

The Book of Genesis

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The Call of Abraham

- I. The Generations of Terah (Genesis 11:27-32)
- A. Terah was a 10th generation descendant of Noah.
 - B. Terah had three sons, but Abraham was probably not his oldest.
 - 1. He was 70 when his first son was born.
 - 2. He was 205 when he died in Haran.
 - 3. Abraham was 75 when he left Haran, after the death of Terah (12:4; Acts 7:4).
 - 4. Thus, Terah was 130 when Abraham was born.
 - 5. *{Some claim that Abraham left Terah in Haran where he died 60 years later. To explain Stephen's statement, they claim that he was not inspired and simply made a mistake.}*
 - C. Terah and his family lived in Ur of the Chaldees.
 - D. While living there, Terah practiced idolatry (Josh. 24:2).
 - E. His son Haran died while they still lived in Ur. (Haran was the father of Lot.)
 - F. His son Nahor married Milcah, the daughter of his brother Haran.
 - G. His son Abram married Sarai, who was unable to bear children.
 - H. Terah, Abram, Sarai, and Lot all left Ur and travelled north to Haran.
 - 1. Some think that Terah led this migration simply because he wanted to move.
 - 2. However, God's call to Abraham came while he was still in Ur (Acts 7:2-4).
 - I. Terah died in Haran when he was 205 years old.
- II. The Call of Abraham (Genesis 12:1)
- A. Jehovah means "the self-existing one" and is a covenant name of God (Exo. 6:1-4).
 - B. The Lord had said to Abram to leave Ur (cf. Acts 7:2).
 - C. Note the things from which Abram was to be separated:
 - 1. His country – the land of Ur
 - 2. His kindred – his extended family, or tribe, that had settled near Ur
 - a. Nahor and Milcah were left at Ur
 - b. Terah died in Haran
 - 3. His father's house – his immediate family
 - a. The implication is that he was to separate from them if they would not follow God (cf. Luke 14:26-33; 2 Cor. 6:17).
 - b. Eventually, he will separate from Lot (Gen. 13).
 - D. Abram was to follow God unto the land that He would show him.
 - 1. Abram did not know what this land was or where he was going (Heb. 11:8).
 - 2. Yet, he trusted God and journeyed by faith.
 - E. Abraham's life becomes a story and illustration of true faith (cf. Rom. 4).
- III. The Promise of Jehovah (Genesis 12:2-3)
- A. Land Promise – Gen. 15:7; Joshua 21:43-45
 - B. Nation Promise – Gen. 13:16; 18:18; 46:3; Exo. 1:7
 - C. Blessing Promise – Galatians 3:16