

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

A. The Creation, 1:1—2:25

B. The Curse, 3:1—4:15

C. The Catastrophe, 4:16—9:29

D. The Coalition, 10:1—11:32

1. Divine Government, 10:1—11:9

a. The Completeness of Man's Dispersal, 10:1-32

b. The Cause of Man's Dispersal, 11:1-9

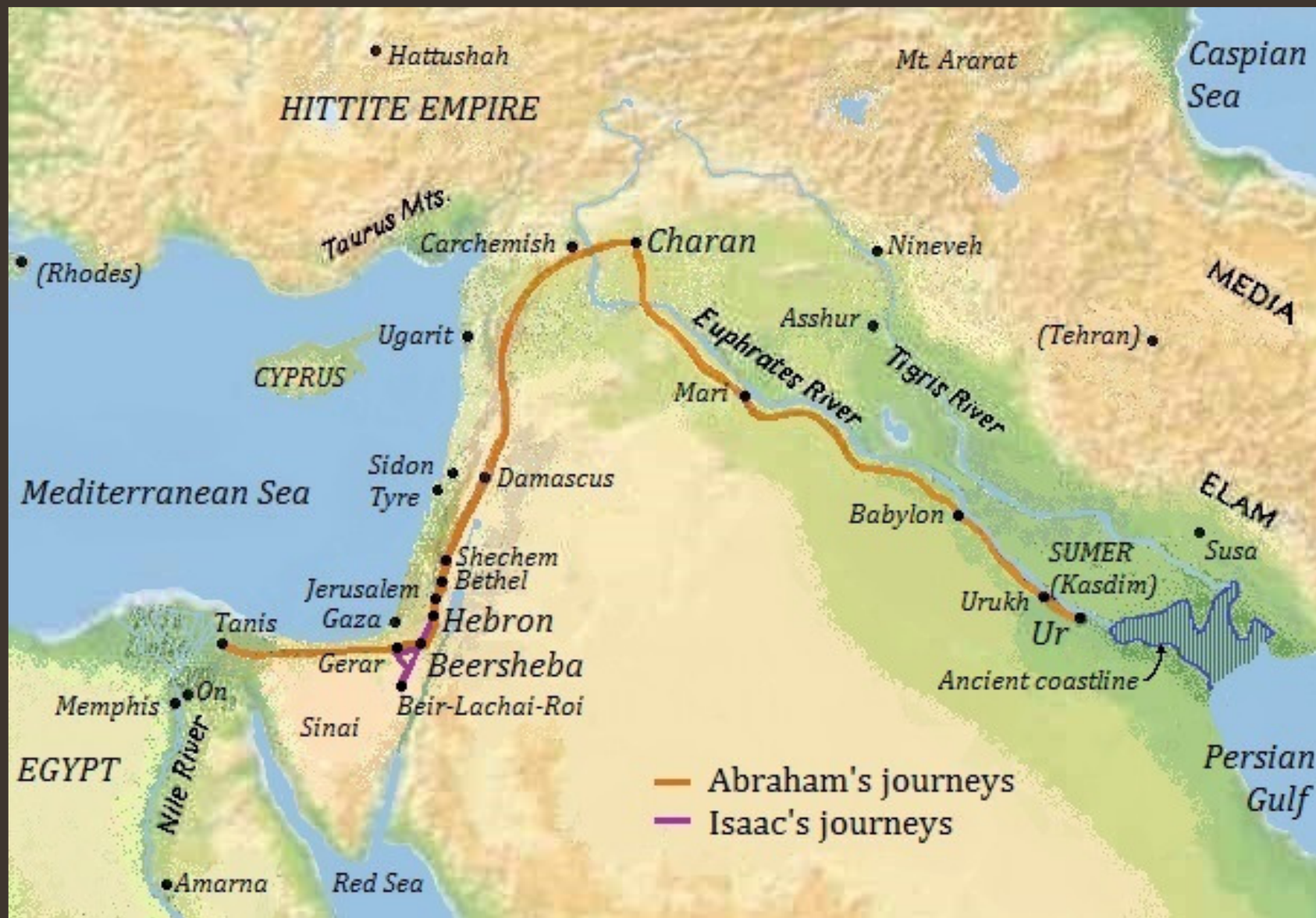
2. Divine Grace, 11:10-32

II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

1. The Path of Faith, 12:1-20

- ❖ Abraham, at 75 years old, left his homeland to go, by faith, to a destination yet unknown as he trusted in the promises of God and followed His leadership.



<https://popmap.blogspot.com/2015/11/abram-abraham-journey-map.html#popup>

❖ The path of faith is a lifelong journey, focused upon God's will that requires faith, fortitude, fighting, fruitfulness, and faithfulness.

Tonight, we continue in Genesis, returning to Abraham and the “Patriarchal History: Beginnings Of The Hebrew Race.” Abraham’s *Path of Faith* is still affecting world history like no other individual.

- ❖ One of the most significant changes in history is when God chose Abraham with which to build a covenant relationship that is still relevant today.

The Abrahamic Covenant

The Abrahamic Covenant is given to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). The Lord reaffirmed the same covenant He made with Abraham’s son, Isaac (Genesis 21:12; 26:3-4). Later, the covenant was affirmed with Isaac’s son, Jacob (Genesis 28:14-15). It is unconditional and yet to be fulfilled.

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that **I will** shew thee:

2 And **I will** make of thee a great nation, and **I will** bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And **I will** bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 21:12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for **in Isaac shall thy seed be called.**

Genesis 26:3 Sojourn in this land, and **I will** be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, **I will** give all these countries, **and I will** perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father;

4 And **I will** make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and **will** give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

Genesis 28:14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

15 And, **behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee** in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for **I will** not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of.

3 Tenets of the Abrahamic Covenant

1. To make from Abraham a great nation and bless Abraham and make his name great so that he will be a blessing, to bless those who bless him and curse him who curses him and all peoples on earth would be blessed through Abraham.
2. To give Abraham a great land, that his descendants all the land from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates. Later, this land came to be referred to as the Promised Land or the Land of Israel.

3. **To give Abraham a great seed**, the father of many nations and of many descendants and give “the whole land of Canaan” to his descendants, culminating with the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Circumcision is to be the permanent sign of this everlasting covenant with Abraham and his male descendants.

❖ Right after the Ascension of the Lord Jesus, the Apostle Peter preaches about the relationship of the Jews with the prophets and the Abrahamic Covenant:

Acts 3:25 **Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham**, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

❖ The contention between the Jews and the relationship with Abraham was clarified in Jn. 8:

Jn. 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;**

32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**

33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever.

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; **but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.**

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

39 They answered and said unto him, **Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.**

40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

42 Jesus said unto them, **If God were your Father, ye would love me:** for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but **he sent me.**

43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* **because ye cannot hear my word.**

44 **Ye are of your father the devil,** and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

45 And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not.

46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.
56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad.

57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

58 Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.**

59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

❖ The New Testament shows that salvation today follows the pattern established by Abraham:

Gal. 3:6 **Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**

7 **Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**

8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; **but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**

17 And this I say, *that* **the covenant**, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

Summary

- ❖ Abraham and the Abrahamic Covenant changed the history of the world, and is yet further to change the history of the world.
- ❖ The four unconditional covenants all culminate in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Abrahamic
 - Palestinian
 - Davidic
 - New
- ❖ Abraham's life of walking by faith began late in life.
- ❖ Abraham, like Elijah, Paul, and Barnabas, were men of "like passions" like each of us.

Acts 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? **We also are men of like passions with you**, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

James 5:17 Elias was **a man subject to like passions as we are**, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

- ❖ Before these individuals became known as great men of God, as well as afterward, they were just fragile people like you and me.
- ❖ Their uniqueness was simply doing what God told them to do – be faithful in obedience.

Mark 14:8 **She hath done what she could**: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover **it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**

❖ Abraham's life affected generations unto the present.

2 Corinthians 12:14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: **for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.**

Proverbs 13:22 **A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children:** and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Proverbs 17:6 **Children's children are the crown of old men;** and the glory of children are their fathers.

❖ Regardless of age, each of us should pray for wisdom regarding the future.

Psalms 90:12 So **teach us to number our days**, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

❖ May the life of Abraham increase our faith and produce a fruitful life for God's glory that will affect many generations in the future.

Conclusion

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith,
**Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him
for righteousness: and he was called
the Friend of God.**