
Way Point 8

Camping Beside the Road

Story of Abraham Sidetracked in Haran

How many people have started out to become a certain professional and then life got in the way. They become sidetracked with marriage, family, sickness, distractions of important things, but distractions none the less.

By the same token how man people have been given a clear distinct call from God and on the way got side tracked or distracted.

Our Way Point today begins with the birth of the man who would become one of the most revered men in history. Genesis 11:26 "And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran." Terah was the 46th generation from the Messiah and Abram is the key son that is born to him. Abram (aka Abraham. NOTE: I will refer to him Abraham even before his name change) is 45th generation. Abraham was born only a couple of years after Noah died.

I- His Family:

We have already seen that Terah was the father of Abraham. We find in Genesis 11:29-30 "And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. 30 But Sarai was barren; she had no child."

So Abraham takes a wife named Sarai (aka Sarah. NOTE: I will refer to her as Sarah). Please notice that Sarah was barren and could not give Abraham any children at this point.

Abraham's brother Haran died before Terah his father after having a son named Lot. Genesis 11:28 "And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees."

II- His Call:

Genesis 12:1-3 "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." This promise of God is commonly referred to as the Abrahamic Covenant.

God calls Abraham to leave Ur the land of his family and friends and go where he would show him. Please notice that Abraham is told to get away from his kindred and his father's house.

Travel Log

Personal Notes

٨	10	4
⊱-	28	- 4

God promised to make Abraham a great nation but please remember that Abraham is married to Sarah who is barren. This will cause Abraham a lot of grief and heartaches as we will see in other Way Points.

III- His Sidetrack:

So Abraham has been given a clear directive from God to separate from family. Notice the first thing that happened was that He did not completely do as instructed but took his father along. Genesis 11:31 "And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there."

Abraham is still following his father instead of striking out on his own. Lot his nephew is also along. Notice they left headed toward Canaan but stopped at Haran. We can only speculate why they stopped here. We do know that this is the place where Abraham's brother Nahor settled and was where Isaac's wife would later come from.

Notice what M.G. Easton M.A., D.D., Illustrated Bible Dictionary says:

Heb. haran, i.e., "parched;" or probably from the Accadian charana, meaning "a road." A celebrated city of Western Asia, now Harran, where Abram remained, after he left Ur of the Chaldees, till his father Terah died (Gen_11:31, Gen_11:32), when he continued his journey into the land of Canaan. It is called "Charran" in the LXX. and in Act 7:2. It is called the "city of Nahor" (Gen 24:10), and Jacob resided here with Laban (Gen 30:43). It stood on the river Belik, an affluent of the Euphrates, about 70 miles above where it joins that river in Upper Mesopotamia or Padan-aram, and about 600 miles northwest of Ur in a direct line. It was on the caravan route between the east and west. It is afterwards mentioned among the towns taken by the king of Assyria (2Ki_19:12; Isa 37:12). It was known to the Greeks and Romans under the name Carrhae.



Genesis 11:29-12:9

Sights to See:

- 1- Abraham let family and other good and righteous things get in his way and distracting him from the perfect will of God.
- 2- To the casual observer this may seem like a minor point but how many have never moved along in their walk with God after getting bogged down. How many people have camped beside the road or boated on the lake and never found time for God again?
- 3- How many have never begun the journey and have never even gotten to Haran?
- 4- Abraham was willing to start the journey that he was not sure where he would end up. God told him to go and he would show him where when he got there.
- 5- We need to examine our lives and make sure that there is nothing that we are putting before God, be it family, job, personal comfort or whatever.

After traveling some 600 miles Abraham sets up living in Haran instead of going on to the promised land. Abraham was camping beside the road instead of traveling on into the will of God. Abraham is going to dwell here for five years. I want you to notice the underline in the text above under his call. It says, "Now the LORD had said unto Abram..." God had told him to go past this point.

+ Way Point Chronicles +
+ + Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories + + +

It is only after a personal tragedy of losing his father that Abraham moved along. May I suggest that Haran was never a Way Point on the journey of Abraham. He never should have stopped here and camped.

Genesis 12:4-9 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. 6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. 7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. 8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD. 9 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

Barnes Notes says:

"Abram does not enter into immediate possession, but only travels through the land which the Lord had promised to show him Gen 12:1. He arrives at "the place of Shekem." The town was probably not yet in existence. It lay between Mount Gerizzim and Mount Ebal. It possesses a special interest as the spot where the Lord first appeared to Abram in the land of promise. It was afterward dedicated to the Lord by being made a Levitical town, and a city of refuge. At this place Joshua convened an assembly of all Israel to hear his farewell address. "So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shekem" Jos. 24:1-25. The particular point in the place of Shekem where Abram halted is the oak of Moreh; so called, probably, from its planter or owner. The oak attains to great antiquity, and a single tree, well grown, becomes conspicuous for its grandeur and beauty, and was often chosen in ancient times as a meeting-place for religious rites."

So Abraham enters the land that will be his by promise from God but the time was not right. The Canaanites were occupying the land. But, we must remember that Abraham has no heirs at this time as well. God has a lot of work to do.

Did you notice however that God was blessing Abraham with great wealth already? He left Haran with a lot more wealth than he arrived with.

Perhaps the most important item here however is not the blessing but the promise to come. 7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, <u>Unto thy seed will I give this land...</u>" This promise will be affirmed many times to Abraham as well as the generations of his descendants to come.

Abraham did not tarry long in the land at this time. One last item to see at this Way Point in preparation for our next is the last statement. Gen 12:9 "And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south." Egypt was waiting.