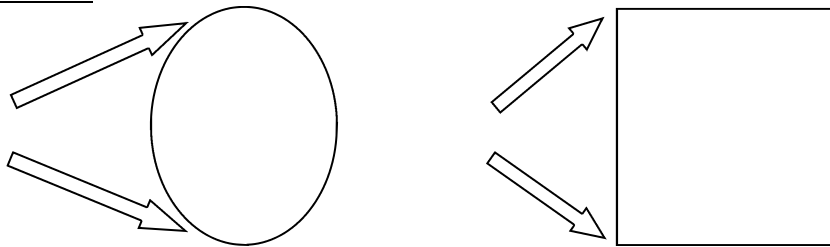


## THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

*"[Abraham] stands out as the supreme exemplar of the faith-life. In him we see the man of faith going forth, trusting in the Divine guidance, believing the Divine promises, receiving Divine assurances and blessings, undergoing sharp testing, and—despite occasional failures—being 'accounted righteous' through faith, and being called 'a friend of God.'"* —J. Sidlow Baxter, Explore the Book

## "God &amp; Abraham: The Call"

The Story So Far:Abram's Family History: Genesis 11:27-32

## The Time of Abram's Birth—

## Ur of the Chaldeans

- \* One of many large city-states of the Sumerian Empire that were founded sometime roughly 3500 B.C.
- \* Significant amounts of trade and cultural interaction took place between the Sumerian Empire and the Akkadian Empire founded by Sargon (2371-2316 B.C.).
- \* The Sumerians were polytheistic and in Ur the primary deity was the Moon god Nannar.

➔ It's possible that Terah's decision to leave Ur could have been the result of the Gutian conquest (2150 B.C.).

## Haran

- \* A major commercial and business center that was populated by Semitic peoples known in Scripture as the Amorites.
- \* Over time, large groups of Amorites migrated towards the Southwest into Syria and Canaan.

Point of Emphasis: In terms of both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ there was nothing at this time to distinguish Abram from anyone else within this region.

The Call of Abram: Genesis 12:1-3

*"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.'"*

The Cultural Significance of this Request:

*"And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

"I will..."

"Bless"

### The Implications of God's Promises to Abram

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Abram and His nation will become the vehicle for God's \_\_\_\_\_ to extend to all nations.

⇒ These universal blessings do not imply universalism. They will not extend to all people without exception, but will instead be available to all people without \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Response of Abram: Genesis 12:4-6

*"So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan."*

- Abram's response to the Word of the Lord was faith and \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Appearance of the Lord: Genesis 12:7-9

*"Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.'"*

- The term 'offspring' here is zera, the same word that is also translated as 'seed.' Moses wants us to associate what God is doing in and through Abram with his previous promise and work. (3:15, 4:25)

*"And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord."*

- Abram's response to the Word of the Lord was worship.

⇒ His "calling upon the name of the Lord" recalls Gen. 4:26

### Theological Considerations

1. Abraham's conversion is a clear demonstration of God's \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Word of the Lord is the \_\_\_\_\_ means by which God accomplishes His plans and purposes.
3. The proper response of mankind to the Word of the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_.