

VISION

The vision of the Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Virginia will reach and reproduce within its surrounding community, a people inspired and equipped with a passion for the truth of God's Word and His compassion for others who will be enablers of change.



Moving Forward as a Growing Church



Abraham:

The Father of the Jews

Genesis Chapter 11 v. 27 – Chapter 25 v. 10

Dr. Alvin Edwards, Teacher

Dr. Savola Monroe, Assistant Teacher

Abraham:

The Father of the Jews

Lesson 2



September 20, 2023

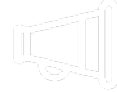
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PURPOSE of Study

- A detailed, instructive, and rewarding experience in seeing many Gospel truths. For it is an experience in learning how to walk the life of faith in God's Word. The Gospel not only involves the saving of the soul, but it also involves a new walk of faith.
- The nation through whom the Redeemer of humankind will come begins in Abraham. This is disclosed in the covenant which God established with Abraham.
- The chief promise in the covenant is the promise of seed for Abraham. He is to be the father of the Jews. But the greatest fulfillment of the promise is in The Seed, Jesus Christ.
- Abraham's successes and failures in this life of faith will teach invaluable lessons to the diligent student of the Word of God.

SUMMONS **from God**



Genesis 12:1-3

Abraham **the Receiver**

Abraham's Relatives:

- His ancestors:

After the flood, the world was populated by the descendants of Noah's three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Abraham came from the line of Shem.

- His father:

Abraham's father was named Terah (11:27). Terah was an idolater (Joshua 24:2) and led his family to be the same.

Abraham **the Receiver**

Abraham's Relatives:

- His brothers:

Abraham had two brothers: Nahor and Haran. Both played a significant part in Abraham's life.

- The significant part Haran played in Abraham's life had to do with Haran's son Lot. Haran died prematurely in Ur before the brothers' father Terah died (11:28) and before the summons was given to Abraham. In death, Haran left a son, Lot. Terah took Lot (his grandson) under his care. Terah died and Abraham took over the care of his brother's son Lot (12:5).

Abraham **the Receiver**

Abraham's Relatives:

- His brothers:

The significant part which Nahor played in Abraham's life had to do with brides. Nahor's granddaughter Rebekah became the bride of Abraham's son Isaac (Genesis 24). And Nahor's great granddaughters Rachel and Leah became the wives of Abraham's grandson Jacob (Genesis 29).

Abraham **the Receiver**

Abraham's Relatives:

- His Nephew:

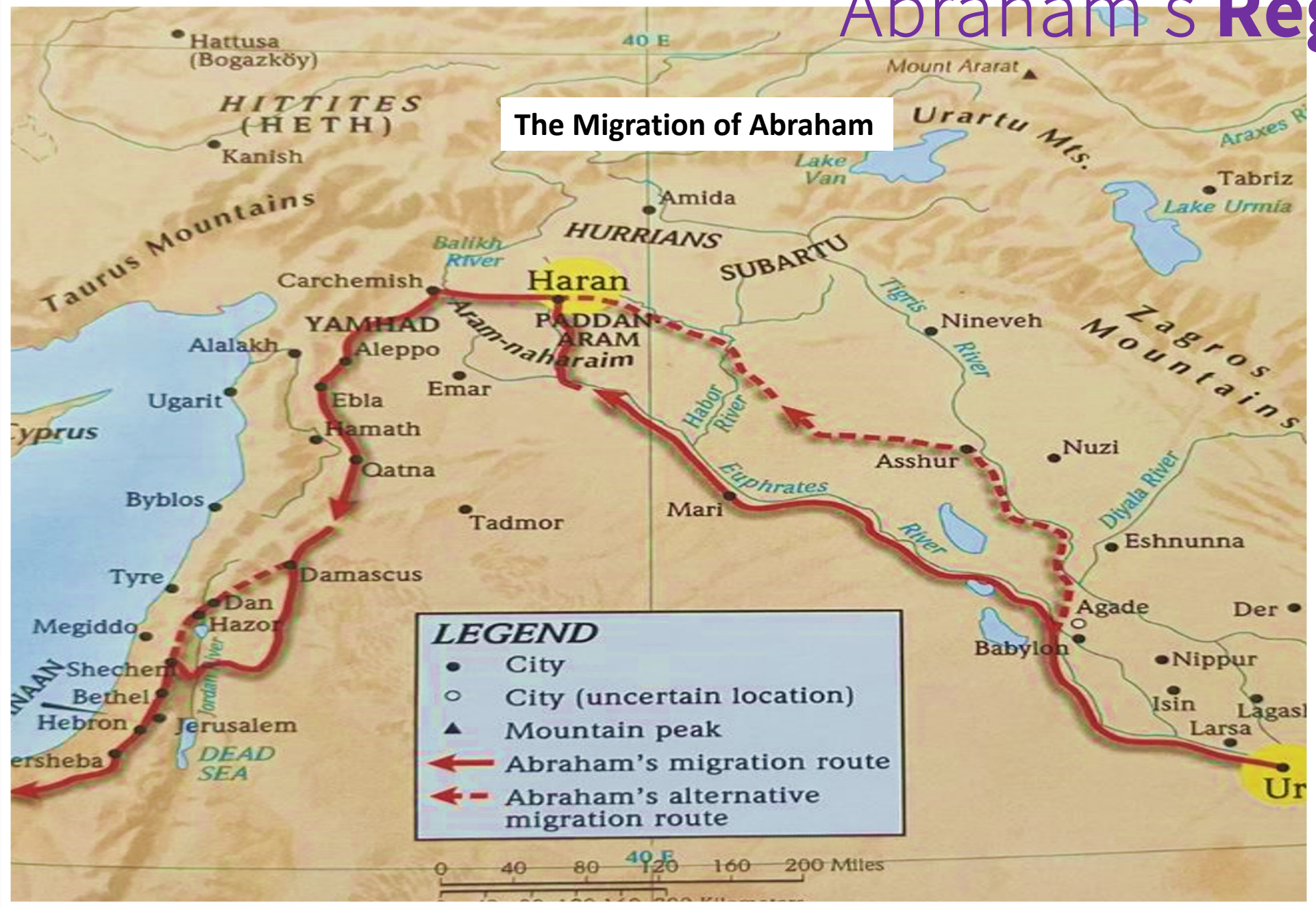
As noted above, Abraham's nephew Lot was very much involved in Abraham's life as a result of Abraham taking Lot under his care (12:5). Lot became a great problem for Abraham.

- His wife:

Abraham's wife was Sarah (11:29). She was a blood relative of Abraham, for she was a half-sister to Abraham. She was the daughter of Abraham's father but not the daughter of Abraham's mother (Genesis 20:12). Sarah will play a very important part in the story of Abraham. In fact, no other relative will be so prominent in the story of Abraham as Sarah was.

Abraham's Region

The Migration of Abraham



Abraham's **Region**

- Abraham's native land was "Ur of the Chaldees" (11:28). This place was located where the Euphrates River emptied into the Persian Gulf. Ur lies today in the southeast corner of Iraq about seventy-five miles north of the Kuwait border. Thus, Ur's location was not far from the center of the Desert Storm War of 1991.
- Ur was an important seaport for trade from India and Africa via the Persian Gulf. The region in Abraham's day was also fit for the raising of flocks, and so it is not surprising that Abraham from his early days was involved in this occupation which he continued to do with much success in Canaan.

Abraham's Religion

- When God called Abraham, he was an idolater.
- That is not surprising; for Ur was then an important center of paganism; and as we noted above, Terah, Abraham's father, was an idolater who had led his family to also being idolaters. Star and moon worship were prominent forms of idolatry. Commentator, F. B. Meyer, writes, *"In that clear transparent atmosphere, the heavenly bodies blazed with extraordinary effulgence, beguiling the early Chaldeans into a system of Nature-worship, which speedily became identified with rites of gross indulgence and impurity, such as those into which humanity always falls, when it refuses to retain God in its knowledge, and gives itself up to the dictates of its own carnal lust."*

Abraham's Religion

- Scripture makes it clear that idolatry was practiced by the family of Terah, which included Abraham. *“Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood [Euphrates River] in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor [Nahor]; and they served other gods”* (Joshua 24:2).
- Though Abraham was separated from it by God's summons to him, the idolatry clung to his brother Nahor and continued on down to Nahor's grandson Laban and to Laban's daughters (Jacob's wives) as is attested by Genesis 31:30–34.

Abraham's Religion

- A great change took place in Abraham because of God's summons to him. His whole life was transformed. His character, attitudes, position, and eternal destiny were all gloriously changed because he did not reject God's call to him. The same is true in the matter of soul salvation.
- That Abraham was called out of idolatry underscores the fact that he received this Divine summons as a result of God's grace. And how fitting that a summons which was so significantly involved with God's plan of salvation should be given to one primarily because of grace.