

## One Nation to Bless Them All

Genesis 11.27-12.10

Part 2 of Genesis is where God initiates His great redemptive plan. This is the story of God's promise, and Abraham's journey of faith. God calls, Abram answers; through him all nations will be blessed.

Genesis 1-11 In A Nutshell

God turns chaos into abundant blessing.

*Man falls in sin; blessing turns into pain, conflict, and death.*

God judges man, but provides hope and a covering for sin.

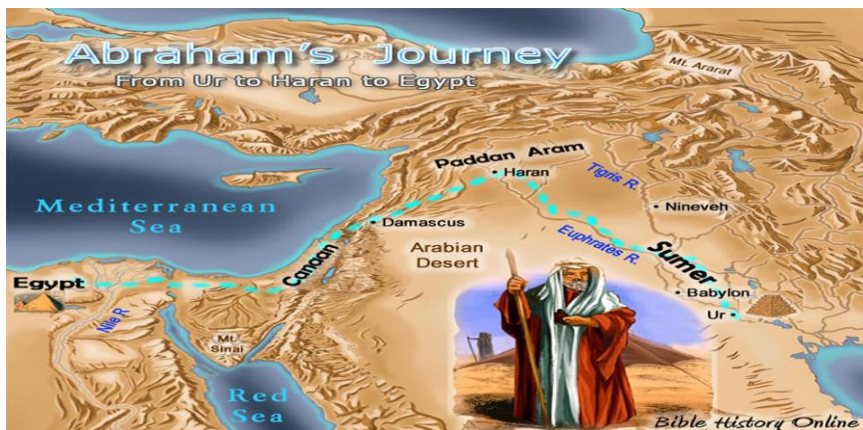
*Man descends further into sin and death, until it fills the earth.*

God judges the sinful world and begins with new hope.

*Man pridefully rebels against God's command to fill the earth.*

God divides and scatters mankind across earth; is there any hope?

- A New Beginning: Meeting the Main Characters (11.27-32)  
*Terah, Abram, Sarai, and Lot...and Terah dies.*
- A New Promise: One Nation to Bless Them All (12.1-3)  
*I will make you a great nation*  
*I will bless those who bless you*  
*In you all the families of the earth will be blessed*
- Stepping Out in Faith and Worship (12.4-9)

**Digging Deeper**

1. Genesis 11.27 begins the sixth *tôledôt* section of the book, and it continues all the way to Genesis 25.11. This is the *tôledôt* of Terah, but Terah dies before we get to chapter 12! Gen. 11.27-32 is a brief 'introduction' to the *real hero* of the story, Abram. What do we learn from these verses?
2. Gen. 12.1-3 is one of the most significant passages of scripture in the whole Bible. Here God extends His call to Abram, and makes promises to him that are as true today as they were the day God spoke them. The precise circumstances are not given, but the basic facts are these: At some point while living in Ur (modern-day Iraq), Abram received a call from God, and left to go to Canaan. The rest of the *tôledôt* reveals Abram's 'journey of faith,' but here at the beginning, what does Abram exhibit? The world was thoroughly pagan at this time, and Ur – in the same vicinity as Babel, especially so. Abram was advanced in years, and probably fairly wealthy. How do these factors make his response to the Lord more amazing?
3. The promises in Gen. 12.2-3 are all 'absolutes' – God gives no stipulations or provisos, He simply says, over and over, *I will*. What *exactly* did God promise to Abram? Looking back from some 4000 years later, how true has God been to His word?
4. Up until now Abram's faith in God has been implicit – in other words, we infer his faith in God because he left Ur in response to God's call. But in Gen. 12.4-9, his faith is exhibited. How is it highlighted in v4? When he arrives in Canaan, God promises to give the land to his descendants: What fact in v.6 would have challenged his faith in this promise?
5. Faith in God is demonstrated in many ways, but nothing shows it more than actively *worshipping* the Lord. When we worship, we 'act out' our faith. What did Abram do to worship the Lord in Gen. 12.7-8? What aspects of worship does building an altar show? How does your worship demonstrate your faith in God?

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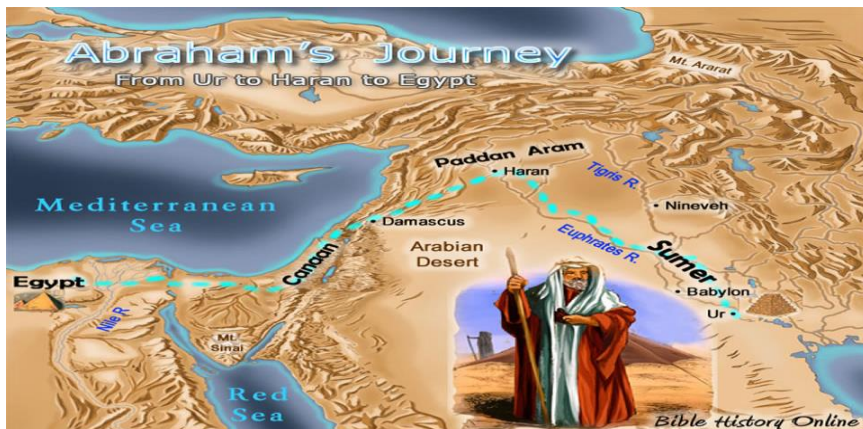
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