

# 3 **TENTS, TEMPLES, PALACES** 4

5 This study is outlined generally on the ICI course of the same name, authored by Rick C. Howard.  
6 Further information on the course can be obtained by contacting Global University, 1211 S. Glenstone,  
7 Springfield, Missouri 65804.

## 8 **Lesson Three** 9 **HISTORY OF THE CHOSEN PEOPLE**

### 10 Review:

11  
12 We have considered the origin of the world and the early history of humanity in our  
13 first two lessons. Now our study tonight turns to a single person who brought about,  
14 through God, the beginning of a singularly-blessed nation through whom God would  
15 bring about His purpose for mankind. That man was ABRAHAM; it was from the  
16 twelve sons of his grandson, JACOB, that the nation of Israel descended.

17  
18 For what reasons did God choose the Israelites? (*In Scriptures, the Jews are referred*  
19 *to as Israelites; today we call the Jews who live in Israel Israelis.*)

- 20  
21 1. First, God wanted to establish the worship of Himself, the one true God, and see that  
22 the worship would be preserved amid increasing darkness coming upon the whole world.  
23 2. His written word, the Holy Scriptures, would be recorded, guarded, and passed on to  
24 future generations.  
25 3. The line of ancestry for the needed and promised Redeemer, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
26 would be continued.

27  
28 The people of God, the Jews, who were to make these benefits possible were called to  
29 fulfill a huge responsibility. To say that they have suffered severely throughout the ages  
30 is an understatement.

### 31 32 Genesis 12:1-4

33 **Now the Lord said to Abram,**  
34 **"Go forth from your country,**  
35 **And from your relatives**  
36 **And from your father's house,**  
37  
38

1       **To the land which I will show you;**  
2       **[2] And I will make you a great nation,**  
3       **And I will bless you,**  
4       **And make your name great;**  
5       **And so you shall be a blessing;**  
6       **[3] And I will bless those who bless you,**  
7       **And the one who curses you I will curse.**  
8       **And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."**  
9       **[4] So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him.**  
10      **Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.**

### Civilization Following The Great Flood

14      God spared Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives, eight people in all, from the  
15      global flood. Upon their emergence from the great saving barge, God said to them,  
16      **Genesis 9:1 & 9 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful**  
17      **and multiply, and fill the earth. And as for you, be fruitful and multiply;**  
18      **Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it."**

20      But God's mercy made little impact on the generations that followed Noah. EVERY  
21      GENERATION NEEDS ITS OWN EXPERIENCE WITH GOD.

23      The people, who all spoke one language, made an evil and foolish plan to thwart God's  
24      directive by building a city called Babel or Babylon. It was their effort to exalt  
25      themselves, much as Lucifer had attempted to do (Luke 10:18 and Isaiah 14:12-14). But  
26      God sovereignly intervened and confused their common language and scattered them  
27      over the earth.

29      Paul wrote to the Romans, describing this "pattern" of insubordination before God:

### Romans 1:20-29

32      **[20] For since the creation of the world His (God's) invisible attributes, His eternal**  
33      **power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what**  
34      **has been made, so that they are without excuse. [21] For even though they knew**  
35      **God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their**  
36      **speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [22] Professing to be wise, they**  
37      **became fools, [23] and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in**  
38      **the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling**  
39      **creatures.**

40      **[24] Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that**

1 their bodies might be dishonored among them. [25] For they exchanged the truth of  
2 God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who  
3 is blessed forever. Amen.

4 [26] For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women  
5 exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, [27] and in the same  
6 way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their  
7 desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in  
8 their own persons the due penalty of their error.

9 [28] And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave  
10 them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, [29] being  
11 filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife,  
12 deceit, malice; they are gossips...

#### 13 THE FIVE WAYS MAN REJECTS GOD'S TRUTH

- 16 1. Romans 1:21 Their empty minds are filled with darkness (thoughts).
- 17 2. Romans 1:23 They worship images made like man, birds, animals or reptiles.  
18 (Pastor: I have seen this with my own eyes countless times all over the world, where  
19 people worship idols made with their own hands. Even American Indian totem poles fit  
20 into this category.)
- 21 3. Romans 1:24 God gives them over to do the filthy things they desire to do.
- 22 4. Romans 1:26-27 Sexual perversion becomes admissible and then acceptable
- 23 5. Romans 1:28 God gives them over to corrupted minds because they refuse to keep  
24 in mind the true knowledge about God.

25  
26 Man makes the CHOICE; God respects our FREE WILL; but SIN when it is finished....  
27 KILLS.  
28

**The great historian, Arnold Toynbee, has traced 21 separate civilizations in 6000 years of history. He began with the civilizations of Sumer and Akkad, which came into being soon after God judged the civilization described in Genesis 11. He ended with the recent civilizations of our world today. He found that each one has followed the same pattern of decline. The seed of rebellion which ultimately brings self-destruction is in all people. No wonder Jesus said that we must be born again!**

#### 29 30 **THE PATRIARCHAL AGE** 31 32

1 Webster's Dictionary: *Patriarch* - A person regarded as the father or founder of an  
2 order, class, etc. Any of the Biblical personages regarded as the fathers of the human  
3 race or any of the three great progenitors of the Israelites: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

4  
5 • The time period covered by Genesis 12 - 50 is known as the *patriarchal age*  
6 because it deals with the lives of the men who were known as the patriarchs.  
7 Primarily these chapters deal with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their relationship  
8 to God.

9  
10 • What do we learn from them?

11  
12 1. They struggled in their life situations just as we do. Yet they responded  
13 positively to God's guidance.

14  
15 2. They had personal human failings yet they were sensitive to God's love.

16  
17 3. Through it all, they had fervent faith in God's promises. They obeyed Him  
18 and experienced His presence in personal ways and were given a great hope for the  
19 future.

## 20 21 THE WORLD OF ABRAM

22  
23 Abram (as he was first known) came from Babylonia. We know this area today as Iraq.  
24 Specifically, he was somewhat of a nomad (a well-to-do one) from the area round Ur,  
25 south and somewhat east of today's Baghdad. Ur was an extremely fertile area with  
26 soil not unlike that of the Nile Delta north of Cairo, Egypt. His culture was an old one,  
27 at least 1,000 years old when Abram was born to a man named Terah and his wife.

28  
29 Ur was a substantial city for that era, covering about 150 acres with 25,000 inhabitants.  
30 Unfortunately, the city was given to idol worship which centered around a 7-story tower,  
31 very high for those days.

32  
33 Abram was a descendant of Noah through the line of Shem. That's what's so strange:  
34 even after God's faithfulness to Noah and his family, by the time Abram was born, his  
35 father was one of many who worshiped false gods and had virtually no knowledge of  
36 God Himself. So think of it! One of the greatest men and leaders who ever lived  
37 came out of an idolatrous and pagan home and society.

38  
39 One has to wonder how? There must have been some witness in Abram's heart from  
40 some source that caused him to search for the one true God. As we pick up the

1 scriptural narrative, Abram has reached the age of 75. His father, who is still going  
2 strong, is taking his family from Ur up to Haran (Acts 7:2 And he said, "Hear me,  
3 brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in  
4 Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran." (The words of the first Christian martyr  
5 Stephen).

6

7 **Genesis 12:1-3**

8 **Now the Lord said to Abram,**

9 **"Go forth from your country,**

10 **And from your relatives**

11 **And from your father's house,**

12 **To the land which I will show you;**

13 **[2] And I will make you a great nation,**

14 **And I will bless you,**

15 **And make your name great;**

16 **And so you shall be a blessing;**

17 **[3] And I will bless those who bless you,**

18 **And the one who curses you I will curse.**

19 **And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."**

20

I put myself in Abram's sandals at this point. I am only 71; but if God spoke to me today and said, "Dan, I want you to take Darlene and any and all possession you have and load up a truck and leave Florida today." So I reply, "OK, God, where are we heading?" God responds, "I'll let you know when you get there." How anxious do you think I'm really going to be about this deal?

21

22

23 Small wonder, then, that Abraham is known as "a man of great faith." From beginning  
24 to end, he walked by faith and not foreknowledge. Look at Hebrews 11:8: **By faith**  
25 **Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to**  
26 **receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.**

27

28 How did God reward him?

29

30 ■ God gave Abram a family

31 ■ God gave Abram a tribe

32 ■ God gave Abram a nation

33 ■ God gave Abram a legacy that has touched the entire world

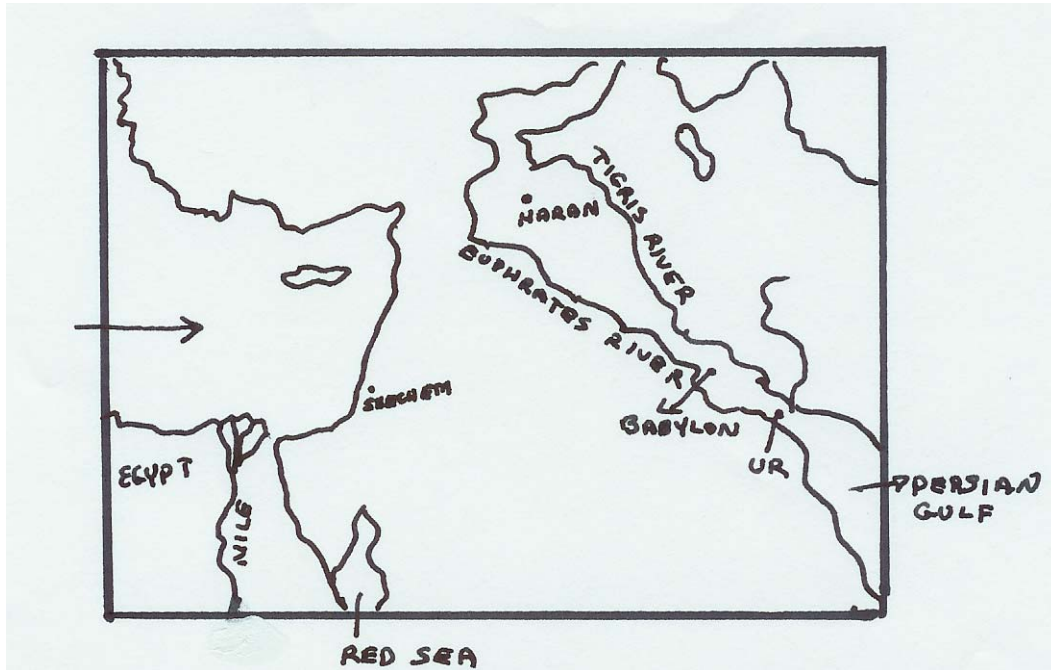
34

35

1 As far as places to live were concerned (back in those days), Ur was about as good as you  
2 could get! Ah, but God had something better. He always does! Hebrews 11:10

3 **Abraham was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and**  
4 **builder is God.**

5  
6 SO WHAT ROUTE DID ABRAHAM TRAVEL?



24 Abram responded to God's call for him to leave the security and prosperity of his native  
25 Ur. Hebrews 11:8 reminds us that he "left his own country without knowing where he  
26 was going."

27  
28 Abram first migrated about 600 miles north along a branch of the Euphrates River to  
29 Haran, a city much like his native Ur. Here, Abram's faith was tested for he stayed in  
30 Haran until his father Terah died. Then he left Haran and traveled 400 miles west and  
31 south into Canaan (Israel) itself.

32  
33 Just think of traveling 1,000 miles on foot, with a caravan of relatives, livestock and  
34 supplies without knowing for sure where the next oasis would be or the next attack from  
35 hostile people.

36  
37 Upon arrival in Canaan, Abram built two altars. On them he sacrificed offerings of  
38 praise and thanksgiving to His God Who had successfully brought him "home."

39  
40 But his trip was not without significant trials, as we shall see. Nehemiah wrote about

1 Abram from the perspective of “looking back:” Neh. 9:7-8  
2 "Thou art the Lord God,  
3 Who chose Abram  
4 And brought him out from Ur of the Chaldees,  
5 And gave him the name Abraham.  
6 [8] "And Thou didst find his heart faithful before Thee,  
7 And didst make a covenant with him  
8 To give him the land of the Canaanite,  
9 Of the Hittite and the Amorite,  
10 Of the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite--  
11 To give it to his descendants.  
12 And Thou hast fulfilled Thy promise,  
13 For Thou art righteous.  
14

15 **My friend, you simply MUST have FAITH if you are going to pursue God’s call on**  
16 **your life successfully. I am in enough ecclesiastical committee meetings to know**  
17 **that faith is sometimes the last thing considered in deliberations. The FIRST thing**  
18 **that should be considered is GOD’S WILL and the second thing is THE FAITH TO**  
19 **FOLLOW IT THROUGH.**  
20

#### 21 THE TRIALS OF ABRAHAM

- 23 1. Abraham was willing to break natural ties. Genesis 11 and 12 It had to be  
24 traumatic, even to a man of his faith, to leave his family and Ur.  
25
- 26 2. In arriving at his destination, Abraham encountered famine. He was not at his best  
27 during this time as he took his family to Egypt where he ran into all sorts of difficulty  
28 with the Pharaoh and his wife Sarah.  
29
- 30 3. We need to look at the way he handed Lot, his nephew, and allowed him to have the  
31 better (seemingly) location in the “well-watered plains of Sodom.” Genesis 13:1-18  
32
- 33 4. Abraham’s rescue of his family and staff from the kings of the north and of Sodom  
34 was amazing (Genesis 14).  
35
- 36 5. God had promised Abram he would be the father of many nations; but the greatest  
37 mistake of his life was impregnating Sarah’s maid Hagar who gave birth to Ishmael.  
38 (Genesis 16) Most of the problems we face today came from Abraham’s doubt of God  
39 regarding his progeny.  
40

1 Twenty-four YEARS had passed since Abraham had settled in Canaan. He was  
2 pushing 100 and Sarah was nearing 90. All human means of reproduction between the  
3 two of them was but a dream. BUT GOD HAD PROMISED! A few years later, Isaac  
4 was born. But by then, the fatal seed had been planted.  
5

6 **6. But the biggest test of Abraham's faith came in Genesis 22:1-19. God told him**  
7 **to go to Mount Moriah in the north (today's Jerusalem) and there sacrifice Isaac.**  
8

9 Abraham is often criticized for his willingness to go through with God's command. But  
10 you see, he knew God better than most of us.  
11

- 12 • Abraham knew that the future promises of God HAD TO COME THROUGH  
13 ISAAC....so no matter what happened on Mount Moriah, Isaac would be alright.  
14
- 15 • Notice Abraham's command to his servants as he and Isaac prepared to climb to  
16 the summit of Moriah: Genesis 22:4-6

17 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. [5] And  
18 Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go  
19 yonder; and we will worship and return to you." [6] And Abraham took the wood of the  
20 burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife.  
21 So the two of them walked on together.  
22

23 What faith! "We will return to you.....!"  
24

25 ISAAC  
26 Genesis 24:1-26:35  
27

28 Isaac's story seems to be overshadowed by that of his father Abraham and of his son  
29 Jacob. However, he was an important factor in God's plan. Through his lovely wife  
30 Rebekah, two sons were born to him: Esau and Jacob. Genesis 25:20-26

31 **...and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel**  
32 **the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. [21]**  
33 **And Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the**  
34 **Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived. [22] But the children struggled**  
35 **together within her; and she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?" So she went**  
36 **to inquire of the Lord. [23] And the Lord said to her,**

37 "Two nations are in your womb;  
38 And two peoples shall be separated from your body;  
39 And one people shall be stronger than the other;  
40 And the older shall serve the younger."

1 [24] When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her  
2 womb. [25] Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they  
3 named him Esau. [26] And afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding  
4 on to Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when  
5 she gave birth to them.

6  
7 JACOB  
8 Genesis 27:1-37:1  
9

10 Jacob's life was certainly in two acts. In his early life he was a deceiver, a liar and a  
11 thief. That's what the name "Jacob" meant. But in Genesis 32:28 God changed his  
12 name to ISRAEL, the name by which God's people would be known in the Old  
13 Testament – Israelites.

14  
15 Jacob had 12 sons, chiefest of whom as Joseph.

16  
17 JOSEPH  
18 Genesis 37:2 - 50:26

19 The story of Joseph shows us that he was a great and magnificent person. He illustrates  
20 God's providence, which you and I can also experience. Joseph was sold as a slave  
21 into Egypt when he was just 17. At 30 he became a ruler in Egypt. Ten years later, his  
22 father Jacob and the rest of his family entered Egypt during the time of the great famine  
23 in the land. There were 70 persons in Joseph's family who made the move to the Nile.  
24 GOD HAD ALREADY TOLD ABRAHAM DECADES EARLIER THAT HIS  
25 FAMILY WOULD SPEND MANY YEARS AS STRANGERS IN A FOREIGN LAND:  
26 Genesis 15:13-16

27 And God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a  
28 land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. [14]  
29 **"But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve; and afterward they will come  
30 out with many possessions. [15] "And as for you, you shall go to your fathers in  
31 peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. [16] "Then in the fourth generation  
32 they shall return here...."**

33  
34 So we end Genesis with the Israelites in the foreign land of Egypt. But, as we come to  
35 Exodus, the story will take a sharp turn some 400 years later when the government of  
36 Egypt is overthrown and a new Pharaoh emerges "who knew not Joseph."

37  
38 Next Wednesday night, July 10<sup>th</sup>, we continue our study with THE HISTORY OF FAITH  
39 AND WORSHIP IN THE OLD TESTAMENT - including an in-depth study of THE  
40 TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS