

**Episode:** Genesis & Job Series No. 07

**Narrator:** Lot

**Primary Scriptures:** Genesis 10-20

**Story Summary:** God calls Abraham, gives him a promise; birth of Ishmael; fall of Lot

**Location:** Ur, Haran, and Canaan

**Time:** Abraham's birth is probably 2200 – 2000 BC

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Genesis 12:4; 15:1, 15:6; 16:13; 17:21

Genesis 10-11:26 gives a very brief history of mankind from the time of Noah until the time of Abram, who will later be re-named Abraham. Although it is easy to skim through this section, it provides a background of nations that will be helpful to know through the rest of the Old Testament and up to today's time.

By the end of Genesis 11, we learn that Abram is the son of Terah, and they have moved from Ur to Haran. Abram is married to his half-sister, Sarai, and they are unable to have children. Abram's nephew, Lot, is living with them. Terah dies at the age of 205.

Upon Terah's death, God tells Abram to take everything and everybody and move to a country that will be revealed in due time, and in return, God promises to make Abram into a great nation, bless him, make his name great, and bless all people through him. At age seventy-five, Abram takes everything and everybody and heads to Canaan, approximately the land of modern Israel and Palestine.

After a brief stay in Egypt, Abram and Lot arrive in Canaan with many animals and possessions. They agree to split up in order to preserve family peace. Lot chooses to live on the plain near Sodom and Gomorrah. One time, Lot gets kidnapped and Abram has to rescue him. This provides the setting for Abram to meet the mysterious priest and king, Melchizedek.

The Lord takes the occasion to convert his previous promise to Abram into a one-sided covenant through a very elaborate ceremony. As part of this covenant, God names all of the country that will be given to Abram's descendants.

Unfortunately, Abram and Sarai decide to "help" God, and Abram has a son through Sarai's servant, Hagar. This son, named Ishmael, does not become Abram's heir, but does become a great nation. God institutes the rite of circumcision at this time, and changes Abram's name to Abraham.

The people living near Lot in Sodom and Gomorrah became so evil that God chose to eliminate them. Abraham bargained with God to save them, but nothing could save them. The story of Lot and God's angels describes their decadence in detail. Eventually, Abram and his family flee the area, and God destroys the two cities, setting the stage for God to fulfill his covenant.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Read Genesis 10 and take notes on the names that are familiar. What did you learn? If Genesis was written by Moses, would this chapter have described his understanding of how the world's populations spread to where they were in his time? How does Genesis 11:1-9 fit with Genesis 10?
2. Abraham's father was 205 years old when he died. Abraham was called by God to go to Canaan when he was 75 years old. After reading Genesis 11:10-26, try to speculate on how old Abraham expected to live. How old was Abraham when he died?
3. Based on Genesis 12:1, when do you think God told Abraham where he was to go?
4. Read Genesis 12:3. How do you think Abraham understood the second part of that verse? Do you think God was talking about Abraham's descendants in general, or was he talking about Jesus...or both?
5. Genesis 12:20 indicates Abraham got rewarded for acting deceptively. Why would God allow that to happen?
6. What does Genesis 13:4 mean?
7. Compare Genesis 14:18-20 to a modern communion service.
8. When was the rite of circumcision first commanded by God? Who was the first to be circumcised?

2. Abraham was 175 years old when he died. 8. Genesis 17:10 - Abraham and Ishmael.

### Application Questions:

1. Read Genesis 12:1. Do you think God has ever asked you to make a commitment to obey without telling you all the details ahead of time?
2. Read Genesis 15:5-6. When you act as if you believe the Lord, does he give you credit for being righteous?
3. Genesis 16:1-2 describes how Sarai and Abram decided to solve a problem on their own. Think of a time when you did that and it did not turn out well.

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. In Genesis 15:4, God promised Abram a son of his own flesh and blood. Would Sarai and Abram's plan of Genesis 16:1-2 have met the conditions of God's promise? Have you ever tried to skirt around something by parsing the words of your parents? How did that work out for you?
2. Based on Genesis 19:3, do you think Lot knew he was living in a wicked city? Have you ever put yourself in a position of being around evil, and chose not to leave it? How did that end?
3. The story of Lot and his daughters in Genesis 19:30-38 is pretty awful. It resulted in two races of people named the Moabites and Ammonites. Describe how these two people groups tormented the descendants of Abraham in the time of Moses and of David.