

UNFOLDING OF THE PLAN OF GOD (part two)

It is important to understand how God works in the lives of spiritually advancing believers, unfolding His Directive Will.

Our lesson text introduces us to the three sons and their families of Terah in their early history in the Plan of God.

We will begin with highlighting six stages of their early history.

- **Haran** begat Lot and two daughters (Gen.11:27-28). His wife is not mentioned.
- **Abram** married his half sister, same father but different mothers (Gen.11:29; 20:12).
- **Nahor** married Milcah, the daughter of his brother Haran (Gen.11:29). We do not know what happened to her sister, Iscah.
 - Nahor moved to the city of Haran in northern Mesopotamia. After Haran died in Ur, the rest of Terah's family moved temporarily to city of Haran (Gen.11:28). Ur and Haran were important cities of commerce and worship of moon god.
 - This move was temporary because God had called Abram to foreign missions in land of Canaan (Gen.11:31).
 - After Terah died in Haran, Abram, Sarai, and Lot moved to land of Canaan (Gen.11:32-12:5).

This lesson will study three additional aspects of the Unfolding of the Plan of God in the lives of spiritually advancing believers.

1. This lesson will show spiritually advancing believers making life decisions based on obedience to the Directive Will of God.

Terah and Abram were making choices and life decisions based on the Directive Will of God (Gen.11:31-12:5).

The Directive Will of God always functions by three categories: Geographical, Mental and Operational Will (James 4:13-15). It is important that they ALL line-up when making life decisions.

Directive Will _____, _____ (Acts 7:1-3)

Geographical Will _____, _____, _____ (Acts 7:2-4)

Operational Will _____, _____, _____ (Heb.11:8)

Mental Will _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ (Gen.12:1-5)

2. It is important for the spiritually advancing believer to understand that the Lord is always out front of the Directive Will of God no matter what he / she are going through because of it.

Understanding this principle allows the believer to focus on walking by faith and to leave the details of the fulfillment or completion with God. "And being fully assured that what **God has promised**, He was able also to perform." (Rom.4:21) (Abraham)

- Abram received his call of foreign missions to land of Canaan.
- But Haran dies leaving Lot an orphan. Terah takes guardianship of Lot.
- They move to Haran and Terah dies. Abram takes guardianship of Lot.
- Abram leaves his home land of Mesopotamia for Canaan because of directive will.

Did he know **where** to go? (Gen.12:1) Did he know **why** he was going? (Gen.12:2-3; Heb.11:8) Did he know **what** to do when he got there? (Gen.12:4; Heb.11:9-10)

(Heb.11:8) “**By faith** (pistei) (faith cycle), Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going (specific location in land).”

3. Once again, we will see that walking by faith is by steps and in stages in plan of God.

Abram was 75 when he left Mesopotamia (Gen.12:4), 100 when Isaac was born and 140 when a bride was sought for Isaac from family of Nahor (Gen.24:67).

Walking by faith is how the spiritually advancing believer goes through different stages in the unfolding of the Plan of God in their life (2 Cor.5:7; Col.2:6-7).

By faith (pistei/ steps) is used four times with difference **stages** of life with Abraham (Heb.11:8, 9, 11, 17-19).

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| (Heb.11:8) | Abraham left Mesopotamia based on God’s call and promise |
| (Heb.11:9) | Abraham lived in land of Promise |
| (Heb.11:11) | Barren Sarah gives birth to child of promise |
| (Heb.11:17) | Abraham offered up Isaac based on the promise of resurrection |

FAITH CYCLE (Heb.11:1)

