

Episode: Topics Series No. 02

Narrator: Abraham

Primary Scriptures: Genesis 11:27-12:5; Joshua 24:2-3

Story Summary: When Abraham was called by God, he had to make many choices

Location: Ur, Harran, Canaan

Time: circa 2000 BC

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Genesis 12:1, 4

Abraham (Abram) is known as the father of Jewish people. He was the first of the patriarchs and lived in the time period around 2000 BC. Terah was Abram's father when the family lived in Ur of the Chaldeans (modern Iraq). Terah and his family started a move to Canaan, but stopped on the way when they got to Harran, where the family settled down.

Terah died at when he was 205 years old. Some time after that, the Lord told Abram to move the family, and Abram did so at the age of 75 years old. The story is told in Genesis 12:1-5 and it sets the stage for the rest of the Bible.

Joshua 24:2 quotes God as saying that Terah worshiped other gods. From a later account of Rachel,¹ it is likely Terah had family gods, which were idols the family worshiped. It is likely Abraham worshiped those same family gods.

Genesis 12:1 says the Lord told Abraham to take his family and go from the country where he was to a country God would show him. It seems to be implied if Abram obeyed that command, God would do several things: make Abram into a great nation, bless him, make his name great, make him a blessing, treat people as they treat Abram, and all peoples of the earth would be blessed through him. Abram went as instructed, so it follows God would do all of those things.

Try to imagine how Abram felt as he makes many major, life-altering decisions. Am I going to quit worshiping my family gods that I've worshiped for 75 years and start worshiping and obeying only one of them? Can I trust a god who wants me to move my family but won't tell me where I am going to move? Why should I trust a god who promised me children when my wife and I are probably past child bearing age? Is it really possible for a human to have a relationship with a god?

Many of the Old Testament and New Testament authors write about Abraham and his life. From them we can ascertain at least these three things: Abram believes that

¹ Genesis 31:19

God exists and blesses those who follow him²; God has the power to do what he says he will do³; and, faith is when you act in accordance with what you believe.⁴

Abram's faith developed as he grew older and learned from his experiences. His obedience led to a relationship with God so special that he was called God's friend.⁵

² Hebrews 11:6

³ Romans 4:21

⁴ Hebrews 11:1

⁵ James 2:23