15-27, how is Abram still struggling with believing God's promise?
- Genesis 18:1-15 provides a glimpse of Sarah's response to God's promise that she will bear a child. What lessons can we take away from God's response to her (vss13-15)?