

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

RELATIONSHIPS THAT PLEASE GOD

RLJ-1202

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

PART 2A: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

THE FAMILY

The family is the basic building block and nations are only as strong as the families which dwell in them. If a nation's laws are good, it will reflect upon each family. If a nation's laws are evil, it will cause destruction in the families. Evil laws are a cancer in a nation. **Proverbs 25:5; 29:2**

The laws in the Roman Empire were evil. As people accepted Christ and became born again, the apostle Paul set forth the divine domestic laws for each Christian family. **Ephesians 5:18-33**

The Christians could not change the laws of Rome during the first century but they did adopt their own laws as given by God and created a mini-state within the state. The laws in the United States are becoming increasingly evil and Christians must live by God's divine laws and create a nation within the nation.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE FAMILY

Family begins with a man and a woman. A person's race or nationality doesn't matter because the son will be a replica of his father and the daughter a replica of her mother. The only exceptions are when a child is raised in an orphanage, raised in a one parent family or raised as a foster child by people who are not relatives.

The man will view his wife the same way his father viewed his mother. The same holds true for the woman, she will view her husband to be as her mother viewed her father.

The same holds true for children born in a marriage, the parents will treat their children the way they were treated when they were children. If the husband and wife have different backgrounds, it can create a severe conflict since the man and wife are not in unity on how to raise a child.

Let us now look at a very dysfunctional family that became the foundation for the children of Israel:

Terah was the father of three boys: Abram, Nahor and Haran. They lived in the city of Ur (southern Iraq), but at that time the area was known as the "land of the Chaldees."

Terah was the tenth generation of Shem, the son of Noah, and he still possessed the knowledge of the true God but had become an idol worshiper. **Joshua 24:2**



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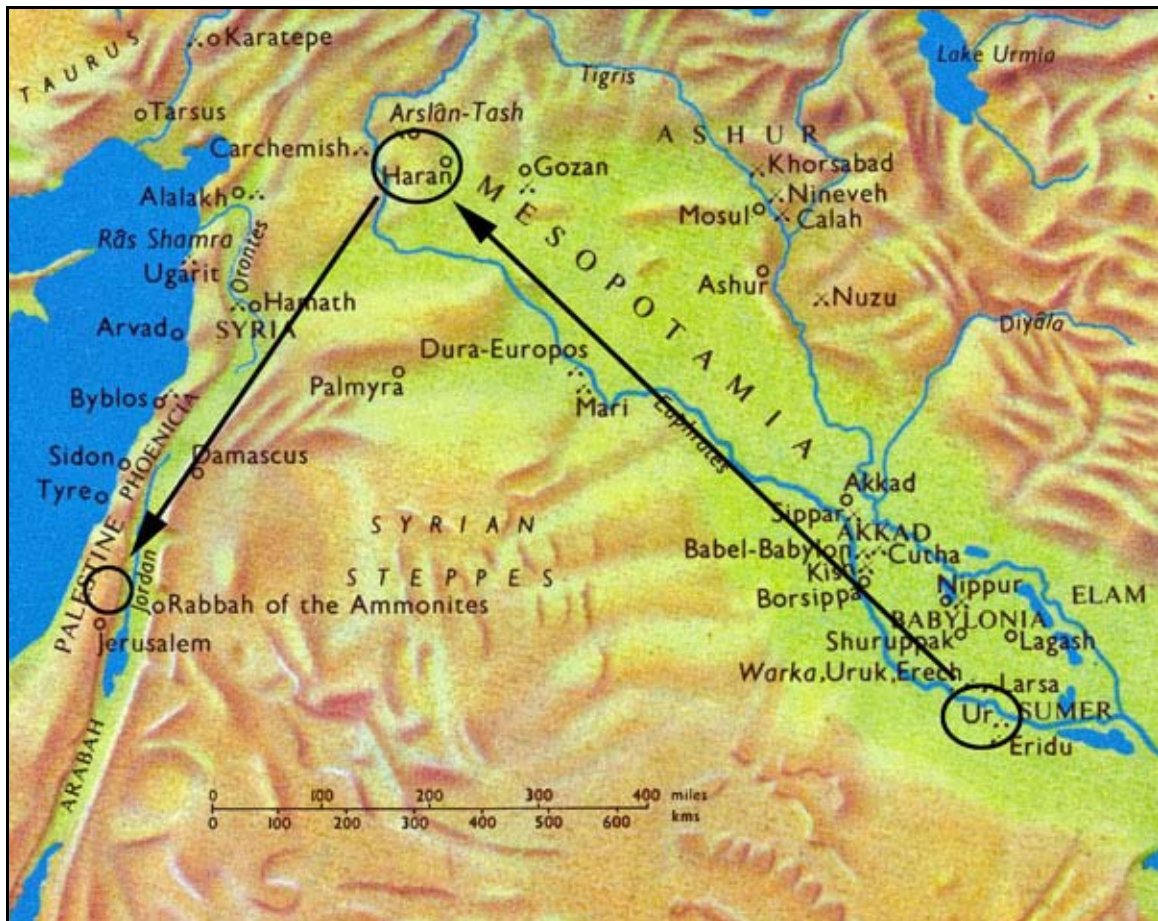
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All three boys married when they were of age: Abraham married his half sister Sarai, Nahor married his cousin Milcah. **Genesis 20:9-13; 11:29; 29:4-5**

Haran died in Ur but he had a son named Lot, and two daughters, Milcah and Iscah. **Genesis 11:27-29**

Reading the text, it is obvious that God called Terah to move to the land of Canaan but there must have been a family split because Terah only took with him his oldest son, Abram, and his grandson Lot. Haran, Iscah, Nahor and Milcah stayed behind. **Genesis 11:31-31**

Something must have happened to Terah once he came to the city of Haran because he discontinued his journey to Canaan and died in that city. **verse 32**



The family of Terah was rich in animals and servants. Abram had a private standing army of 318 men trained in warfare, who were born to the men and women that were his servants. **Genesis 14:14; 13:2**

When Abram and his wife left the city of Haran, it consisted of a large number of men and women, camels, horses, donkeys, and cattle. They had food supplies with them and traveled much like the American settlers who came out to west with their wagons. Abram didn't have to contend with Indians attacking them but the local people who preyed on caravans. By taking Lot, Abram made a mistake

that would later cause them much grief. Altogether there must have been a caravan of more than two thousand people.

God knew that both Abram and Sarai were polluted with a mixture of idolatry and the worship of the living God and that they had to be separated from their environment. **Genesis 12:1-7**

CHARACTER FLAWS

The major character flaw in Terah's family was lying and cheating and we can see why God waited 25 years before He was ready to release the long awaited son to Abram and Sarai. Lying, cheating and unbelief had to be removed before Isaac could be born. **Genesis 12:4; 21:5**

TEST NUMBER ONE: LYING

God always creates "situations" in order to root out sin in a person's life. The first situation for Abram and Sarai was a famine, which forced them into Egypt, exactly where God wanted them to start their first test. **Genesis 12:10-16**

God allowed Abram and Sarai to operate in their sinful ways and then intervened and forced Pharaoh to let them go. **verses 17-20**

Abram and Sarai failed test number one.

LOT IS REMOVED FROM THE PROMISED LAND

We should carefully note that after Terah failed God, Abram was selected to continue the work of God. Lot was a grandson to Terah and the nephew of Abram but he wasn't to be included in the children of Israel.

There was strife created by the abundance of cattle that Abram and Lot possessed. When Lot made the choice to dwell in the plain of Jordan, which was not part of the Promised Land, he took himself out of God's plan, and his offspring, Moab and Ammon, became the bitter enemies of Abram's seed. **Genesis 13:1-13**

TEST NUMBER TWO

The second test had to do with integrity. God again created a situation in which Lot and his family were taken captive and Abram set out to rescue him. God blessed the military action, and when Abram was offered a reward by the wicked king of Sodom, he declined and had nothing to do with the gifts. Abram passed this test. **Genesis 14:12-24**

ANOTHER REVELATION TO ABRAM

It should be noted that Sarai and the thousands of people who had come from Chaldea and were servants of Abram most likely did not have a personal relationship with God. When God starts a project, He never starts with a group of people, but always handpicks an individual who will have intimate relationship and adds people to support whom He has called.

Abram believed God and passed this test. **Genesis 15:1-21; Romans 4:1-5**

SUMMARY

Terah was called by God to be the father of a nation, which would preserve the Word of God and over time provide the world with the Messiah. Terah was not interested in eternal values but traded his eternal position as the father of Israel for a life in the city of Haran.

Nahor refused to leave the city of Ur when God called Terah and was removed from the glory of serving God. Some time later Nahor left Ur with his family and moved to the area of Haran. He missed the calling of God.

However, God would use his son, Bethuel, to be the father of Rebekah, who would become the wife of Isaac. **Genesis 24:47**

Bethuel had two children, Laban and Rebekah, who would become the wife of his nephew, Jacob. **Genesis 28:1-2**

Lot was more interested in riches, an easy life and a good living than being part of God's eternal plan; as a result, he became part of the opposition and a servant of Satan.

Abraham caught the vision and lived for eternal values. **Hebrews 11:8-10**

Are you a Terah, a Nahor or a Lot?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?