

STUDY GUIDE

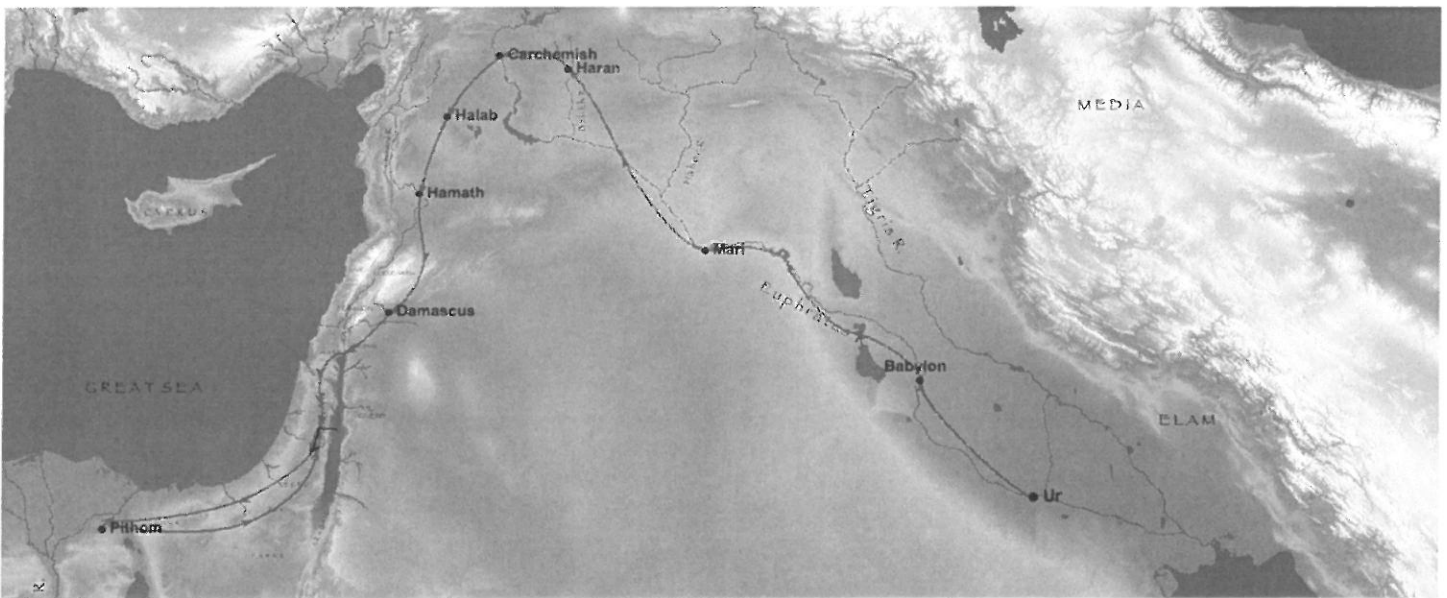
JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE 4
2012

ABRAHAM



EXCAVATE CONTEXT (Use these references for study preparation)

- Lou Fortier, "Journey through the Bible: Abraham," 2012. (sermon available online at www.GodFor.Us)
- Michael Harbin, *The Promise and the Blessing*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005), 87-96.
- Abraham's world (below)



EXPLORE THE SCRIPTURE

The LORD said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who treat you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you (Gen. 12:1-3/NIV).

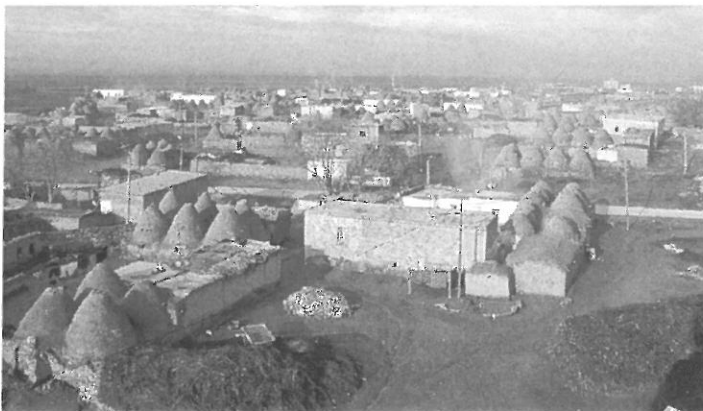
After these events, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very great. ²But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what can You give me, since I am childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³Abram continued, "Look, You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house will be my heir." ⁴Now the word of the LORD came to him: "This one will not be your heir; instead, one who comes from your own body will be your heir." ⁵He took him outside and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then He said to him, "Your offspring will be that numerous." ⁶Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness (Gen. 15:1-6/NIV).



DIG DEEP TO DO

1. Abraham was a man of faith and struggled like the rest of humanity. He got partial way to the Promised Land and stalled with his father in Haran; eventually after entering Canaan, he left it for Egypt; twice he misled people by telling people that his wife was his sister (she was a sister by another mother but more importantly, a wife). Yet he kept getting back on the faithful path and moved forward.
 - How do we deal with our own inconsistencies in faith's journey?
 - How do Christians typically respond to people of faith who experience failure and how does Satan use our reactions to advance his agenda?
 - What could we do to encourage other imperfect, faith-seeking people in their journey?
 - How can you communicate the truth of sin and the hope of the gospel most effectively?

2. Ultimately we never lose when we choose to trust in God but along the way there are sins that appear beneficial. Many times sin's shortcuts (i.e., stealing to produce wealth, infidelity to gain acceptance, cruelty to build self-esteem, becoming our own god so we can call the shots, etc.) seem to offer advantages but are always dead ends (Prov. 14:12). What are things God is asking you to trust him in at this time?
 - God tells us throughout the Bible that we are to trust him as Savior and Lord, and enter into a covenant relationship with him. Until we have taken this step of faith, everything else is secondary. Take a moment and describe how/when you entered that covenant.
 - Trust is more than a feeling; it's a lifestyle of action based on God's word. Share the areas where you actively trust in God today and the areas you are struggling with. What could you do to maximize your walk of faith?



Haran



Shechem