

Sermon: “*How Abraham’s Faith Informs Our Own*”

Text: Genesis 12:1-9 (page 8 in pew Bible)

Historical context: about 2000 B.C.

Geographical context: Ur; Haran; Shechem; Bethel; Ai; Negev

Genealogical context: Terah; Abraham and Sarai; Lot

Chronological context: Sequence of events

A. Terah lived in Ur of the Chaldeans and his sons born there were Abram, Nahor and Haran (and Haran was the father of Lot). Abram married Sarai and Nahor married Milcah.
Genesis 11:27-30

B. While he was in Ur, God spoke to Abraham: Genesis 12:1-4

C. So Terah, Abram, Sarai and Lot started the journey from Ur to the land God He would show Abram but they stopped and stayed in the city of Haran. A short time later, Terah died there.
Genesis 11:31-32

D. Following Terah’s death, then. We pick it up in Genesis 12:5-9

I. Leading the way by faith: ABRAHAM

“**The just shall live by faith.**” (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).

II Corinthians 5:7 “We live by faith not by sight.”

Hebrews 11:8-10 “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

II. Leaving the past by faith.

A. Breaking with the old life you had.

Genesis 12:1 and 4 “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.... So Abram went, as the LORD had told him...”

Luke 14:27 “Jesus said “Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

B. Obedience to the new life God has for you.

III. Loving the Lord (worship) by faith.

Genesis 11:7-8 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So **he built there an altar to the LORD**, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And **there he built an altar to the LORD** and called upon the name of the LORD.

IV. Looking for and living for the future by faith.

Hebrews 11:13-16 “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.