

## WEEK 2

### **Reading: Genesis 11:26 – 13:2**

26 When Terah had lived for seventy years, he became the father of Abram, Nahor, & Haran.

#### ***Descendants of Terah***

27 Now these are the descendants of Terah. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, & Haran; & Haran was the father of Lot.<sup>28</sup> Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans.<sup>29</sup> Abram & Nahor took wives; the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, & the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. She was the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah & Iscah.<sup>30</sup> Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

31 Terah took his son Abram & his grandson Lot son of Haran, & his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, & 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.<sup>32</sup> The days of Terah were two hundred & five years; & Terah died in Haran.

#### **The Call of Abram**

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country & your kindred & your father's house to the land that I will show you.<sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, & I will bless you, & make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, & the one who curses you I will curse; & in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; & Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.<sup>5</sup> Abram took his wife Sarai & his brother's son Lot, & all the possessions that they had gathered, & the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; & they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,<sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram, & said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.<sup>8</sup> From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, & pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west & Ai on the east; & there he built an altar to the LORD & invoked the name of the LORD.<sup>9</sup> & Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

## **Abram & Sarai in Egypt**

10 Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to reside there as an alien, for the famine was severe in the land.<sup>11</sup> When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, ‘I know well that you are a woman beautiful in appearance;<sup>12</sup> & when the Egyptians see you, they will say, “This is his wife”; then they will kill me, but they will let you live.<sup>13</sup> Say you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you, & that my life may be spared on your account.’<sup>14</sup> When Abram entered Egypt the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful.<sup>15</sup> When the officials of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. & the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house.<sup>16</sup> & for her sake he dealt well with Abram; & he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male & female slaves, female donkeys, & camels.

17 But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh & his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.<sup>18</sup> So Pharaoh called Abram, & said, ‘What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? <sup>19</sup>Why did you say, “She is my sister”, so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, & be gone.’<sup>20</sup> & Pharaoh gave his men orders concerning him; & they set him on the way, with his wife & all that he had.

## **Abram & Lot Separate**

13 So Abram went up from Egypt, he & his wife & all that he had, & Lot with him, into the Negeb.

2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, & in gold.

**After reading the text, you may wish to consider the following:**

*Choose questions according to your interest & time*

- How old was Terah when Abram left him (cf 11:26; 12:4)? How much of Terah's later life did Abram miss by leaving Haran (cf 11:32)?
- What is the attitude toward slavery in this account? Give specific statements.
- Using maps in your Bible or a Bible atlas, locate Ur, Haran, Shechem, Bethel & the Negeb desert (11:31; 12:6,8,9). Roughly how far was it from Ur to Haran? From Haran to Shechem?
- What impression of God do you get from reading the promise of 12:7 against the background statements regarding Sarai & the land (11:30; 12:6)? What impression of Abram do you get from reading 12:11-13 against the background of 12:2-3?
- In light of the outcome of the situation in Egypt, did Abram misjudge the Egyptians?

**After session 2, you may wish to consider the following**

*Questions for Application*

- Terah intended to lead his family from Ur to Canaan (11:31), apparently without having received any special guidance from God. Yet this placed his son Abram closer to God's long-range goal for him (12:1,6-7). When have decisions by your family, made for ordinary reasons, later seemed to have advanced God's plans for certain members of the family?
- When have you had to part from your family? What was the hardest aspect of the separation? How did God use the separation for good?
- In response to God's promise, Abram & Sarai left Haran & set out on their life journey. In what way is every Christian's life a response to a promise from God? The letter to the Hebrews develops this theme; see 10:35-36; 11:8-16. How does your life bear the character of a trusting response to God's promises? How should it?
- What do you think of Abram's stratagem in 12:11-13?

- Pharaoh reproaches Abram for having a low opinion of his integrity (12:18-19). When have you mistakenly assumed that someone would act badly? What did you learn from your experience?
  
- In what areas of life do you feel too old to make a new start? Where might God be inviting you to overcome this feeling?