

Sunday School Stage 1 - Junior Class

Lesson 6 - The Call of Abram

Introduction to Sunday School

- **Attendance** – are there any students who need homework emailed to them?
- **Bible/Binder/Journal** – do they have them?
- **Homework** – collect last week and hand back marked work
- **Memory Verses** –

Review (Genesis 6-9)

- God is aware of our behaviour. He wants us to love Him and obey Him as Noah did.
- God recompenses back to us (and mankind) according to the evil that **we** do.

Lesson (Genesis 12)

- Over the next nine generations (*1656 years since creation*) and the birth of Abram (*1946 years since creation*) the world had once again forsaken God's law and was consumed with building a name for itself. The Tower of Babel is a perfect example – takes place only 100 years after the flood record!
- When we think of Abram living in the city of Ur, we may wonder how this one man among so many knew the Truth about the God of the whole earth. It is important to remember that although we are not told more in the Biblical record of their lives – Noah and his sons Ham, Shem and Japheth are all still alive at this point. Noah dies when Abram is 60 years old! Shem outlives Abram by 35 years!
- However, let us zoom in to one part of the Ancient World – the great empire of Babylon, to one of its most important cities – the city of Ur. The people of Ur were known the world over for their worship of the mood goddess – ancient temples have been discovered by archeologists that have told us a great deal about what life was like in Ancient Ur. Running water, sewer systems, beautiful river side homes and road ways – all the evidence of a very advanced society. A very comfortable society!
- In this great city was one man who believed in the living God. Such was his faith that God was going to call him to come out of Ur (and the empire of Babylon) to lead him to a land of promise.
- What does Joshua 24:2-4 tell us of Abram's childhood? He was not taught the truth of God from boyhood – his parents worshipped idols like the people around them.
- We are introduced to Abram in the midst of his family. We are told of his father, his brothers, his nephew, his wife, even his brother's wife! This was a real family man – he understood that family was important to God and he valued that too.
- *(For older students) On a face value it looks like Sarai is Abraham's half-sister (Genesis 20:12) – in the book Abraham and Sarah by Bro. Roger Lewis, a strong case is put forward that Sarah is actually the niece of Abram, and she is also the sister of Lot.*

It would appear Terah had three sons (Haran, Nahor and Abram) – Haran died early in Ur and left behind his three children (Sarai, Milcah and Lot) – Haran's two brothers married their nieces upon the death of their brother, and Lot joins the family of Abram and Sarai because of his close relationship with his uncle Abram and sister Sarai.

- Genesis 11:31 which would lead us to believe it was on Terah's initiative to leave Ur, however reading Acts 7:3 tells us that it was God who appeared to Abram. God first appeared to Abram in the city of Ur and called him to leave everything he knew behind and go to a land God would "shew him"
- God had not at this point revealed where He was taking Abram, and Abram trusted God and went out by FAITH.

- They would have travelled up along the Euphrates River until they came to the city of Haran. This is the far border of the Babylonian empire – once they leave this city, they leave the protection of the empire, as well as the comforts of everything they know.
- Here is Haran God calls Abram a second time, but this time God added a great and wonderful 4 part promise to Abram.

Gen 12:2 “a great nation”	Genesis 12:2 “his name would be great and he would be blessing”	Genesis 12:3 “God will bless or curse based on people’s actions towards Abraham’s seed”	Genesis 12:3 “in him all the nations of the earth would be blessed”
The National Promise	The Personal Promise	The Recompense Promise	The International Promise

- These promises have yet to be fully fulfilled. When Jesus sets up the Kingdom on the earth, the Jews will be gathered together again in the land and taught the truth concerning the Lord Jesus Christ (Ez. 37:21-23), Abram and all like him will be raised from the dead to eternal life (Romans 2:7) and the kingdom will be established over the whole earth (Ps 72:17) – THEN the promises to Abram will be fulfilled.
- How encouraging this must have been for Abram at 75 years old to go out into such unknown. It is after this that he would have “crossed over” the river Euphrates to go into the land of Canaan that God had promised him.
- When Abram entered Canaan he became known as “*the crosser over*” because he had crossed over the river Euphrates from the land of the Chaldees to begin a new life in the land God was sending him.
- In the New Testament the idea of baptism comes from Abram’s “crossing over.” In Baptism we go from an old way of life to a new one in Christ. (Romans 6:4) By baptism into Christ we become part of the family of God who will inherit the promises with faithful Abram. Galatians 3:26-29
- When Abram arrives in the land, God once again promises him the land he sees and specifically focused on giving it to “his seed” – but as of yet Sarai and Abram had no children! Abram built an altar and worshipped because he believed God. This was the third time God had appeared to him.
- Almost immediately upon seeing the whole land, trials came for Abram – there was a famine in the land. Even though God has promised us wonderful things in a time to come, that doesn’t guarantee our life now will be easy.
- Deuteronomy 11:10-15 Israel was a special land that received rain from heaven – in contrast the land of Egypt which could be farmed, but required hard, difficult work to produce. In times of famine Egypt had the waters of the Nile to keep the crops growing. There is a practical reason why it made sense to go to Egypt – but walking by what is practical is not always walking by faith!
- *(For older students) Abram had good reason to fear the people of Egypt – although his family knew they were strangers on the earth, to all external appearances they were “Babylonians” (or Chaldees) – who had been at war with Egypt for many years. He is far from everything he knows, far from the protection of the Babylonian empire, in enemy territory seeking help – he had good reason to fear! But God was going to work with Abram to help grow his faith little by little. Just like He does with us!*
- *(If time) Abraham is one of the most significant people in the Biblical record. He is called the friend of God (James 2:23), the Called of God (Heb. 11:8, Isa 51:2), the chosen of God (Neh. 9:7), the father of the faithful (Romans 4:12). In the NT alone there are over 70 references to him. The opening verse of the NT is a reference to him (Matthew 1:1)*

Main Lessons for Us

- Abram was not afraid to be different from those around him. God blessed Abram for his faith and obedience.

- God called Abram to do difficult tasks – to leave the comfort and security of life in the world to be a stranger upon the earth. We must keep ourselves separate from the evils of the world, so that God can work with us. These are the same principals of the days of creation – we must be separated before God can make in us!
- Abram built altars to thank and praise God on a regular basis – he loved to worship God! Psalm 92:1
- Even though God has promised us wonderful things in a time to come, that doesn't guarantee our life now will be easy.

Bible Marking (*references from NASB, you may have to modify words if using KJV but same ideas*)

Places (Orange)

Genesis 11:28 "in Ur of the Chaldees"

Genesis 11:31 "Ur of the Chaldees"; "land of Canaan"; "Haran" x2

Genesis 12:4 "Haran"

Genesis 12:5 "land of Canaan" x2

Genesis 12:6 "Shechem"

Genesis 12:8 "Bethel"

Genesis 12:9 "Negev"

Genesis 12:10 "Egypt"

Genesis 12:11 "near to Egypt"

Genesis 12:14 "into Egypt"

Genesis 12:15 "Pharaoh's house"

Time (Green)

Genesis 12:4 "seventy five years old"