

# SAINTS & SINNERS



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*SUMMER 2023 SERMON SERIES*  
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**Abraham: Learning to Trust God**  
*Part 1 of 12*

## Genesis 12:1-5 NIV

<sup>1</sup> The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;

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

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”

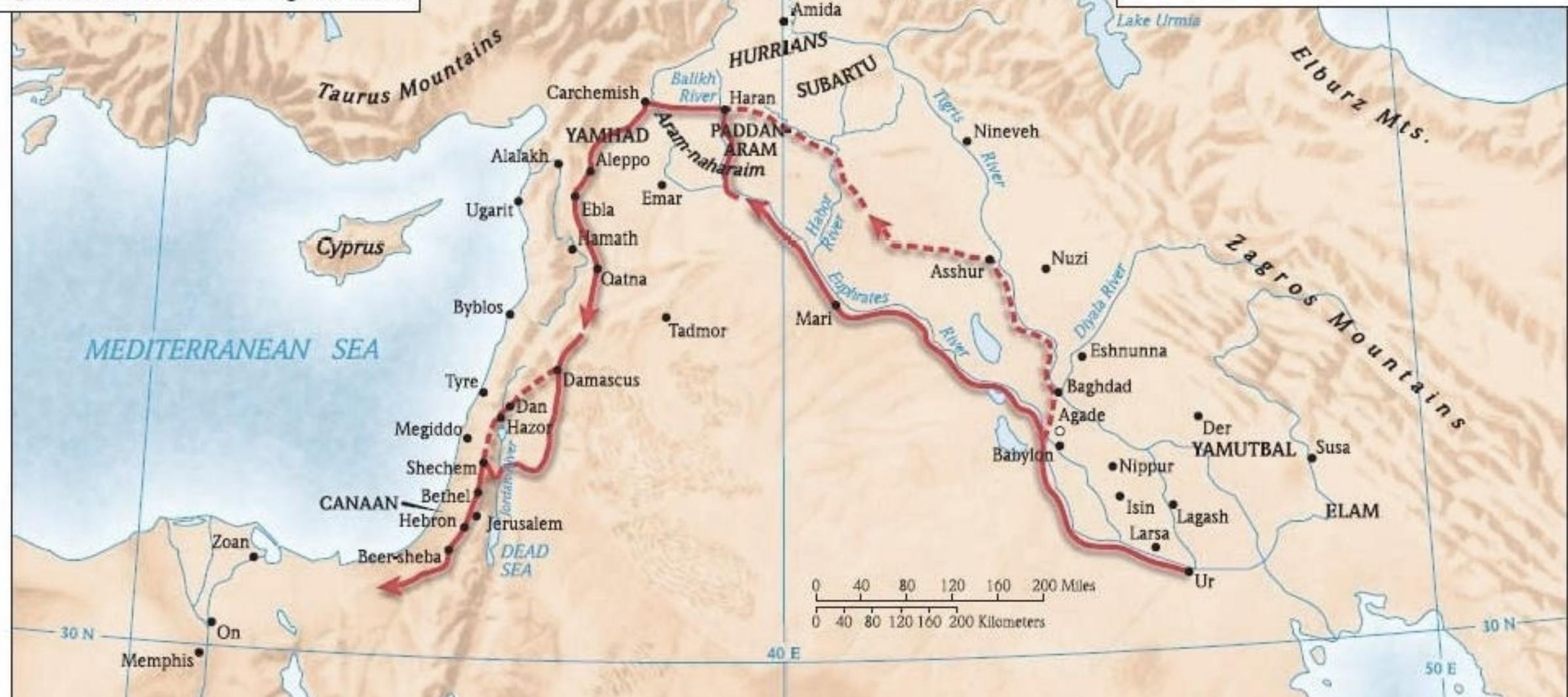
<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

# THE MIGRATION OF ABRAHAM

GN 11:27-12:9

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Abraham's migration route
- ←- Abraham's alternative migration route

Ur of the Chaldeans (11:28) is usually identified today as Tell el-Muqayyar, 220 miles southeast of Baghdad, Iraq (11:31). Situated on a caravan route, Haran was an important city located on the banks of the Balikh River in northern Mesopotamia, in what is now modern Syria. The place name Haran (meaning "Caravan Route") has a different spelling in the Hebrew than the personal name "Haran" (meaning "Mountaineer").





## **Genesis 15:4-5 NLT**

<sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to him, “No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!”



***GENESIS***  
***17:1-22***



## **Genesis 22:1-2 NIV**

<sup>1</sup> Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

<sup>2</sup> Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”







## **Genesis 22:15-18 NIV**

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup> and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

# LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM

## What can we learn from Abraham's life?

- He was a man of his time.
- Like Abraham, we will get it wrong.
- Despite our sins, God will graciously bless us and use us if we will trust him.
- God will test us to grow our faith.
- Abraham was both a saint *and* a sinner.



# Learning to Trust God

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Questions for reflection and response:

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1. Can you see yourself in Abraham? If so, how?

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Questions for reflection and response:

1. Can you see yourself in Abraham? If so, how?
2. How is God inviting you to include him in your decision-making and pray for his guidance?
3. Will you trust God with what seems impossible?  
(e.g., fear, anxiety, temptation, trials, the future, etc.)

## Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

### The Message:

Trust God from the bottom of your heart;  
don't try to figure out everything on your own.  
Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere  
you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

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