

The first 11 chapters have 2 “beginnings”,
and tell about man, sin, judgement, and the formation of nations.

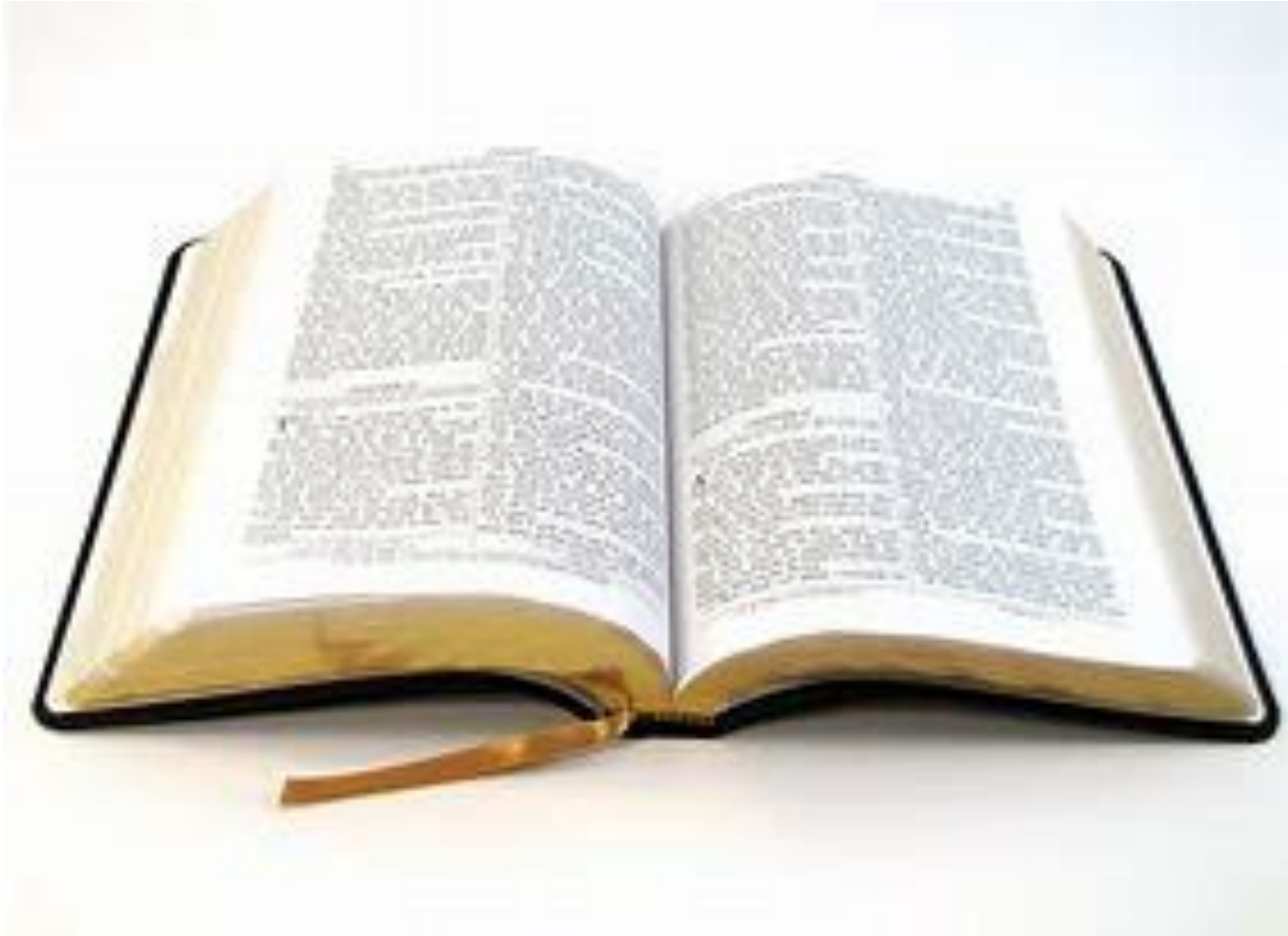


GENESIS

THE BOOK OF FOUNDATIONS

The next 39 chapters are about one man and his family !
GRACE : A new beginning ! God making a people for himself !

Genesis 12:1-9



The God of glory appeared

Acts 7:2-4 "The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran. 'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.' So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Harran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living."

Those rare and special times

"Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."



Abram was called as a gentile in an idolatrous environment.

Cf. Romans 3:29-30 (the God of the Jews and the Gentiles)

The Pioneer of All Believers

So Abram went ...

He believed God
Romans 4:16

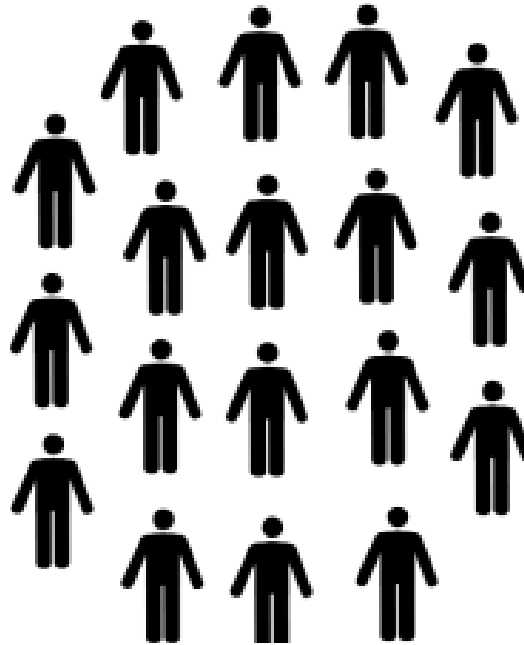
Luke 14:26 !
Jesus' challenge to
discipleship



"I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you."



From small beginnings,
God's promise
to a childless man.



God specialises in the "impossible"

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,



Where real honour comes from vs. the self-made man

Association with him brings blessing

and whoever curses you I will curse

Envy, Jealousy



‘Touch’ believers and you touch God’s eye !

Cf. Saul of Tarsus’s meeting with Jesus.

It applies to treatment of Abraham’s descendants the Jews – the eternal nation, with anti-semitism.

All who have tried to destroy them end up being destroyed

Cf. Haman in the book of Esther.

“and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

GRACE

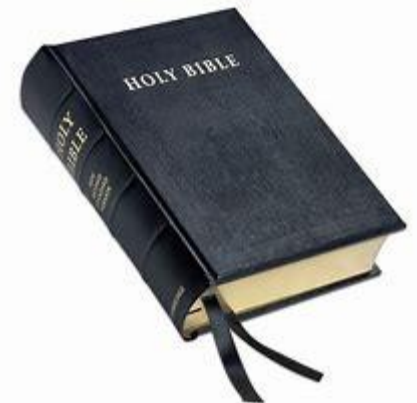
One nation chosen in order to bless all !



Israel :- A blessing to the world : –



Agriculture, Medicine,
Science, Technology
God's laws, the Bible,
God's Son the Messiah
Romans 9:4-5



So Abram went, as the LORD had told him;



**Faith isn't faith
if it doesn't make
a difference**

The obedience of faith (Romans 1: 5)

An unknown road, but a known companion

Genesis 11:31 Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. **But** when they came to Harran, they settled there.

Critical Comments?



Taking Terah, and then Lot with him.
“leave your family and your father's house”

Faith breaks the “sins of the father” curse

Do not judge !

The Bible is silent, maybe we should be !

and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran,

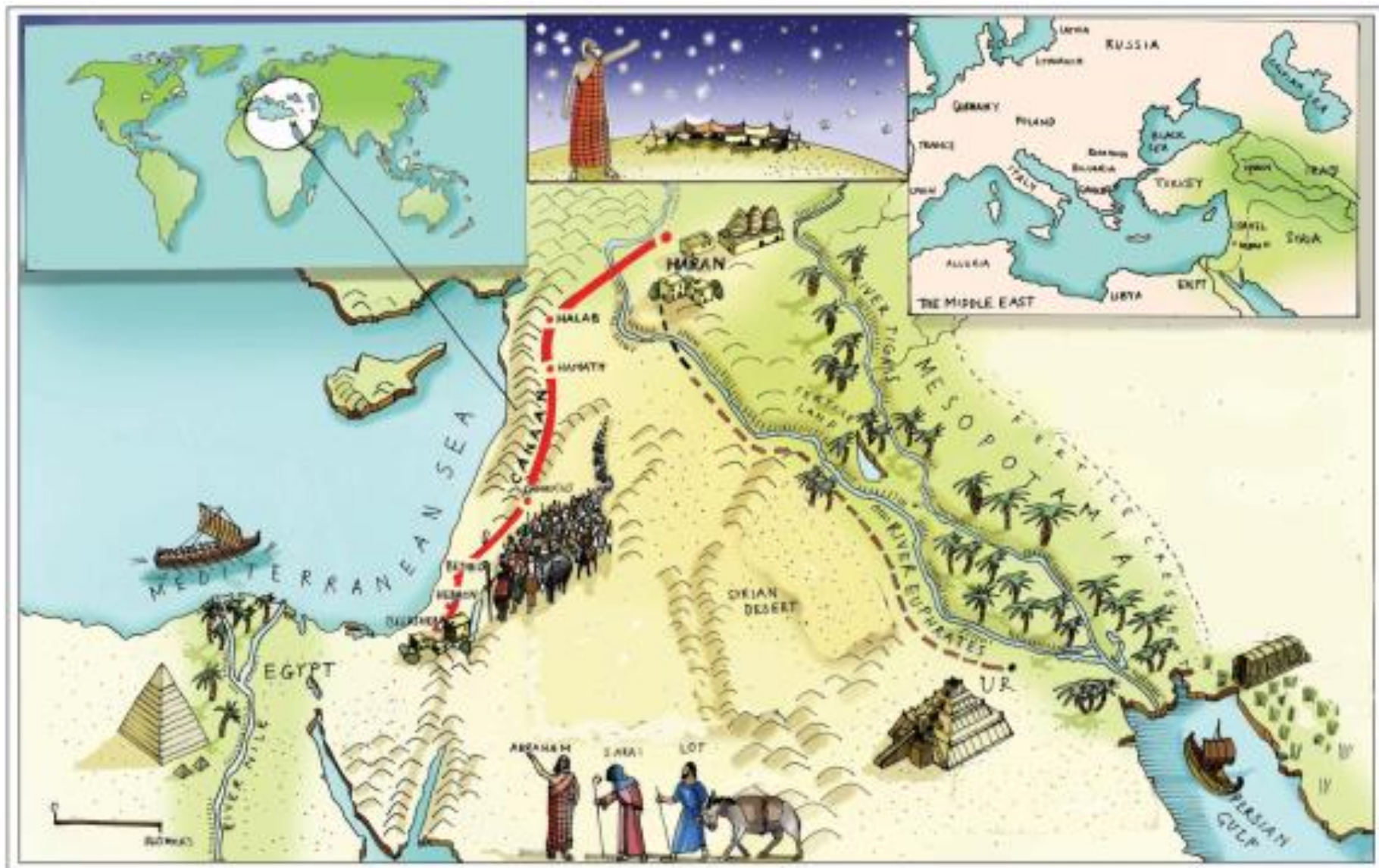


DELAYS
EXPECTED

God's "delays" are character forming, preparations for the future
He is only 75 now – a long time before Isaac arrives!

and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

A stranger in the “promised land”



Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem.

On the move,
guided ?



Elon Moreh - the Oak of Moreh - settlement



At that time the Canaanites were in the land.



Occupation by a sinful people.

The earth is the Lord's and he has the right to turn out bad tenants and give it to someone else.



Canaanite god wearing Atef crown

The LORD appeared to Abram



- A new appearance
- confirmation he had arrived at the right place

The LORD appeared to Abram and said,
"To your offspring I will give this land."

"To your offspring"
= reckoned through Isaac,
= the Jews

Not at present for Abram
- 400 yrs. Later!

A modern issue in Israel –
"occupied" territories ?
By whom?

God's one-state solution



So he built an altar there to the LORD,
who had appeared to him.



What do you do when God really blesses you?

From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east.



Bethel (Moses speaking – original name was Luz)

Nice spot? Feeling comfortable ?

Psalm 16:6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

There he built an altar to the LORD
and called on the name of the LORD.



Personal worship – God’s covenant name
A good “habit” !

Then Abram set out
and continued toward the Negev.

Going from
North to South

Surveying
the land.

It's a
journey



The Negev is a desert and
semi-desert region of
southern Israel.



Ein Avdat National Park;
an oasis in the Negev desert

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.



Holding light
Looking forward
???