

BIBLE OVERVIEW

2. From the Euphrates to the Nile: Abraham's Journey of Faith

NB Zoom lens: focus is now on one clan, one family, one person – Abraham.
Date: ca 2000 BC.

Abraham's route: Ur – Haran – Canaan.

Was Ur of the Chaldees the Babylonian Ur of today?

Babylonian Ur

- Agricultural prosperity
- Urban luxury
- Cultural distinction

Haran

- City of the K of Mari
- Highly organised
- Prosperous commerce

Not surprising that Terah's family settled there!

The Call of Abraham

Was he called in Ur as well as Haran?

It wasn't easy for Abraham to respond:

He was called to leave *a secure environment*, for *an unknown destination*, moving in *an unpopular direction*.

But he obeyed! 'So Abram left as the LORD had told him.... they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.' (Genesis 12.4,5).

The Covenant with Abraham

Term used to describe and define God's relationship with Abraham – '*covenant*'. Cf 15.18 + ch. 17 (x14).

Special focus on the *promise* of the covenant: 12.2-3

Difficulties and challenges

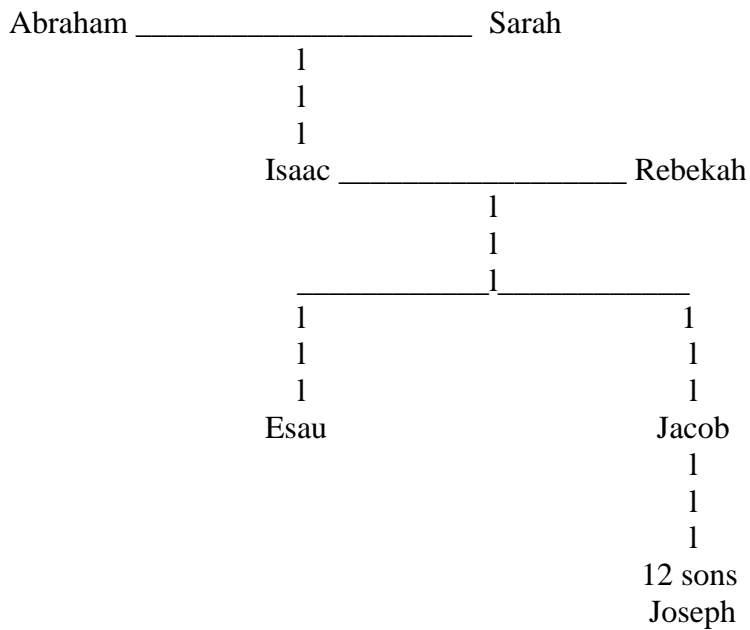
- Infertility of Sarah
- Sacrifice of Isaac

Family problems

- Ishmael
- Lot

The Patriarchs

Abraham the first of the Patriarchs



The Covenant promise passed from generation to generation, but with a changing focus:

Abraham – the *promise* of God – Romans 4.13

Isaac – the *provision* of God – Genesis 22.14

Jacob – the *purpose* of God – Romans 9.10-13

Joseph – the *providence* of God – Genesis 50.20

Narrative Prose

The storyline of Genesis is told in narrative prose.

Cf Epic

Cf Prophecy

The entire Bible has a narrative framework.