

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

STUDY PACK 2A

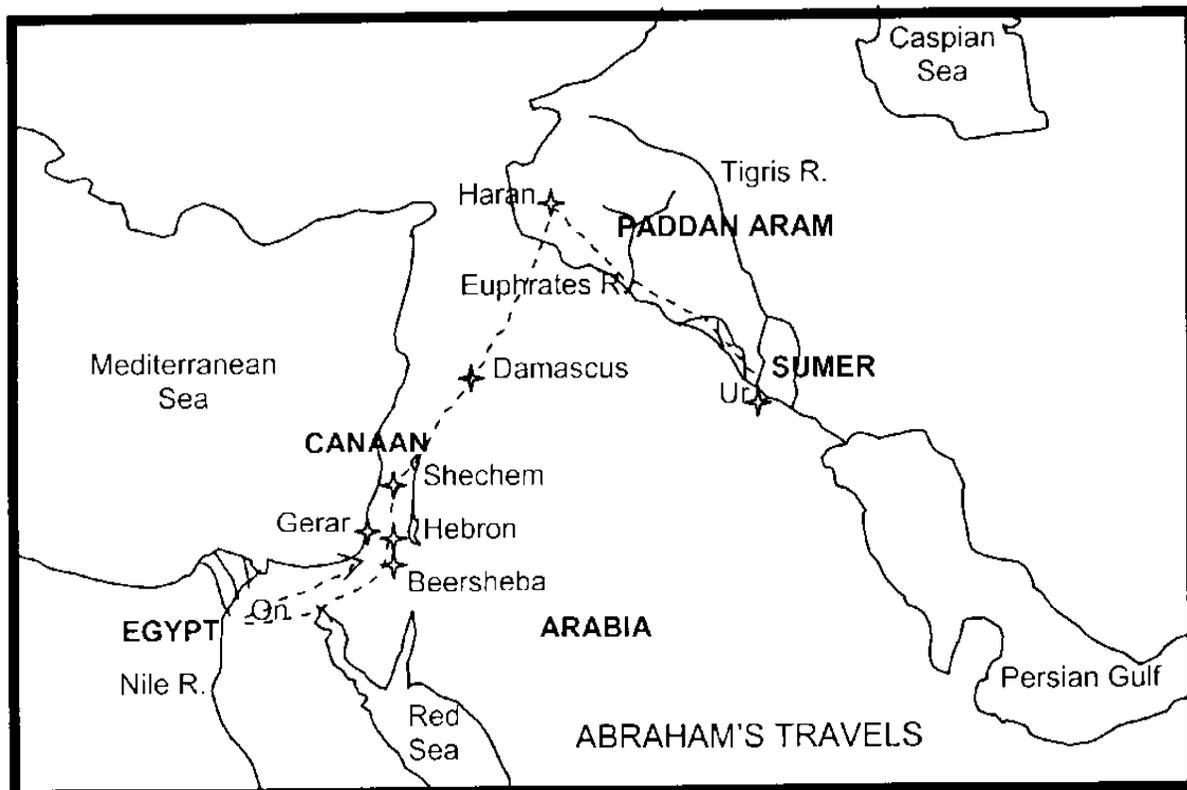
MEMORIZE: Genesis 15:5-6 ⁵And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. ⁶And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Memorize and recite vocabulary to the Supervisor before proceeding to the study pak material.

Vocabulary Words

- **Abram** – High Father.
- **Abraham** – Father of a great multitude.
- **Altar** – Structure on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned to worship God.
- **Archaeologist** – One who studies history and cultures through relics, monuments, and artifacts.
- **Covenant** – Compact between two persons or parties.
- **Isaac** – Laughter.
- **Patriarch** – A ruling father.
- **Sarah** – Princess.
- **Sarai** – Contentious.

Know the location of the major cities in which Abraham lived on the map below



Down through history, there is a division between those who are rebellious against God, and those who would walk in obedience. At the tower of Babel, men who more than likely worshipped the moon god, believing it controlled the earth and the heavens, planned to build a tower to the heavens. These towers, found in Babylon and Assyria, were chapels in which religious services were held.

As we leave the tower of Babel and the first part of Genesis, the focus shifts from main events that took place to main characters that God chose to show His blessings to the nations. Genesis 12-50 contains the biographies of the patriarchs, including their flaws and blemishes. In Genesis 12-23, the life and faith of Abram, who was later called Abraham is recorded. The Patriarch Abraham is one of the best-known characters of history. He is revered in Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

Terah is identified as a descendant of Shem. He was an idolater. He lived in a remarkable city, Ur of the Chaldees, in around 20000 B. C. Ur is known for The Code of _____. It contains the laws and customs of Abraham's day. Business, social and civic life was highly developed. Extensive archaeological excavations have uncovered royal palaces, cuneiform tablets, and famous tombs. Ur's buildings, universities and libraries all show a well-developed civilization with advanced capabilities.

Abram grew up in a pagan society. He was probably a middle-aged man when God called him to leave Ur and go to Canaan. By this time in history, the great pyramids had already been built in Egypt and various codes regulating commerce and social relationships had been written in Mesopotamia.

It was to Abram that God made astounding promises, promises that would later become a part of the Abrahamic Covenant. Israel's existence was the result of a man who responded in faith and left his home for an unknown destination. This city dweller became a nomad. He moved to Haran with his father and dwelt there until his father died. From Haran, Abram moved on to Canaan.

Abram left Haran with his nephew Lot to travel to a land with which he was unfamiliar. God wanted to reveal Himself to mankind as the true God and chose Abram. Sometime after He called Abram, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, meaning father of a great multitude. Abraham's wife, Sarai name was changed to Sarah meaning "princess."

Haran, 600 miles northwest of Ur, was a very prosperous commercial city located on a busy trade route. Abraham left Haran to travel southwest over 400 miles to Canaan, with his wife, Sarah, and his _____, Lot.

God bless Abraham's for his willingness to step out in faith. In all his travels, Abraham was guided by God's unseen hand. Because of his faith, God called him to separate from his culture and his family to make a clear channel through which God's blessings could flow to mankind. The stage was being set for the redemption of the world. 40. Through the new nation, God determined to reveal Himself, not only to Abraham's seed, but to the whole world. When Jesus Christ came to the earth, it was in direct fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham.

God's call to Abraham was both a promise and a command. Every special privilege and revelation by God to this new nation was to be passed on to men of faith through the ages.

When Abraham reached Shechem in Canaan, he built an altar and worshipped God. Later, at Shechem, God spoke to Abraham again, promising him that He would give the land to his seed. Once again at Bethel, Abraham built an altar unto the Lord and "...called upon the name of the Lord."

Martin Luther translated this verb "called" as "preached." Even as Abraham "preached" to the heathen of Canaan, he is preaching to us today by what God has revealed of his life.

Israel's claim to the land, her claim to a blessing from God, and her claim to God's protection, all stem from God's promises to their father, Abraham. Abraham had times of indecision and lapses of faith. God's promises are not dependent upon man's performance, but his faithfulness.

It was not unusual in Abraham's day for a husband to be killed for his wife when he was in enemy territory. Thus Abraham lied, saying he was Sarah's brother. Pharaoh decided to take Sarah for a wife. While Sarah was in Pharaoh's house, God plagued Pharaoh, who acted more righteously than Abraham. God spared Abraham and Sarah in spite of Abraham's laps of faith. God was faithful to Abraham through all these events, for without Sarah, Abraham's promised blessing was doomed. Unfortunately Abraham _____ learn the lesson and ended up repeating the same mistake.

Another possible result of Abraham's journey to Egypt was the acquisition of Hagar, who later became Abraham's slave-wife. As God's servants, we should trust Him completely without resorting to self-directed schemes.

The fact that he could later raise an army of 318 trained fighting servants to deliver Lot demonstrates that he had tremendous resources (Gen. 14:14). Later, when Abraham's servant traveled to find Isaac a wife, he demonstrated the tremendous wealth of Abraham by leading a ten camel caravan. Local Chieftains also recognized Abraham as a prince and made treaties with him.

The laws that were prevalent in the Mesopotamian culture from which Abraham had come, demonstrate why Abraham considered making his oldest servant, Eliezer, his heir. The laws of Nuzi provided that a man and wife who were childless could adopt a servant as a son with full legal rights. In return for being assured of the inheritance, the servant would provide constant care for his "parents" and provide them with a proper burial at death.

While Abraham was considering this option, God renewed His covenant with Abraham. Later, when Abraham and Sarah became impatient because it seemed as though God was not fulfilling His promise, they took matters into their own hands. At Sarah's suggestions, Abraham accepted the idea of having a son by _____, Sarah's handmaid. This was another custom of the land, for a childless couple could also adopt the son of a handmaid as a legal heir.

Thirteen years after Ishmael was born, God again rejected these plans and told Abraham that Sarah would bear him a son. God's covenant was again renewed, and circumcision was given as a sign of the covenant.

Abraham showed another lapse in faith when he journeyed to Gerar, where he again lied to Abimelech about Sarah being his sister--again a half-truth (Genesis 20:1-18). It was illegal in Abraham's days to sell a handmaid into slavery after she had born a child for her master. Abraham did not sell her into slavery, but at Sarah's insistence, put Hagar and Ishmael out of his household.

When Sarah died, Abraham bargained with the Hittites for the cave of Machpelah as a burial place. Ephron, on the other hand, insisted on selling his field with the cave of Machpelah, thus making Abraham subject to the laws of taxation of his time.

When God called, Abraham responded in obedience. Whenever Abraham moved, he built an altar to worship God, giving public testimony to his faith in the God who created the heavens and the earth. While the world surrounding Abraham was, Abraham went against the grain and worshipped the true God.

"I will make of thee a great nation."

"I will bless thee."

"I will make thy name great."

"Thou shalt be a blessing."

"I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee."

"In thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

Abraham was richly blessed on this earth, and before his death, he saw that many nations could be born through Ishmael, Isaac, and his other sons. The actual promise that he would be a blessing to all the families or nations of the earth was fulfilled in his descendant, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, the Son of Abraham. A covenant is a promise or an agreement between two people. Abraham's comprehension of what was included in God's promises increased.

Lot wanted material gain and disregarded the godless environment he would have to live in to get it. God had promised Abraham that the land. Abraham trusted God to keep His Word. Abraham could have _____ the right for his pick of the land since he was older and God had _____ promised the land to him. Abraham believed God's promises, and trusted Him to provide the land in His way and His time. Abraham's relationship with Lot was worth saving. The only way to save the bond was to separate. Lot made the worst mistake of his life. He pitched his tent toward Sodom. What Abraham was willing to give up, God gave his seed forever. Lot's choice was self-gratifying and self-seeking, but dangerous and short lived.

When Sodom was overthrown and Lot was carried captive, Abraham refused to accept a reward for rescuing Lot and the other citizens of Sodom who were taken captive, even though he and his men pursued them for 140 miles to Dan and then another 100 miles to Hobah. After his victory, Abraham met with two different kings, Melchizedek (who many Bible scholars believe is a theophany), King of Salem (Jerusalem), and Bera, the King of Sodom. Abraham received a blessing from Melchizedek, and then recognized him as his spiritual superior by giving him tithes of everything. Melchizedek was not a Levitical priest, but is remembered as a high priest superior to Levite, since Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham. Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek not Levi.

After Abraham received the blessing of Melchizedek, the King of Sodom offered Abraham all the spoils from the battle. Abraham was careful about the legal arrangements after the battle, _____ the spoil from the battle, wanting to make certain that the King of Sodom would not be able to take credit for making him rich.

After passing this test of faith, God formally made a covenant with Abraham, promising him that while his descendants would one day “be as the stars of the heavens”. They would remain in Egypt for 400 years. Paul describes Abraham's relationship with God when he writes, “*For what saith the scripture? Abraham **believed** God, and it was counted unto him for **righteousness.**”* (Romans 4:3)

When Abraham was 99 years old, God again confirmed His covenant with Abraham. The birth of Isaac was promised. God also gave the circumcision, as a sign of His covenant with Abraham and his seed. It was said that Abraham was the friend of God. Abraham had such a close enough relationship with God that God revealed the destruction of Sodom and Gomorra to Abraham. Abraham pleaded with God to spare Lot and his family.

God demonstrated that his justice is tempered with mercy. God would spare the city if there were just ten righteous. Our prayer for our country today could well be, "Lord, will you not spare our nation for the sake of the righteous?"

Abraham's greatest test came after Isaac was born, when God asked him to sacrifice his only son on Mount Moriah. Abraham went with the faith that in Isaac was his seed called and he knew that God, to be a promise keeping God, would have to raise Isaac from the dead.

It is intriguing to note that Abraham pointed to the fact that God would provide Himself a lamb for the burnt offering. God provided a ram for that day, but ultimately, God provided Himself a sacrifice for sin upon Calvary.

It is God who raises men up and brings men down. A key lesson to remember from the life of Abraham is this: If you seek after God with your whole heart, God will make you become far more through Him, than you could have ever been on your own. Come to God with a heart that seeks His will for your life, and you will have a life that is more exciting than you could ever imagine.