

Questions

Study Procedure: Read the Scripture references before answering questions. Unless otherwise instructed, use the Bible only in answering questions. Some questions may be more difficult than others but try to answer as many as you can. Pray for God's wisdom and understanding as you study and don't be discouraged if some answers are not obvious at first. Do not read the study notes for this lesson until AFTER you have completed your questions.

Day One

1. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word from the list provided:

provoked ambition polytheism counterpart arrogance Pentecost
enthusiasm diversities ethnologists idolatry forsake

- a) Today modern _____ have also traced the origin of of mankind back to three root nations, Semitic, Aryan and Turanian.
- b) Their rebellion _____ divine judgment.
- c) The _____ of man caused him to want to trust in his own ability for security and well being, rather than trust in God.
- d) The nations had gradually departed from the living God and had fallen into _____ and _____.
- e) The outpouring of the Holy Spirit happened on the day of _____.
- f) The people in the land of Shinar had a great desire for accomplishment that called for unity, _____, _____ and dedication
- g) The _____ of the confusion of languages and dispersion of the nations is to be found in the history of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.
- h) We see many _____ in the families of the earth.
- i) God did not _____ the fallen race but chose one line through whom He worked for the redemption of mankind.
2. What comparison could be made regarding man's purpose in building the tower of Babel and many of our pursuits today? _____
3. Review Genesis 9:25-27. From the prophecies given by Noah concerning his three sons, through whom would you expect the promise of the seed of the woman to be continued?

Day Two: Read Genesis 11:10-32

1. To which son of Noah does Abraham's lineage belong? _____

2. To this point in Biblical history we have three genealogical tables. In the blank spaces at the right of the genealogical tables fill in the correct chapter or verses that are given.

Genesis 10; Genesis 11:10-31; Genesis 5

a) Adam to Noah _____

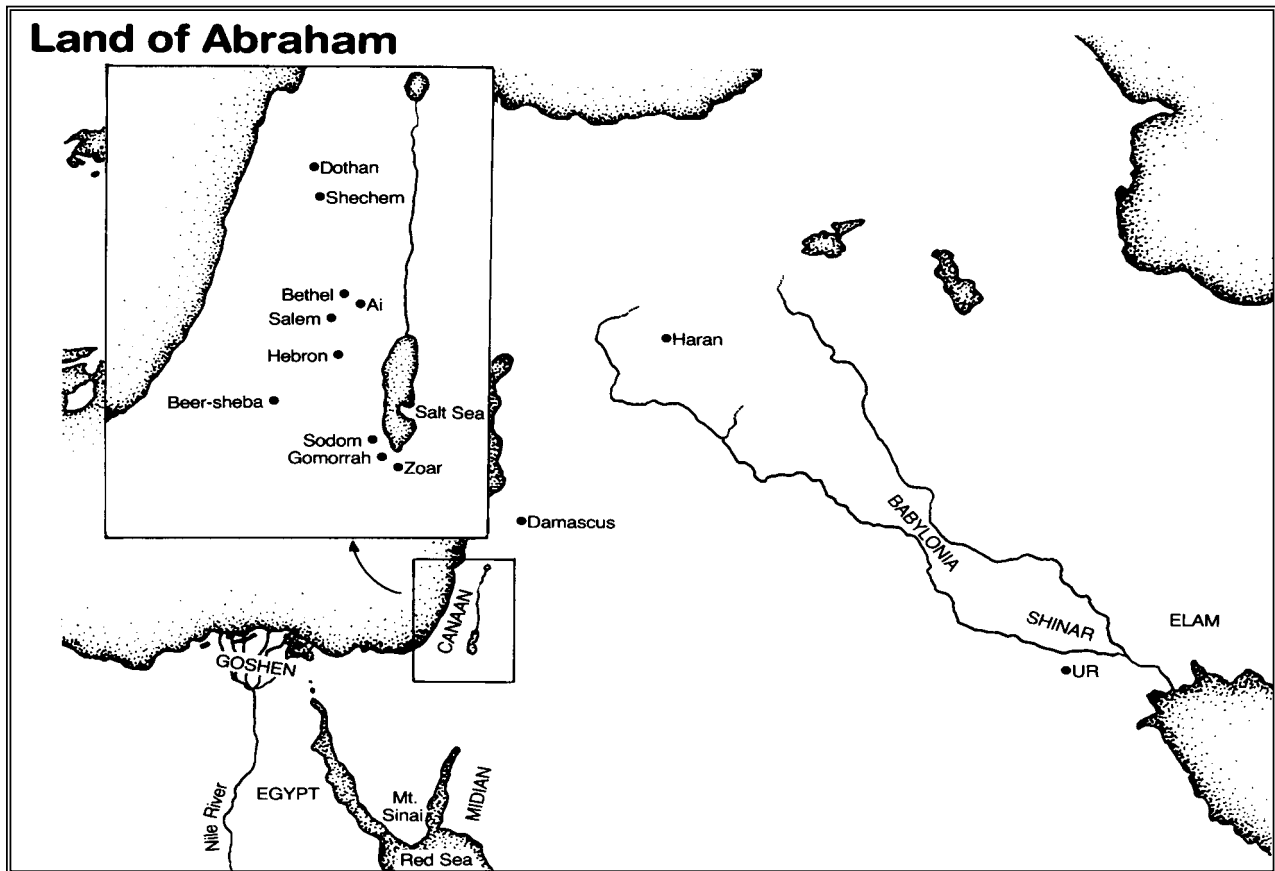
b) Three sons of Noah _____

c) Shem to Abraham _____

3. What interesting facts do we read about Sarai?

Day Three

1. Using the map below, locate Ur of the Chaldeans and Haran.



2. What factors do you think might have convinced Terah to leave his homeland at an old age?

3. Why do you think Terah journeyed 600 miles to Haran and didn't go on to Canaan?

4. From Joshua 24:2, what do we learn concerning Abram's religious background? _____



Day Four: Read Genesis 12:1-8

1. What phrase in the first verses of Genesis 12 indicates that the call of God came to Abram in Ur of the Chaldeans? _____

2. What was the promise of God given to Abram in Genesis 12:2? _____

3. What verse from Chapter 11 would make this seem impossible from man's point of view?

4. Read Hebrews 11:8. What is revealed in this passage about Abram's response to God's command? _____

Day Five



1. From James 2:23 what is Abraham called?

2. From Galatians 3:6-9, 29 how do Christians regard Abraham? _____

3. How would you evaluate Abram's full obedience to God's call? _____

4. Now take a few minutes to read the notes for this lesson.

Notes

The Need for a New Beginning

God Chose a People

As we study history we see a basic principle repeated many times: civilization without God ending in judgment. Cain's civilization ended at the time of the great flood in Genesis 6-9. Once again, in Genesis 11, as a result of God's judgment at the tower of Babel, the people were dispersed in every direction, spreading out across the land. From one people with one language there became many separate nations speaking different languages. Idolatry once again began to take root "*and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man. . .*" (Romans 1:23). Man's moral state continued to decline and eventually we read of the awful condition of Sodom.

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God had promised in Genesis 8:21 that He would not again destroy every living thing because of the sin of man. How would mankind be delivered from this corruption? God's plan was that He would call out and prepare one special people - the Hebrews, or Israel - to become His means of salvation for all people. God gave them the Law and pointed them to Christ, God's plan of salvation for the world. Israel was to witness to all nations throughout all generations to faith in one God, Creator of the universe. God selected the little nation Israel in contrast to larger kingdoms with greater culture and civilization. God separated them from the idolatry and moral corruption of the surrounding nations. From this point in Genesis forward, we will see that Gentile nations and their history are mentioned only as they affect Abram and his descendants.

Ur of the Chaldeans

Abram's father, Terah, was an idolater who "*served other gods*" (Joshua 24:2). According to Jewish tradition he worshiped the sun and the moon. Terah lived in Ur of the Chaldeans beyond the river, or east of the Euphrates. Abram was born and grew up in Ur, a large and wealthy town. Ur was one of the most ancient cities of Chaldea and at the time of Abram must have been one of the most splendid. It was the chief seaport on the Persian Gulf. The deposits of silt brought down by the Euphrates from the highlands of Armenia have changed this place from a seaport to an inland town. Today it is a railway station about 100 miles north of Basra near the Persian Gulf in Iraq. From ancient literature they are known to have been a very wealthy, educated and highly civilized people. They used both clay and **papyrus** for writing materials. Writing was common and they carefully recorded business transactions.

papyrus-a tall water plant processed by Egyptians to make a writing material

It was **amid** the influences of this culture that Abram grew to manhood. His life proved that he possessed **prudence** and excellent judgment. When God's call came to him, it came to an enlightened mind. It was not the result of impulse that Abram gave up the worship of idols to worship the one true God, but an intelligent and **deliberate** choice.

amid-in the middle of

prudence-skill and good judgment in the use of resources

deliberate-determined after careful thought

Genesis 11:31-32 records that Terah took his son Abram, Abram's wife Sarai, and his grandson Lot (son of Abram's brother Haran) from Ur and moved to Haran, 600 miles northwest of Ur where he died at the age of 205.

The Importance of Abram

In Genesis 12 Abram becomes the central character of our study. He is the physical father of the Hebrew nation through which Christ came. His faith was so strong that God "accounted it to him for righteousness" (Genesis 15:6). We do not all descend physically from Abram, but all who are born again by faith in Christ are the spiritual children of Abram. Abram was counted righteous because he believed God's Word; we are counted righteous by believing God's Word concerning salvation in Christ (Galatians 3:16 and 29).

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We can learn many practical lessons today as we study Abram's dependence upon God. He experienced doubts as well as failures. We will discover as we study the life of Abram how God greatly rewarded and blessed him for faith and obedience and caused him to have a purposeful life reaching to eternity. As we live our lives with faith in God, we can experience the same satisfaction of being blessed as well as being a blessing to others.

While God extended His grace to a single family, He declared that through Abram all nations of the earth should be blessed. In Genesis 17, God changed Abram's name to Abraham to signify the importance of this covenant. Christ would come into the world through the Hebrew people, the descendants of Abraham. Abraham, being the person in whom this foundation was laid, is spoken of in Scripture as the father of all who believe. Abraham is the root of the tree through which Christ came. From that small beginning in Abraham's time, the same tree flourishes today through the gospel of Christ which has spread its branches throughout the earth.

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Abraham, the Hebrew, stands at the head of the mainstream of Biblical history. Of the leading faiths of the world, three **cherish** his name with reverence: the Jew, the Moslem and the Christian. Although they may differ widely in many beliefs, they still agree on having their spiritual (if not also their natural) descent from the "Friend of God."

cherish-to hold dear

You might ask “Why should we study people who lived so many centuries ago?” Without the knowledge of God’s calling out and dealing with men and women under the Old Covenant, the Old Testament, we would be limited in our understanding of the New Covenant, the New Testament, and all God wants to teach us through His Word. Studying this important portion of Scripture can be very meaningful and relevant in our lives today. As you study, remember that the Bible does not **submit** its truths to man’s judgments. These truths are presented on the authority of God the Revealer; our responsibility is to study and know God’s Word.

submit-to yield to the action, control or power of another

Outline of Genesis

In the first part of the book of Genesis we have studied:

- 1) The Creation - Genesis 1 and 2
- 2) The Fall - Genesis 3
- 3) The Flood - Genesis 6
- 4) The Tower of Babel - Genesis 11

The first section of the book gives us a history of the human race. The historical matters of Scripture **constitute** the bones of its systems. The spiritual matters are its muscle, blood vessels, and nerves. If you fail to study the historical framework of Scripture for the sake of finding only spiritual truths, you will almost certainly end up with an incorrect conclusion.

constitute-to set up or establish

The second section (chapters 12-50) will focus on the life of one man, Abraham and his family. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph were the patriarchs, fathers of the chosen people. They lived for the most part, peaceful and uneventful lives in their pastoral tents. They were just ordinary men; they were not sinless or perfect. They sometimes fell into acts of meanness and **deceit**. With all their human weaknesses they were good men, but their greatest distinguishing feature was faith in God. Faith in God or the lack of it makes the great difference between people. As we study we will see this illustrated by contrast, Abram with Lot; Isaac with Ishmael; Jacob with Esau; Joseph with his brothers.

deceit-deception

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In the book of Genesis, God is shown as the ultimate source of all being, preparing the earth from the beginning to be the home of man. The history of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph is that of God’s dealings with man. The lessons from these stories are as true today as when they were written.