

# THE MIGRATION OF ABRAHAM

GEN. 11:27-12:9

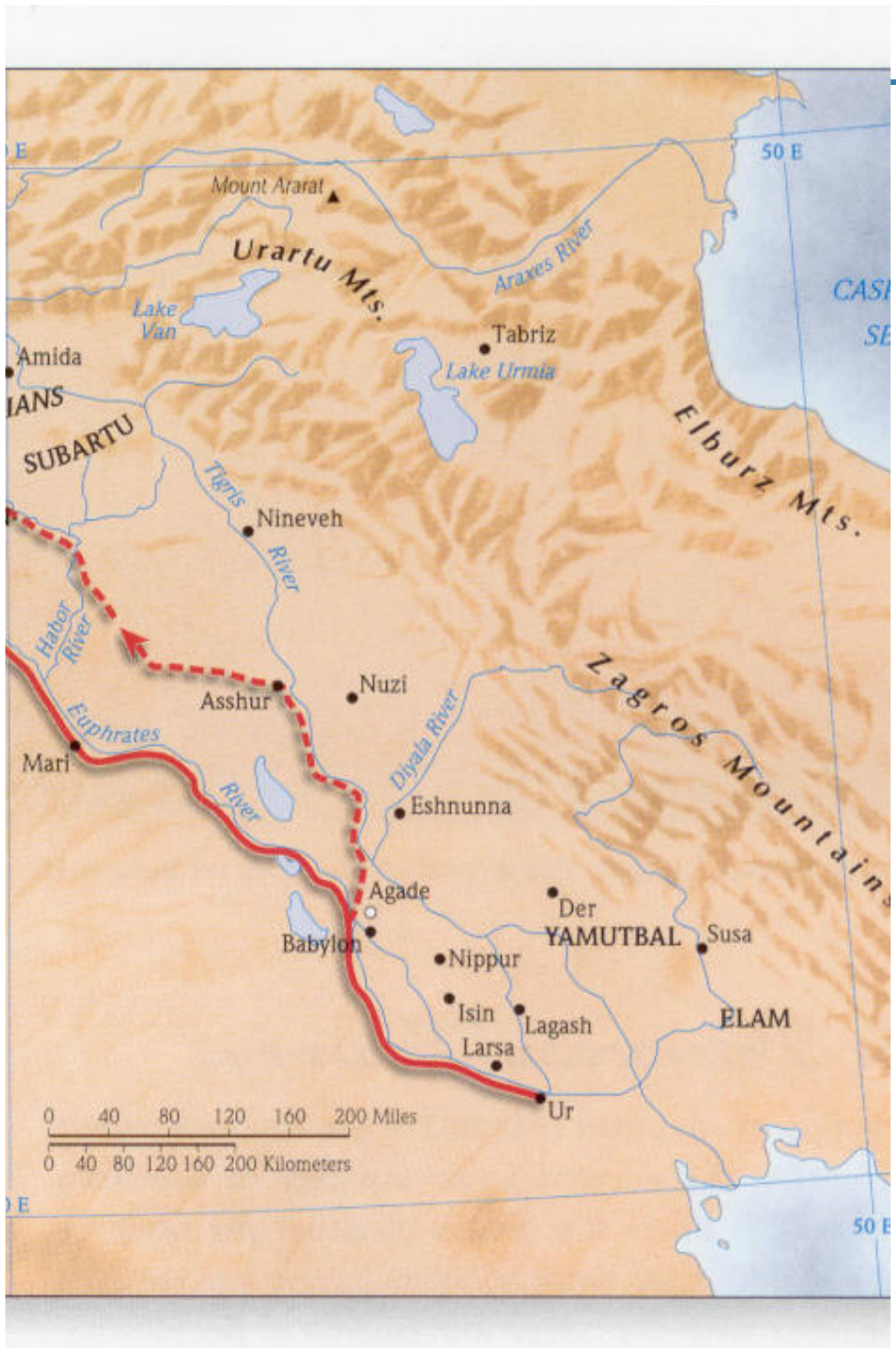
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Abraham's migration route
- ← - - - Abraham's alternative migration route



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# ABRAHAM IN CANAAN

GEN. 12:10-14:24; GEN. 18-22

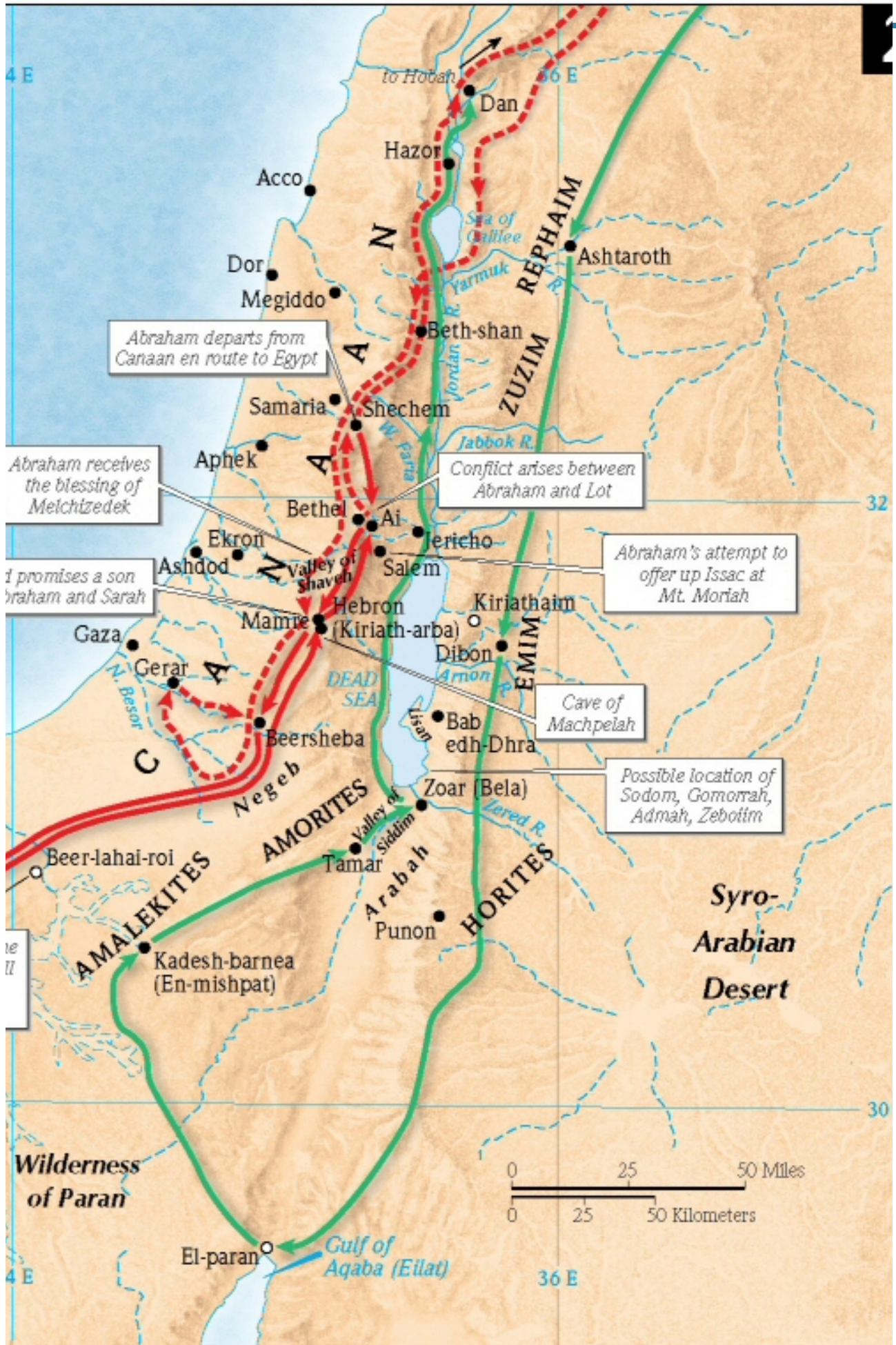
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ← Abraham's migration to Egypt and return to Canaan
- ←- - Abraham's route of battle with enemy kings
- ← Military route of the kings from the north in Gen. 14



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Trim along edge of map and tape this edge to other half. Put tape on back of map, so you can still write on the







One of several wells at Beersheba.

# The Faith of Abraham

## ***Part 1 of 3***

<sup>1</sup>Summer Study Campout: July 4-8, 2018

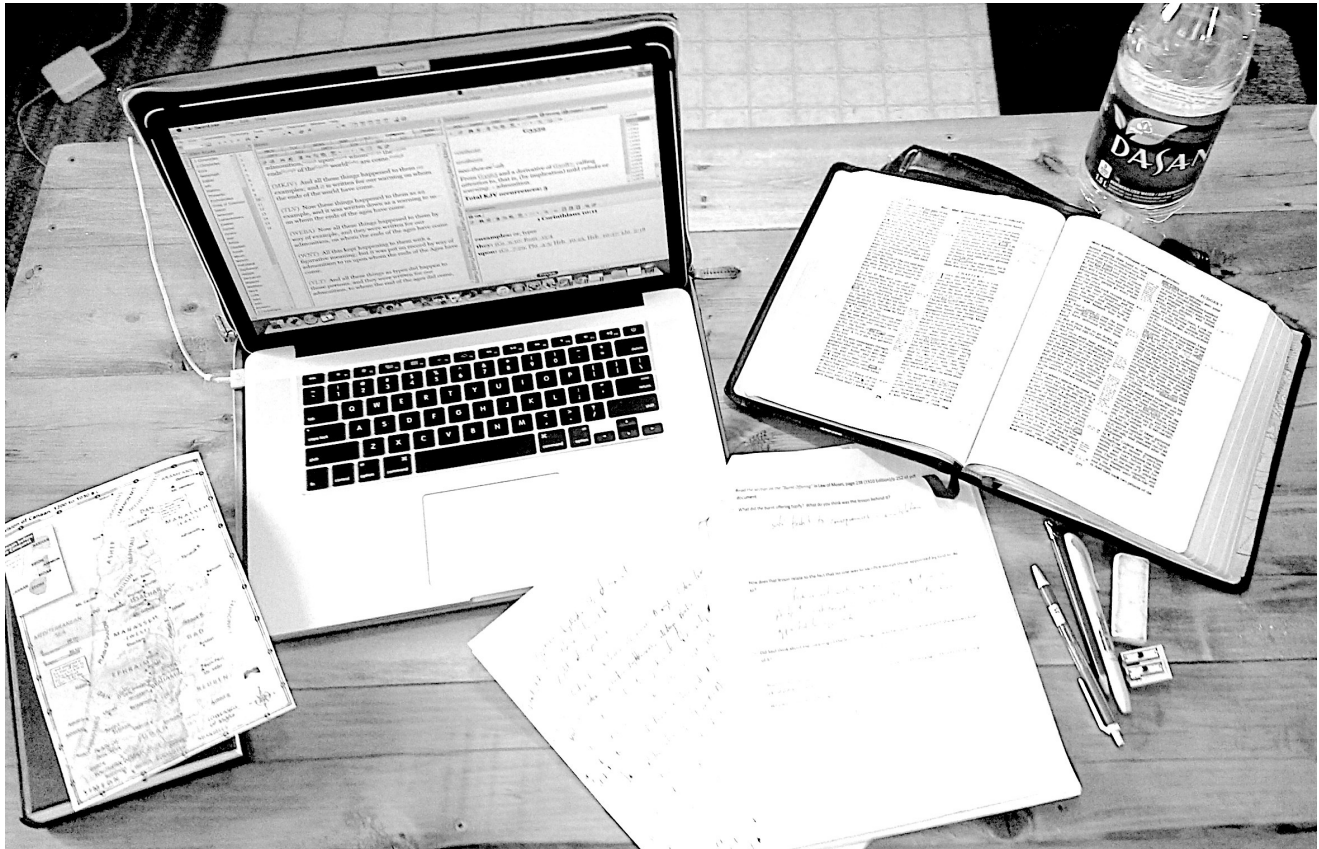
Due: June 23, 2018 (part 1, 2 and 3)

RSVP by May 27, 2018 to [glendonrhoades@gmail.com](mailto:glendonrhoades@gmail.com)

NAME:

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A Recommended Study Setup. From right: Bible, pen/pencil/highlighter, workbook, scratch paper, laptop w/ e-sword, maps and other resource books.

## WORKBOOK INFO

### Objective

An in-depth study of Abraham's life.

### Goals

- Develop stronger **Bible study habits**
- Become more effective in **use of study resources**
- Deepen understanding of the **lessons and principles** in the story of Abraham
- **Build relationships with others** around Bible study

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## Requirements

**All parts of the workbook must be completed by the due date in order to attend.** Note that the due date is 10 days *prior to* the start of the campout. If you feel you may not meet the due date, let the organizers know where you are in the workbook right away.

## Resources You'll Need:

**All resources are available in digital form from [www.nevercease.org](http://www.nevercease.org)>resources**

- **BIBLE**, preferably one with cross references and marginal notes. Space for notes beside the text is great, too. King James Version is preferable, with other versions to compare against.
- **Workbook, parts 1, 2, & 3, printed.** All can be downloaded at [www.nevercease.org](http://www.nevercease.org)>workbook and campout 2018. Part 1 is put out early, so that plenty of time can be given to the study. Part 2 and 3 will be put on the site in the next few months, God willing.
- Biblical resources:
  - **Strong's** concordance
  - \***ISBE** (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)
  - **TSK** (Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge)

\*note that the **e-sword** software (free download) has Strong's, ISBE and TSK as modules. ISBE must be downloaded through the module downloader in e-sword. Click the "Download" menu, and select "Dictionaries". The "e-Sword Module Downloader" window should appear; select ISBE and anything else you'd like to add, then click the "Download" menu at the top of this window and select "Start".

- **Maps of the Middle East** (see first two pages of workbook)
- **Elpis Israel**, John Thomas
- **Chronikon Hebraikon**, John Thomas
- **Eureka**, Vol 1-3, John Thomas



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## STUDY SETUP

*This is a large study; it will take lots of time to work through. If you have a good study setup, you'll make good progress, and learn lots with the time you put in. If you have a poor setup, you may spend 3 or 4 times as long on the study, and still not learn as much as if you'd used a good setup. Get a good setup and you'll learn more, enjoy it more, and waste less time.*

**Use a print Bible, and have it open to the story of Abraham.** Having a Bible as part of your workspace means that you can easily glance back at any passage in the story with a turn of the head. Using a digital Bible on the same device you are using for research limits your ability to do this.

**Use a laptop** (or at least a tablet) for e-sword. Small devices like cell phones are great for convenience and portability, but when you sit down to do a serious study, set it aside and use a laptop or desktop computer if you can. I find looking things up on a laptop about **3 times** as effective as looking them up on a phone, because you can see the passage in question, TSK, ISBE and Strong's *all at the same time*, without losing your place between screens. Less confusion=better study.

**Keep other resources handy.** Keep your workbook, a good map, scratch paper, and other books you are using for resource close by, so that you can easily look things up without losing your train of thought.

## HELP

The best thing you can do is **start early**. If you start early, and find you're having trouble, you have time to get help, and time to overcome learning curves. This is a challenging workbook, and a big study - particularly if it's the first time you've done serious Bible study. Don't be intimidated, but give yourself plenty of time, and I'll be happy to help you with difficulties that arise. Email me with questions or issues and I'll try to answer them or we'll set up a time to talk online or by phone. *Don't wait until the last second to ask for help!*

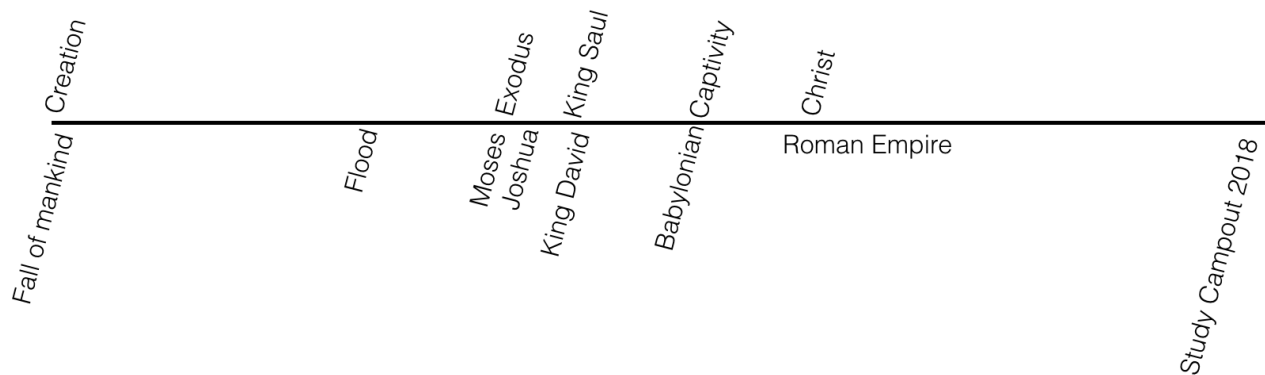
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## SECTION 1A: BACKGROUND

1. **Familiarize yourself with the general events of Genesis 1-8.** These chapters provide the *wider context* for the story of Abraham (you don't need to read these chapters, but look through them enough to know what stories are in them).



- 1.1. Where does this story fall in the history of the Bible? Draw an arrow in the appropriate place on the timeline above.
- 1.2. Was Israel a nation yet?
- 1.3. Has the flood happened yet?
- 1.4. Is everyone on earth related to one another at the time of Abraham?
- 1.5. Who is their most recent common ancestor?
- 1.6. Has the law of Moses been given yet?
- 1.7. Who wrote Genesis?

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1.8. When, approximately, would Genesis have been written?

1.9. **Read Gen 8:20 - Gen 11:32.** These chapters give the *immediate context* to the life of Abraham and introduce us to him and his family. Use this space for notes.

1.10. Where did the Tarshish descendants live?

1.11. Where did Canaan come from?

1.12. Have we already been told something about Canaan, prior to Gen 10? What?



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1.13. What was said about Shem and Japheth at that point?

1.14. Who was Nimrod (Gen 10)? *As you do this workbook, note where you got your answers. Facts about Nimrod might come from other parts of scripture (simply note the chapter and verse next to the fact), might come from a Bible Encyclopedia like the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (simply put "ISBE" next to the fact), or might come from another book like Elpis Israe<sup>2</sup> (simply put "E.I. p 82" next to the fact). Your answers should look something like this as much as possible:*

Nimrod was a legendary, mighty hunter (Gen 10:9).

He descended from Cush and Ham, son of Noah (Smith's; also Gen 10:6-7).

It is thought that he hunted men, rather than beasts (E.I. pg. xix).

1.15. What does his name mean?<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Elpis Israel and many other resources can be downloaded from [www.nevercease.org](http://www.nevercease.org). Just click the "Resources" tab, then "Digital Library" and select the book.

<sup>3</sup> Strong's Concordance isn't very helpful here. Try using a Bible dictionary like Smith's or a Bible encyclopedia like ISBE (both available through e-sword).

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1.16. Locate and mark the land of Nimrod's cities on the map (front of wkbk). see Gen 10:10-12. List the cities here (unless you already did above):

1.17. Find the meaning of the name "Babel" in Hebrew.

1.18. Why was this name used?

1.19. "Babel" has another meaning in the "Semitic language", i.e. the language family of the middle east to which Chaldee, Arabic and Hebrew belong. What else might the name have meant to Semitic peoples?

1.20. Why was the name appropriate for the city for ancient Semitic peoples of that area?

1.21. Anything else worth noting about Babel?



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1.22. What does the name “Shinar” mean?

1.23. What does Shinar mean in Hebrew<sup>4</sup>?

1.24. Who or what was Asshur (Gen 10:11)?

1.25. Where was the land of Canaan? Describe its boundaries, and mark the cities mentioned as Canaan’s territory (Gen 10) on your map.

1.26. What does it mean in vs 25 when it says “the name of the one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided”?

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<sup>4</sup> You may have found with e-sword that *Shinar* is also mentioned in Zechariah 5:11. Eureka has a section in Volume 1 dedicated to “The Apocalypse in Zechariah”. Search the digital copy (pdf) of Eureka Volume 1 for the word “Shinar”. The pdf is available for download from [www.nevercease.org](http://www.nevercease.org); click on “Resources”, then “Digital Library” and select Eureka. **Always consider the context when searching through a pdf.**

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1.27. Gen 11:2 says in the KJV “they journeyed from the east”. However, the margin says “they journeyed *eastward*”. Do some research and use maps to find which is most likely correct.

*\*\*Note that the provided maps are not inspired. Some locations are disputed, and you should note the conclusions of your research on your maps.*

1.28. Are the events of Gen 10 and 11 *chronological*? I.e. do the events of Gen 11 begin *after* the events of Gen 10 have ended, or is Gen 11 telling the story of an event that happened sometime *during* the generations that Gen 10 outlined?

1.29. Gen 11:3 says “they had brick for stone”. What are stones likened to in scripture?

1.30. What is the difference between brick and stone? (Think ancient brick)



1.31. What do you think is the significance of the phrase “they had brick for (instead of) stone”?

1.32. “...and slime they had for mortar.” Was this the same “slime” as Noah used on the ark?

1.33. What does the original word for “slime” in Gen 11:3 indicate?

1.34. What might be the significance of this?

1.35. Gen 11:4 indicates two reasons for building the tower. What are they? What is the significance?

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1.36. It would be worth contrasting this first of man's huge works with the first building for God. Look at Solomon's building of a great temple for God in 2 Samuel 7. What was the primary purpose of Solomon's temple? Do you see a poetic contrast here with the tower of Babel?

1.37. Does God approve of the one-ness or unity of the people of earth in vs 6? Why might He not?

1.38. Are we commanded to be at unity with one another?

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1.39. Why the difference in God's desire for the followers of Christ and for the world at large?

1.40. Do some research on the European Union Parliament Building. Note any interesting findings.

1.41. What is the EU parliament's motto? Note any interesting coincidences and their significance.



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1.42. Gen 11:7-8 says God interfered directly with this work by confounding their language.

Do some research on languages of the world, and the different language families from which all languages come. Try to understand what a “language family” is and how related languages may have come about. Note your findings.

1.43. We’ve already seen there were at least a couple different meanings for the name “Babel”, as well as “Shinar”. What language or language family do these meanings come from?

1.44. Do you think that the confounding of the languages in Gen 11:7-8 could refer to languages *within* a language family, or does it refer to the *origination of the different language families*? Why?

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1.45. What do we learn from Gen 11:9? How major of an event was this in man's history?

1.46. What do we learn about the world of Nimrod from the tower of Babel? Compare it with modern society. What principles did it exhibit? Was it a good representation of Noah's faith, from whom the whole society had come?

1.47. How many generations after Noah did this tower take place?

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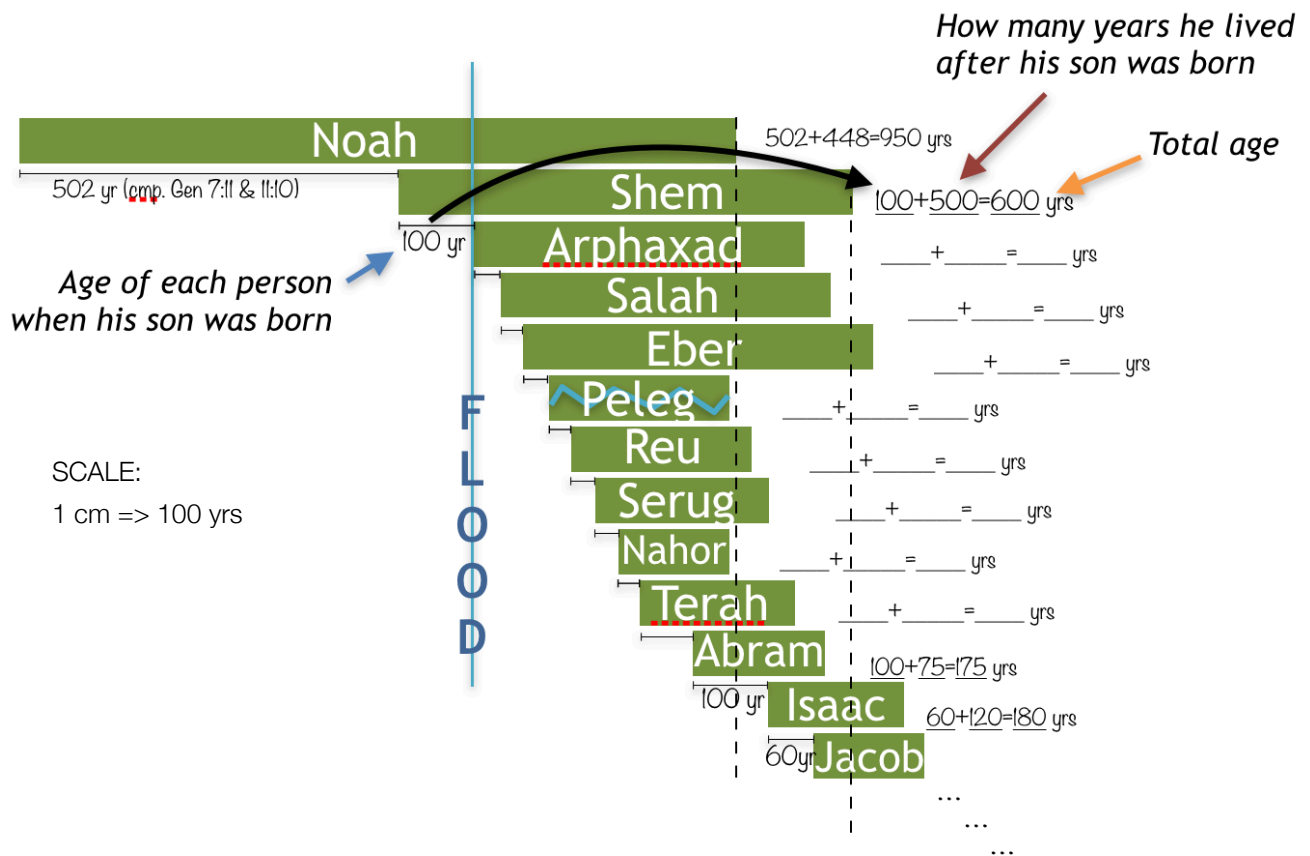
## Genealogies of Genesis 11:10-32

- 1.48. Go through the genealogies in Gen 11:10-26, 32. Could you calculate the total age each person lived from these verses?
- 1.49. Calculate the total lifespan in years of Shem (vs10-11).
- 1.50. Calculate the total lifespan in years of Arphaxad (vs11-12).
- 1.51. Calculate the total lifespan in years of Salah (vs12-13).
- 1.52. Can you calculate how old Shem was when he became a grandfather?
- 1.53. Can you calculate how old Shem was when he became a *great* grandfather?
- 1.54. (Yes/No) Can you see how it would be possible to make a chart of these lives if we plotted each lifespan to scale? Then we'd immediately be able to see how many generations of his great, great, great, etc. grandchildren Shem got to see.



1.55. These lifespans have been plotted to scale. Each horizontal band shows the life of the person in relation to their descendants.

You need to fill in the ages given in Gen 11, and do the addition to get the total age lived. The first few have been done for you. For example: Shem was 100 yrs old when he had Arphaxad. He lived 500 yrs after Arphaxad's birth. That makes him 600 yrs old when he dies.



1.56. Was Abram alive when Noah died? If so, how old was he when Noah died?

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1.57. Do you think Noah was still alive when Nimrod began his kingdom and the tower of Babel was built?

1.58. How many generations after Noah was Nimrod? Circle the equivalent generation from Shem's line in the chart above.

1.59. Do you think Nimrod would have been alive during Abram's life?

1.60. Where was Ur in relation to Nimrod's kingdom?

1.61. Do you think what we've learned about Nimrod, his kingdom, and the tower of Babel give us a good idea of what society Abram lived in?

1.62. Did Shem or Abram die first?

1.63. About how old were people having their first child by Abram's time? (Remember that Abram was considered old when he had his first child, because Sarai was barren)

1.64. Was Noah still alive when the "earth was divided" in the days of Peleg (Gen 10:25)? Is this the same Peleg as Gen 11:16-17?





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## SECTION 1B: OVERVIEW OF THE STORY OF ABRAHAM

- 1.68. **Read Genesis 11:27 - Genesis 25 (13 chapters).** This provides you with an overview of the whole life of Abraham. When finished, you should know, in general terms, the *whole* story of Abraham. This is important to do before digging in too deeply.

*You can think about this study like studying a map. The first thing you do when you pull out a map is figure out what continent or country in the world it's giving a picture of - Africa? Asia? North America? the moon? We could call this the **wider context**. Next, figure out what region within that continent or country you're looking at (let's say it's in North America - but is the map of part of Texas or New England?). This is the **immediate context**. Next you look over the map and gain a familiarity with it, to get an **overview** of the situation - the rivers, the coastlines maybe, the large cities and major routes - that's what you're doing now by reading the life of Abraham through. You're getting an idea of the major events and milestones in Abraham's life. Next, we'll go through it **in detail** - once we've got the overview. In reading a map, we perhaps do all this subconsciously in a matter of seconds. With an in-depth Bible study, it takes longer, but the process is basically the same.*

- 1.69. With your Bible closed, list the events of Abraham's life in order, as best you can. I.e., recount the story's major events in bullet form. (Add pages if needed)

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*This concludes Section 1: Background and Overview.*

*Do you know how to do your own study? I.e. without a workbook?*

*It's obviously a good thing to be able to do a study on any topic in scriptures.*

*Think about what we've done so far:*

- We've located the story in scripture, and looked through the 10 or so chapters before it to gain a wider context.*
- Then we looked at a couple chapters before the story begins in more detail to get the immediate context.*
- Now we've begun our study by getting an overview of the whole story.*
- Next, we'll begin back at the beginning of Abraham's story and look at it in-depth.*

*This is the basic framework for any study.*

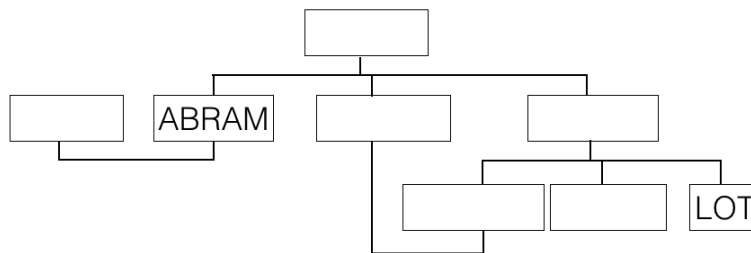
*\*\*For some study topics (e.g. the atonement, or roles of sisters, or angels, etc.) there will be several shorter passages that we must go through this process with, but the process is still basically the same.*

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## SECTION 2: ABRAM'S CALL

2. **Read carefully Genesis 11:27-12:9.** As you read, make notes of interesting points or things you'd like to look up.

- 2.1. Draw out the family tree given in Gen 11:27-32.



- 2.2. Note any thoughts you have about the family tree.

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2.3. Where else in scripture is Terah mentioned?

2.4. What do we learn about him from these places?

2.5. How old was Abram when he left Haran?

2.5.1. How old was Terah when Abram was born? Are you sure?

2.5.2. How old was Terah when Abram left Haran? Are you sure?

2.5.3. How old was Terah when he died?

2.5.4. Does this agree with Acts 7:4?

2.6. How does John Thomas explain this in *Chronikon Hebraikon*<sup>5</sup>?

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<sup>5</sup> If you don't have *Chronikon Hebraikon* on your bookshelf, you can download the pdf file from [www.nevercease.org>resources>digital library](http://www.nevercease.org/resources/digital%20library). It is a booklet on the Chronology of the Old Testament. Unlike ISBE and some other sources, it is based on the belief that all of scripture is infallible and therefore scriptural dates are treated correctly.

Once you've looked at a section in detail, and developed a conclusion on it, it's a good idea to check that conclusion against what other people have found, particularly well-studied individuals who understand the gospel correctly.

Often, their conclusions may differ from yours based on details of a different study on a different topic altogether. At first glance, the two topics are unrelated; only if you've done the other study will you see how it relates to this one.

An example of this is Nimrod. Studying Genesis 10 seems obvious, but a study of Daniel or Revelations will give us a much, much better idea of the system of things that Nimrod developed - this is the beginning of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, and the basis for "Babylon the great" in Revelations.

This underscores the importance of being a well-rounded scholar of the Bible. You can never fully understand one story or one topic without the rest. It's why the daily readings are so important, and it's why we should try not to pick and choose our favourite topics and leave the other ones to other people to study. Everything's related.

2.7. About how far on the journey from Ur to Canaan did Terah make it?

2.8. Find the meanings of the names in Abram's family:

<b>NAME:</b>	Terah	<b>Abram</b>	Nahor	Haran
<b>MEANING:</b>				
<b>NAME:</b>	Lot	<b>Sarai</b>	Milcah	Iscah
<b>MEANING:</b>				



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2.9. Note any thoughts you have on the significances of these names. What might they indicate to us about the person, or what might God be telling us in the story with these names?

2.10. Compare or contrast verse 30 with Abram's name.

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2.11. Do we know anything about Sarai's family from other place in scripture? I.e. who was her father or mother, etc.?

2.12. In Gen 11:31, Terah takes much of his family "to go into the land of Canaan". Any thoughts on why?

2.13. Was Haran (the city) still in Nimrod's kingdom?

2.14. Would Haran (the city) be considered in the land of Canaan?

2.15. What does the original word for "dwelt there" in vs 31 indicate? That they were there passing through, or that they had stopped their journey to Canaan there?

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2.16. Do you see a parallel between Gen 11:31 and Gen 12:5? Compare and/or contrast the two verses.

2.17. What was Lot's relation to Abram and Sarai?

2.18. Given the fact that Sarai was barren, might there have been a very special bond with Lot?

2.18.1. Would he have constituted an heir if Sarai had no other children?

2.19. What three things was Abram to leave behind in Gen 12:1?

2.20. Look at the original for "country". What was Abram supposed to leave, do you think?

2.21. Look into the phrase "from thy kindred". What is being said in this phrase, and what would be involved in Abram leaving it? (We know Abram's kindred from the

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genealogies, right?)

2.22. What would “from thy father’s house” indicate?

2.23. Was Canaan from the same line as Abraham?

2.24. We’ve seen that Nimrod’s kingdom was quite advanced by the time of Abram. Both the scriptures and historical records indicate this. Was the land of Canaan settled? Who lived there?

2.25. What do we know about these people?

2.26. About how far was it from Ur to Haran?

2.26.1. From Ur to Canaan?

2.27. “A day’s journey” was often considered about 20 miles. How long might such a journey have taken?

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2.28. Gen 12:2-3 contain the first of the promises to Abram, and the basis for our hope.  
What did this promise include at this point?

2.29. Look at the original for “make thy name great”. Anything interesting?

2.30. What does it mean when it says Abraham would be a blessing?

2.31. What does it mean when it says God would bless those who bless and curse those who curse, etc.?

2.32. Can you find any other places in scripture that use this wording; perhaps a place that gives an example of it happening?



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2.33. How might all families of the earth be blessed in Abram?

2.34. **Read Galatians 3.** It's not that long and it's Paul's exposition on this promise to Abraham. Make note of your findings. Why does he say this promise is relevant to us? What connects us to it?

2.35. Did Abram know where he was going when he left Haran?

2.36. What does Hebrews 11 tell us about Abram's leaving of his native land?

2.37. What does Gen 12:5 indicate about Abram's stay in Haran?

2.37.1. About his belongings?

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- 2.37.2. About his commitment to leaving?
- 2.38. Have a look at Josh 24:1-2, 14-15. What is the “flood” (KJV) referring to?
- 2.39. When did Abram leave these gods behind?
- 2.40. Abram hasn’t been referred to as a Hebrew yet, but it’s probably a good time to consider this name. What does Hebrew mean?
- 2.41. How would this apply to Abram?
- 2.42. Where is Sichem (vs 6)?
- 2.43. Where (and what) is the “plain of Moreh” (KJV)?

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2.44. What is the original word for “plain” here?

2.45. What does “Moreh” mean?

2.46. What happens here?

2.47. Is the “seed” of vs 7 singular or plural? Prove with sources.

2.48. Is this Abram's first altar (vs 7)?

2.49. What is this promise saying to Abram? I.e. who is his seed and how will the land be inherited by him/them?

2.50. List the things promised to Abram so far:

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2.51. Where is Bethel? Find on the map the region Abram pitches his tent and builds the altar of vs 8.

2.52. What does it mean that Abram “called on the name of the Lord” after building the altar?

2.53. Any idea where “the south” is that Abram is traveling towards? (check out the original word; is it on your maps?)

2.54. Would you consider this the end of the fertile crescent? The frontier of civilization?

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2.55. Re-read Gen 11:27 - Gen 12:9. Look up anything that you still find interesting or intriguing or confusing. Make sure you've looked into everything you noted when you read it at the beginning of this section. Use the space below for notes.



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2.56. How much of the questions in this section did you have in mind when you first started this section and made note of interesting things in Gen 11:27-12:9?

*This concludes Section 2: Abram's call*

*Once you've looked at a section in detail, it's always a good idea to **re-read** that section, with what you've learned in mind. This is where you make connections, and the story comes alive. It's also usually when all the little facts you've found out combine to make the lessons of the story much deeper and more powerful. It's the lessons of the story that are really valuable.*

*Often as you're re-reading a section, you'll find several more things you need to look into, or perhaps a problem with a conclusion you've come to. That's alright. It's great, actually. It means that re-reading the section has added significantly to what you've gained from the study.*

*The expression "He/she can't see the forest for the trees" is used to describe someone who's lost in the small details and isn't seeing the big picture. They've missed the point because they're only view of the topic is through a microscope. It's important to keep the big picture in mind all through a study. How do the details we're looking closely at fit with the whole story. Much of the error related to scriptures comes from people who are studying in-depth, but not keeping the big picture in mind.*

*Reading the whole story before looking at sections in-depth helps with this. Re-reading after looking at the details also helps.*

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*Congratulations! This concludes Part 1 of the workbook.*

*Keep up the good work! God willing, there will be 2 more parts (Part 2 and Part 3) upcoming. It's hard to say exactly how involved a study will get until you've done it, but you're probably roughly 1/3 done with the required workbook study.*

*Check [www.nevercease.org](http://www.nevercease.org)>"Workbook & Campout 2018" for Parts 2 & 3 of the Abraham workbook for 2018*