THE PATRIARCHAL STAGE

The important men who appear during this stage are:

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph
- Job

In the CREATION Stage God dealt with the entire earth in general. (Genesis 1-11 deals with the world of men as a whole).

In the PATRIACHAL Stage, spotlight will be drawn from:

- the world to a nation (Israel),
- then to a tribe in that nation (Judah),
- then to a family within that tribe (Jesse/David), and finally
- to an individual within the family (Jesus Christ).

ABRAHAM

Considered to be the 2nd of the 7 greatest men who ever lived:

- Adam
- Abraham
- Moses
- David
- John the Baptist
- Peter
- Paul

Summary of his life:

- Original Name: Abram "exalted father"
- Changed Name: Abraham "father of many nations"
- His Father: TERAH
- His Original Country: Ur of the Chaldees
- Born around 2166 BC
- Three Woman of his life:

  -Sarai ("contentious") / changed to Sarah ("princess")- gave birth to Isaac at age 90, died at 127y/o

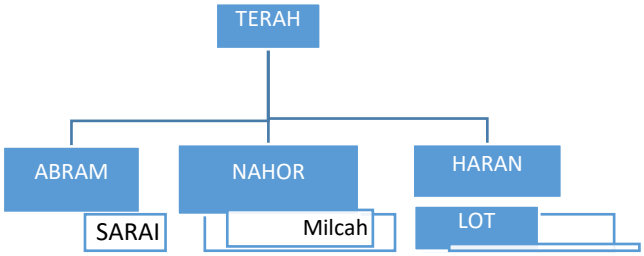
  -Hagar- mother of Ishmael

  -Keturah (one of 6 sons was MIDIAN who became enemies to the Israelites)

-When he was **75 y/o,** God promised him Isaac; but he was **100 y/o** when Isaac was born

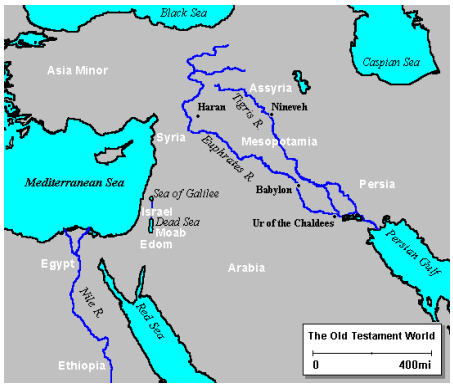
-Ishmael was born when he was **86 y/o**

- Abraham died at the age of **175** and was buried at the **Cave of Machpelah**



ABRAHAM'S CALLING

- **He was to leave UR of the Mesopotamia and his father's house for a land that God would show him**.



- UR was a seaport on the Persian Gulf, at the mouth of the Euphrates River.
- UR was also a center of **IDOLATRY**.

-The most conspicuous building of the city in Abraham's day was the **ziggurat**, or the **temple tower** (most prominent of which were the ones dedicated to moon god)_,These temples were probably patterned after the Tower of Babel.



- Abraham's **ancestors were idolaters and polytheists** (worshippers of many gods).
- Joshua reminds the people in Joshua 24:2 : "*Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even **Terah,** the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and **they served other gods.**"*

Why did God commanded Abram to leave his country – UR?
- Because it was a center of idolatry.
- For us, Christians, UR becomes a type of our OLD LIFE before salvation.

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*:

But we see in Gen 11: 31 that his father – TERAH – would lead the journey and when they came to HARAN, they dwelt there.

Gen 11: 31 ***And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot*** *the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and* ***they came unto Haran, and dwelt there***.

Delayed obedience in the part of Abram.

God intervened – TERAH died in Haran.

Gen 11: 32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and ***Terah died in Haran*****.**

- TERAH - means ***"delay"***
- HARAN - means ***"a dried up place"*** . {This is spiritually speaking since Haran like UR is a prosperous city).

- Only God knows the multitudes of Christians that have left Ur, bound for Canaan, only to get bogged down in Haran.

Reaching the PROMISED LAND:

- Genesis 12: [6] *And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh.*
- ***And the Canaanite was then in the land***.

For Abram, the Promised Land is initially **God's geographical will** for him.
The Caananites represent enemies .

What is the Christian's Promised Land?
(It is NOT heaven because there are no enemies in heaven.)
Our Promised land is **God's geographical will for us**

God's *GEOGRAPHICAL Will* -
God wills that we should be in one place at one time

Abram's Canaan (12:4-9).
And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.

- God announced another element of the covenant : a land and a seed
- Abram built his first recorded altar here.

Abram's Worship:
Gen 12: 4 *And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of* ***Bethel****, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there* ***he builded an altar unto the Lord****, and* ***called upon the name of the Lord.***

Bethel = means "*house of God*" - a place of worship
Building an altar = typifies WORSHIP

Abram's CARNALITY:
Gen 12: 9 *And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.*
[10] *And there was a* ***famine in the land:*** *and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.*

Abram's human solution to escape FAMINE - went down to Egypt (first mention of Egypt in the Bible)
FAMINE pictures temptation from Satan.

ABRAM's JOURNEY to EGYPT:
Now out of the Promised Land, **out of God's geographical will for him**, let us see Abram's chain sinning and consequent rebuke in Egypt:

- Gen 12: 1 *And it came to pass,* ***when he was come near to enter into Egypt****, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:*
- [12] *Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.*
- [13] ***Say****, I pray thee,* ***thou art my sister****: that* ***it may be well with me for thy sake****; and* ***my soul shall live because of thee*****.**

NOTE:
Breakdown in the Divine institution of Marriage. Instead of the husband protecting his wife, it was reversed. Husband is asking wife to protect him.

- Gen 12: 14 *And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.*
- *15 The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the* ***woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.***
- *16 And* ***he entreated Abram well for her sake****: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.*

17 *And* ***the LORD plagued Pharaoh*** *and his house with great plagues* ***because of Sarai Abram's wife***

NOTE: A believer's sin affects not only himself but others around him.

Here comes Pharaoh's REBUKE of Abram:

18 And Pharaoh called Abram and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? ***why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?***

19 ***Why saidst thou, She is my sister****? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.*

20 And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

Commentary: **Why did God punish Pharaoh for Abram's lie (Genesis 12:17)?**

- If God had not caused the plagues to come upon Pharaoh and his household, he may not have known anything was wrong.
- The affliction led to the discovery that Sarai was Abram's wife.
- If Pharaoh had kept Sarai, Abram would not have had a son by Sarai in fulfillment of God's promise to him (Gen 12:2, 17:19)

Abram sinned by lying, but God graciously intervened in order to keep His covenant with Abram.

Egypt – going down south …

- Egypt in the Scriptures is pictured as a symbol or type of the ***world system*** , **an instance of dependence upon some human source or help apart from God**.
- "*cosmos diabolicus*" - world system

God forbids Israel in Going to Egypt:

Isaiah 31:1 ***Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help****; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong;* ***but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel****,* ***neither seek the Lord*****!**

The Christian therefore "*goes to Egypt*," spiritually speaking, **when he depends upon something or someone else for guidance instead of God**.

Tragic Results of Abram's Distrust of God:

1. He grieved God—Abram's sin (and our sin) always grieves God.
2. He weakened his own faith. Abram failed God in this same matter of lying about his wife. (Gen. 20.)
3. He became a poor testimony to his nephew Lot— some of Abram's worldliness rubbed off on Lot, with tragic results. (Gen. 13, 19.)
4. He caused the Pharaoh to be afflicted. (Gen 12:17.)
5. Pharaoh's rebuke to Abram. (Gen 12:18)
6. He picks up HAGAR the Egyptian handmaid (Gen. 16:3).
   Hagar would later become Abram's mistress and would give birth to Ishmael, the father of the modern Arabs.
7. He provided a bad example for his son, Isaac. Isaac failed God likewise by lying about his wife Rebekah.

One Moment Indiscretion"
Lest we forget—our sins always affect others.

ABRAM'S RETURN to the Promise Land:

Gen 13: 3 *And he went on his journeys from the south* ***even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning,*** *between Bethel and Hai;*

4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had make there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

- Bethel - becomes a place of **RESTORATION of fellowship** - a primary requirement for worship.

- **In the Church Age, when we worship God, we also build our "altar":**
  - Our offering is our bodies - "living sacrifice' (Romans 12:1)
  - Our **BETHEL** = ***I John 1:9***
  - Our Altar = is ***in our soul***

God separates ABRAM from LOT (Gen 13:5-9)

- The **servant**s of Abram and his nephew Lot began arguing over grazing rights.
- Abram graciously allowed the younger man to pick his choice of land.
- Lot foolishly selected that area near Sodom.
- Lot now left the Promised Land, never to return.

Genesis 13: 14 ***And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him***,

Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westwa [15] *For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*

Abram's Courage: Gen 14 (first recorded war in the Bible) (5 kings vs. 3 kings)

Why did Abram get involve in this war? Because of Lot.

Gen 14:10 And …. the ***kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there****; and they that remained fled to the mountain.* [11] *And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way*

And ***they took Lot****, Abram's brother's son,* ***who dwelt in Sodom****, and his goods, and departed.*

Gen 14: [14] *And* ***when Abram heard*** *that his brother was taken captive, he* ***armed his trained servants****, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.*

[16] *And he brought back all the goods, and also* ***brought again his brother Lot****, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.*

- Abram was a man of symphathy;
- Abram was a prepared man (318 trained men for war).

ABRAM and MELCHIZEDEK:

Gen 14[18] *And* ***Melchizedek king of Salem*** *brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.*

[19] *And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:*

[20] *And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand.* ***And he gave him tithes of all.***

Abram's Incorruptibility : Gen 14

(would not take anything from the King of Sodom)

Gen 14:21 *And the* ***king of Sodom*** *said unto Abram,* ***Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.***

[22] *And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,*

[23] ***That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich***:

God's Covenant Confirmed (Gen 15:1-21):

15 *After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying,* ***Fear not****, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*

(First time we read of those two wonderful little words, "***fear not***.")

4. *And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying This shall not be thine heir; (*referring to his servant Eliezer of Damascus*) but* ***he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.***

[6] ***And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness****.*

Abram's Compromise and ADULTERY: Gen 16

V. *16 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid,* ***an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar****.*

[2] *And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the Lord hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her.*

3 ***And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.***

Abram was 85 years old (10 yrs after he entered Caanan.); was 86 when Ishmael was born.

Breakdown in the Divine Institution of Marriage, consequences of which:

1. Sarai suddenly felt despised by her mistress.
2. Sarai "*dealt hardly with Hagar and , she fled from her face."*

HAGAR :

1. Emotionally abandoned (Gen 16:4-6)
2. Spiritually wounded
3. Deeply sought after and loved by God (Gen 16: 7-14)

As chapter 16 ends, Abram is at his lowest spiritual point.

He was 86 old when Ishmael was born (16:16), but is 99 when God again speaks with him.

- **Genesis 17** 17 *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the* ***Almighty God****; walk before me, and be thou perfect*.

His Restoration to Fellowship:

Covenant Reaffirmed the 4th Time in Gen 17
Sign of the Covenant: Circumcison

CHANGE of NAMES (denotes spiritual growth)

- From Abram "*Exalted Father* "

To **ABRAHAM** = ***Father of Many Nations* or *Father of a great multitude.***

- ***From Sarai (contentious)***
  To SARAH (princess)

Genesis 18:

- Announcement of the birth of Isaac.
- Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
- Abram seen "bargaining" with God re destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

ABRAHAM – the Friend of God: Gen 18

V 17 *And the Lord said,* ***Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;***
18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?
19 ***For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment****; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him*.

- 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.***
- Isaiah 41:8 *But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of* ***Abraham my friend.***

LOT's Lost Testimony and Influence:

His Journey to a totally worldly life

1. He first looked longingly at Sodom (Gen. 13:10). V 10 *And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah*, …
2. He then chose the area of ground near Sodom (Gen 13:11). 11 *Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east:…*
3. He next pitched his tent toward Sodom (Gen. 13:12). "…*and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.*
4. He thereupon moved into the city of Sodom (Gen. 14:12). 12 *And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom*
5. He apparently got an officer's position in Sodom: (Gen 19:19) *And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom*:
6. He totally lost all his influence over his wife, married daughters and son in laws;
   (Gen 19:14 b .. *But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law*.
   26 But ***his wife looked back*** *from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*
7. He finally gives both his daughters and his energies to Sodom (Gen. 19).

Luke 17: 32 ***Remember Lot's wife.***

Lot becomes a type of a totally WORLDLY BELIEVER.

" You can take a worldly person out of the world, but you can't take the world out of a worldly person."

Abraham's Carnality: Gen 20

Lied again about Sarah being his wife for fear of his own life.

Abraham's Test of Spiritual Maturity: Gen 22

Genesis 22: 1 *And it came to pass after these things, that* ***God did tempt Abraham,*** *and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.*

[2] And he said, ***Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac****, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and* ***offer him there for a burnt offering*** *upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of*.

- Abraham obeyed , journey early the next day.
- Set off to the mountain –Mt. Moriah with the fire for offering.
- Answered Isaac' query on where is the lamb for an offering with firm conviction:

  Gen 22: [8] *And Abraham said,* ***My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering:***

  JEHOVAH-JIREH- God hath provided

- [5] *And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and* ***I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.***
- God provided for a ram instead of Isaac.

Heb 11: *[17] By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, [18] Of whom it was said,* ***That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:***

[19] ***Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure****.*

- Abraham believed God concerning the **supernatural *birth*** of his son (Rom. 4:18-21).
- Abraham also believed God concerning the supernatural ***resurrection*** of his son (Heb. 11:17-19).
-

	TEMPTATION	TESTING
Source	Satan	God
Purpose	To break us; To destroy our testimony	To build us up; To build our character

- Genesis 22 is Abraham's **TEST of MATURITY**
- The Promised Land becomes a type of **SPIRITUAL MATURITY**

Abraham's KETURAH: Gen 25:1-6

- Abraham marries a woman named Keturah, who bears him six sons.
- The most important son was Midian, the fourth boy, who became the father of the MIDIANITES.
- This nation would later cause Israel much grief.

ABRAHAM'S Journey to the Promised Land:

TYPES	ANTITYPES
Ur of the Chaldees	Our **OLD LIFE** before salvation
The Promised Land	Initially, the Promised Land represents **GOD'S GEOGRAPHICAL WILL**
Promise of Blessings and Protection	**God's PROMISE of Blessings and Protection** when we are in God's Geographical will
TERAH ("delay")	**DISTRACTIONS** in the Christian Life (which delays our spiritual growth)
HARAN ("a dried up place")	**Spiritual Barrenness / Unproductive Christian life**
CAANANITES in the Land	**Enemies of Christian life** (Self, Satan, World)
BETHEL "house of God" where Abram built an altar)	**WORSHIP** (which happens in our soul)
FAMINE	**SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS** (Goal: to destroy us)
EGYPT	**"world system"**
God Changing of Names	Refers to **SPIRITUAL MATURITY**
God's TESTING to Offer Isaac	Test of **SPIRITUAL MATURITY**
The **PROMISED LAND**	Becomes type of **SPIRITUAL MATURITY**

ABRAHAM'S Journey to the Promised Land becomes a type of a believer's own journey to **SPIRITUAL MATURITY.**