



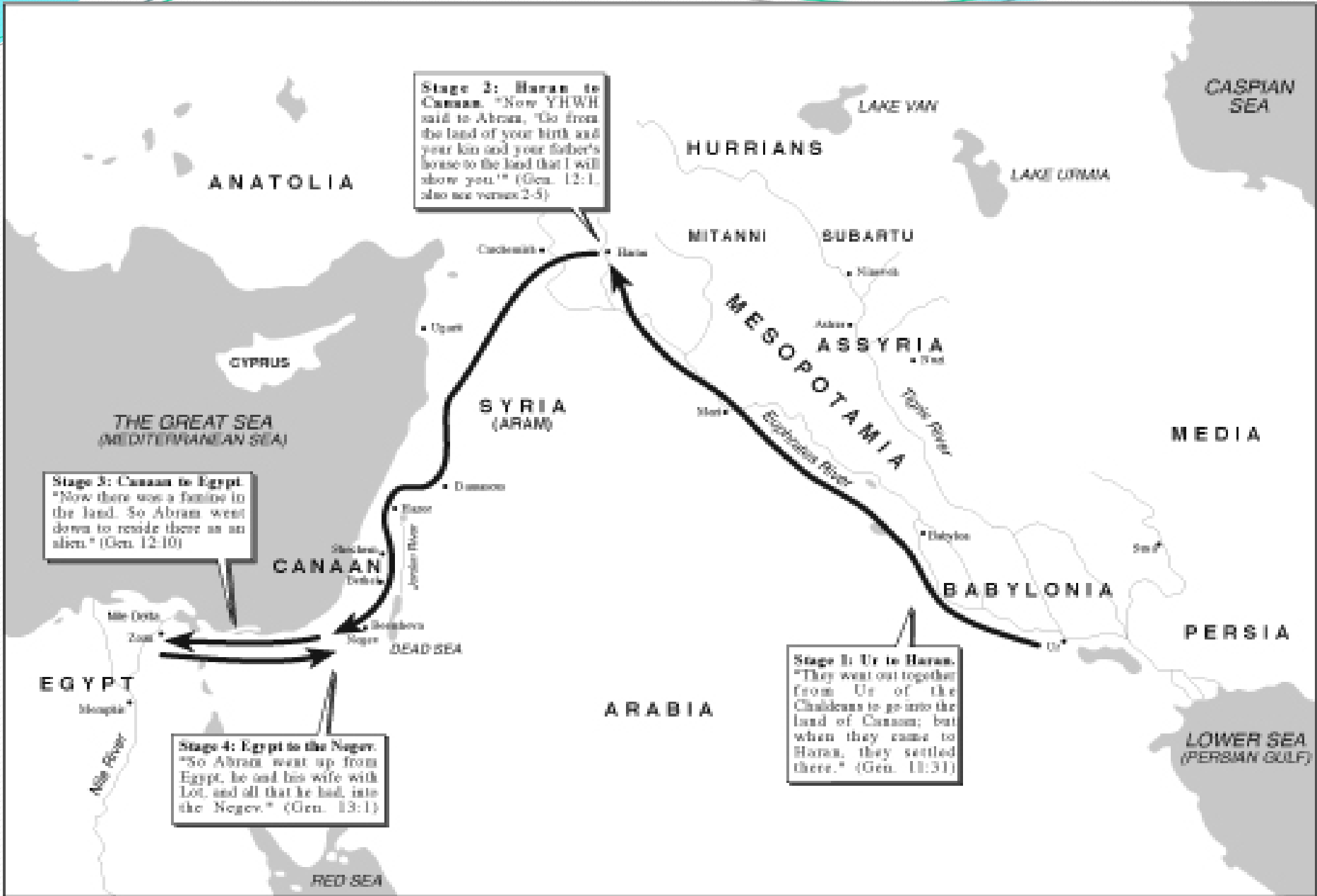
ABRAHAM AND SARAH: A Journey of Faith

Facilitated by **Brian Purfield**

“...I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven...” (Gen 22:17)

SESSION 2: LEAVING HOME

- **Two Questions to begin with:**
 - **What was your most unexpected journey?**
 - **How do you feel about travel?**



Stage 2: Haran to Canaan. "Now YHWH said to Abram, 'Go from the land of your birth and your kin and your father's house to the land that I will show you.'" (Gen. 12:1, also see verses 2-5)

Stage 3: Canaan to Egypt. "Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to reside there as an alien." (Gen. 12:10)

Stage 4: Egypt to the Negev. "So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife with Lot, and all that he had, into the Negev." (Gen. 13:1)

Stage 1: Ur to Haran. "They went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan; but when they came to Haran, they settled there." (Gen. 11:31)

ANATOLIA

CYPRUS

THE GREAT SEA (MEDITERRANEAN SEA)

EGYPT

CANAAN

DEAD SEA

RED SEA

SYRIA (ARAM)

HURRIANS

MITANNI

SUBARTU

MESOPOTAMIA

ASSYRIA

BABYLONIA

MEDIA

PERSIA

ARABIA

CASPIAN SEA

LOWER SEA (PERSIAN GULF)

LAKE VAN

LAKE URMIA

Nisibis

Akkad

Uruk

Tigris River

Mosul

Euphrates River

Babylon

Susa

Ur

Carchemish

Haran

Ugarit

Damascus

Bezer

Shechem

Hebron

Beer Sheva

Negev

Mt. Gerizim

Zoar

Nile River

GENESIS 11:26 – 13:2

- Questions having read the text



SESSION OUTLINE

- **Terah and sons**
- **Why Abram?**
- **Reading Through Again**
- **Next Week: Text & Questions**

TERAH AND SONS

- **Terah & his sons: Abram, Nahor, Haran**
- **Terah's Story (6 verses!):**
 - **Forward motion of Abram**
 - **Canaan: Land of Dreams**
 - **Cast of Characters:**
 - **Orphaned Lot**
 - **Faithful Abram**
 - **Childless but beloved Sarai**

WHY ABRAM?

- **Abram sets off for a new land (Gen 12:1)**
 - The journey isn't his idea
 - The journey will lead to blessing for himself & others
 - Entrusts his fate to "*God of the promise*"
- **God's favour rests on the unexpected one!**
- **God attracted to two things:**
 - Loyalty
 - Willingness to take a risk

READING THROUGH AGAIN

- God's unconditional promises:

1. *“I will make you a great nation.”*
2. *“I will bless you.”*
3. *“I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.”*
4. *“I will bless those who bless you, & him who curses you I will curse.”*
5. *“By you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.”*

COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

- **Three specific relinquishments (Gen 12:1)**
 1. *“Country”*
 2. *“Kindred”* (extended family)
 3. *“Father’s house”* (more immediate family)
- **An ambiguous journey**
 - Abram seems clear-minded
 - Abram carrying a lot of weight!

ANOTHER DIMENSION?

- *“Abram passed through the land to the (holy) place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh.... He built an altar there...” (Gen 12:6-7)*
- **God expands on his earlier promise:**
 - *“To your offspring I will give this land” (Gen 12:7)*
- **Abram acknowledges God & symbolically sets down roots (builds an altar)**

EGYPT

- *“There was a famine in the land”* (Gen 12:10)
- **Abram**
 - Man of perfect faith & unwavering obedience
 - Abram’s first recorded words?
- **Sarai**
 - Silent assent to Abram’s plan?
 - Bitterness & rejection? (cf. Gen 16:5; 18:12; 21:10)

NEXT WEEK

- Read Genesis 15:1-11, 17-18; 16:1-16
- Text and Questions on website:
www.mountstreet.info