

A BRIDGE OF HOPE!
GENESIS CH11:10-32

ILLUSTRATION

The theme of Genesis is creation, sin, and re-creation. It tells how God created the world as very good, but that it was destroyed in the flood as a result of man's disobedience. The new world after the flood was also spoiled by human sin (Ch11). The call of Abraham, through whom all the nations would be blessed, gives hope that God's purpose will eventually be realized through Abraham's descendants (Ch49).

Genesis is about beginnings and generations. Starting with the divine ordering of creation, it follows for many generations **a family line** that takes the reader from Adam to Jacob and his sons. **This family line** forms the backbone of Genesis, links it's disparate (so unlike one another) elements into a cohesive whole, and explains the distinctive literary features that set it apart from other Old Testament narrative books. We could see the overview as follows:

- 1. THE FOUNDATION - CH1-2**
- 2. THE FALL - CH3-5**
- 3. THE FLOOD - CH6-9**
- 4. THE FOOLISH TOWER - CH10-11**
- 5. THE FAMILY - CH12-50**

Genesis is also a book of instruction, and this is why Jews include it in the Law, for the Hebrew word Torah, usually translated "law", has the broader sense of "instruction". It can rightly be considered the "First Book of Moses" because of its role as the prelude to the following four books, Exodus to Deuteronomy which are structured around the life of Moses. Genesis divides into two major sections:

1. the primeval history of the world before Abraham (Ch1-11);
2. the history of the patriarchs (Ch12-50).

The proportions of the two sections are significant: essentially chapters 1-11 are setting the stage for the main drama, **namely God's dealing with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his sons-the subject of chapters 12-50**. One of the hallmarks of Genesis is the heading or title **"These are the generations of"** (2:4; 5:1 with slight variant 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 36:9; 37:2).

Each heading functions like a zoom lens, by focusing attention on a smaller part of the total picture that has been shown in the preceding section, and the heading thus serves as an introduction to the following section. As Genesis describes how the earth's population increases over many generations the

reader's attention is constantly being directed toward one particular **person in each generation and his descendants.**

THE LINE! V10-26

We have to work out, why is Moses putting this genealogy here? What does he want us to see, more than just the names of “fathers and sons, their ages and the fact that they had other sons and daughters!

1. Preserving the line of Shem through one man - Abram!
2. Preserving the line through one man, who had faith – Abram!
3. Chapter 5 has 10 generations: Adam - Noah!
4. Ch11 has 10 generations: Shem - Abram!
5. The only thing that is missing in Ch11 is the phrase “and he died” which occurs 8 times in Ch5!
6. The ***shrinking life span***, the 438 years of Arphachsad is only about two thirds of his father Shem's 600 years. Peleg's 239 years is about half the 464 years of his father, Eber. Nahor lives 148 years nearly in line with the predicted shortening that God had stated back in Ch6:3!
7. It is the reoccurrence of “Man's sin” that is causing the decrease in age!
8. Terah fathering three sons, like Noah!
9. ***We see that hope abounds with the conclusion of the genealogy, with Abram! Moses shows that God's promise to Eve (Gen Ch3:15) of a seed who will crush the head of the snake could not be thwarted by the confusion and scattering of the nations!***

THE LAND! V27-30

1. We learn that Terah and his family are from “Ur of the Chaldeans” modern day Iraq, about 190 miles south-east of Baghdad!
2. When we look back in history, we discover that the place, Ur of the Chaldeans”, was a dark, pagan society that worshipped the moon god, through the Temple of “Nanna”!
3. Though the culture of Babel, dispersed and triumphed, it had left the “scattered” with no foreseeable future other than idolatry and darkness!
4. We learn that Abram has taken Sarai as his wife (although she is his half sister Gen Ch20:2 + 12)!
5. We learn that Sarai is barren! Following God is never straight forward, it is full of life's challenges!
6. We learn that one of Terah's sons, Haran dies in the land of “Ur of the Chaldeans”, and that his daughter, Milcah, marries her uncle Nahor!
7. We learn from Joshua Ch24:2 ***“And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor, and they served other gods’”!***
8. ***We learn that Abram and his family were idolaters, worshipping false gods!***

THE LINK! V31-32

1. We learn about a family move and a death! But whose decision to move was it?
2. According to v31, "Terah, took Abram his son and Lot So, we could quite easily believe it was Terah's decision!
3. ***But the rest of the Old Testament and New Testament, won't allow for this!***
4. **Gen Ch15:7** - And He said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."
5. **Neh Ch9:7** - "You are the Lord, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham."
6. **Acts Ch7:2-4** - And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.' Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living."
7. **Heb Ch11:8** - "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."
8. God spoke to Abram whilst he was an idolater in Ur of the Chaldeans, to obey Him and leave his homeland!
9. Like Noah, Ch6:22, Ch7:5, Ch7:9 and Ch7:16 emphasises that Noah did all that God commanded him to. Likewise, Abram immediately obeyed and went! Abram put his complete trust in this God, without, at this time, seeing the fulfilment of God's promise!

APPLICATION

1. Faith does not earn righteousness, it receives it!
2. Faith is the instrument by which we receive God's righteousness!
3. Faith is needed to see Jesus and His redeeming work on the cross!
4. Talk about the telling off last Sunday!