

## UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 4 – *Abraham went out, not knowing where he was going*

February 17, 2026

Gen. 12:1-2 - *Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.*

Abram’s home was in Ur of the Chaldees. The city of Babylon was the capitol of Chaldees. In Abram’s time, Ur was one of the major cities of the world. Ur was a thriving, bustling, cultured city and a political center as well as a center of learning. The people in Mesopotamia worshiped many gods, ruled by the moon god. Ur was considered the “Moon City.” Abram lived within a polytheistic culture. His family worshiped many gods!

Josh. 24:2 - *And Joshua said to all the people, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.’*

Abram didn’t know the one true God!

Gen. 11:27-32 - *This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot.* <sup>28</sup> *And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans.* <sup>29</sup> *Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram’s wife was Sarai (my princess) and the name of Nahor’s wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah.* <sup>30</sup> *But Sarai was barren; she had no child.* <sup>31</sup> *And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram’s wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there.* <sup>32</sup> *So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.*

Gen. 12:4-5 - *So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.* <sup>5</sup> *Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.*

This was a divine initiative to create/choose one nation to bless the world and to accomplish God’s purposes for the world! God also said, *I will bless you and make your name great;* Abram was already blessed materially; he had much to offer people – materially.

In the midst of all that God was conveying to Abram, could Abram have asked God, “Who are you?” But, Abram did not ask God to identify Himself. God told Abram, *you shall be a blessing....* Can you envision Abram responding with, “What can you give me that I don’t already have?” But God promised greater blessings/different blessings than Abram already had – blessings from the one true God Whom Abram did NOT know...and FAR-REACHING blessings! God had told Abram...in you, through you and your descendants *ALL the families of the earth shall be blessed* – through the MESSIAH. God promised that HE/God would specifically extend to the WORLD blessings through Abram and his descendants.

Gal. 3:14 – the Apostle Paul wrote to the Gentile believers in Galatia, *that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.* Salvation!

Gen. 12:4 - Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him.

Heb. 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. Abram departed by faith. Faith in what...faith in Whom? Faith must always have an OBJECT! Abram had to know that the One Who made the promises was faithful – that He was trustworthy. But how?

A Christian author wrote, “We don’t know exactly what prompted Abram’s family to leave the well-watered delta region of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Some think that it was to escape invading Western Semitic tribes.”

A Bible commentator stated, “The word of the Lord came to Abram, though it is not known exactly how!” Well....I cross referenced and was led to...Acts 7:2-4!

Stephen, a Jewish believer in Jesus in the days of the early Church, was accused of speaking blasphemy against Moses and God. He was brought before the Jewish council where he retold the story of God’s dealings with Israel from the time Abram left his country in obedience to God’s command. Stephen told the religious leadership...

Acts 7:2-4 - The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham/Abram when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, <sup>3</sup> and said to him, ‘Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.’ <sup>4</sup> Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell. What moved Abram out of Ur? WHO moved Abram?

The GLORY OF GOD appeared to Abram in Ur...and Abram left Ur. And, while dwelling in Haran GOD MOVED Abram out!

Abram was visited by God Almighty...the glory of God – ALL WHO GOD IS!

Read Isa. 6:1-5 when the Prophet Isaiah saw the LORD! Isaiah said, *Woe is me, I am UNDONE, I am RUINED!*

What was Abram’s response to the appearance of the GLORY OF GOD? He OBEYED!

Heb. 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. BUT ABRAM OBEYED!

AND, we can understand that Abram believed that God is ALL powerful. God is sovereign of the universe. He is able to perform what He has promised. He is a faithful God Who will do that which He has promised. Abram believed that God is worthy to be believed and worthy to be obeyed. GOD appeared to Abram...and Abram’s life was immediately transformed! It was a long journey from Ur by way of Haran into the land of Canaan...approximately 1700 miles.

Gen. 12:4-8 - So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him.... And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran...and they departed to go to the land of Canaan.

<sup>5</sup> Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’ And there he (Abram) built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. This is the West

Bank today (which was Judea and Samaria)! The West Bank is on the western bank of the Jordan River. God reappeared to Abram in the land of Canaan...and the LORD reiterated His promise of the land to Abram and his descendants. The land Abram saw was actual physical land that he saw with his physical eyes.

Gen. 12:7 - And there Abram built an altar to the LORD, Who had appeared to him. WHY?

The altar was a place to meet with God, to offer sacrifice, to bring a gift to God, to show submission to God, and to WORSHIP God.

God had come to a man, Abram, who had no knowledge of the one true God! God went before Abram – God did not abandon Abram. God is faithful.

Gen. 12:9 - So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

God cut a covenant with Abram – an eternal, unilateral (one-sided – “I will”), unconditional covenant with Abram and his physical descendants.

ETERNAL – FOREVER! The Abrahamic Covenant is timeless – taking us through Revelation!

UNILATERAL – one-sided...on God’s side.

UNCONDITIONAL – the fulfillment of what was promised depends solely on God!

Moses promised that even though Israel would veer from God and be scattered and suffer because of their sin, in the latter days Israel, a remnant, the believing nation at the end of the tribulation, would return to God. God will not fail Israel, nor destroy it, nor forsake the promises which He swore to their fathers through the Abrahamic Covenant (Deut. 4:25-31) (Lev. 26:42, 44-45) (Dt. 30:1-6; Jer. 31:31-34; Eze. 36:24-27; Eze. 37:11-14; Zech. 12:10).

King David regarded the Abrahamic Covenant to be timeless. I Chron. 16:15-18 - David exhorted the Jews, ‘*Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations, even of the covenant which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac, and hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant....* (Psa. 105:8-11).

BUT ISRAEL disobeyed God so many times! BUT GOD!

## QUESTIONS

What was new to you?

What are your questions?

What are you learning re: how to study the Bible?

Are you viewing Israel differently? WHY?

How are you understanding God?

## SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 4’s handout w/ Bible references.

Continue to write in your journal...your understanding of the “one story”.

Share this lesson with someone.

Pray about inviting someone to the upcoming Passover Seder – 3/30/2026.

Read Week 5’s handout when you receive it.