

The Call of a Patriarch amid a Scattered World

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What are the Genealogies Trying to Tell Us?

- ▶ Chapter 10—The Table of Nations
- ▶ a “segmented genealogy”
- ▶ References lands, language, families/culture, and nations
--10:5, 20, 31
- ▶ List for from:
 - Persia (Elam) in the east
 - Ethiopia (Cush) in the south
 - Anatolia (Turkey) in the north
 - Crete and Libya in the west

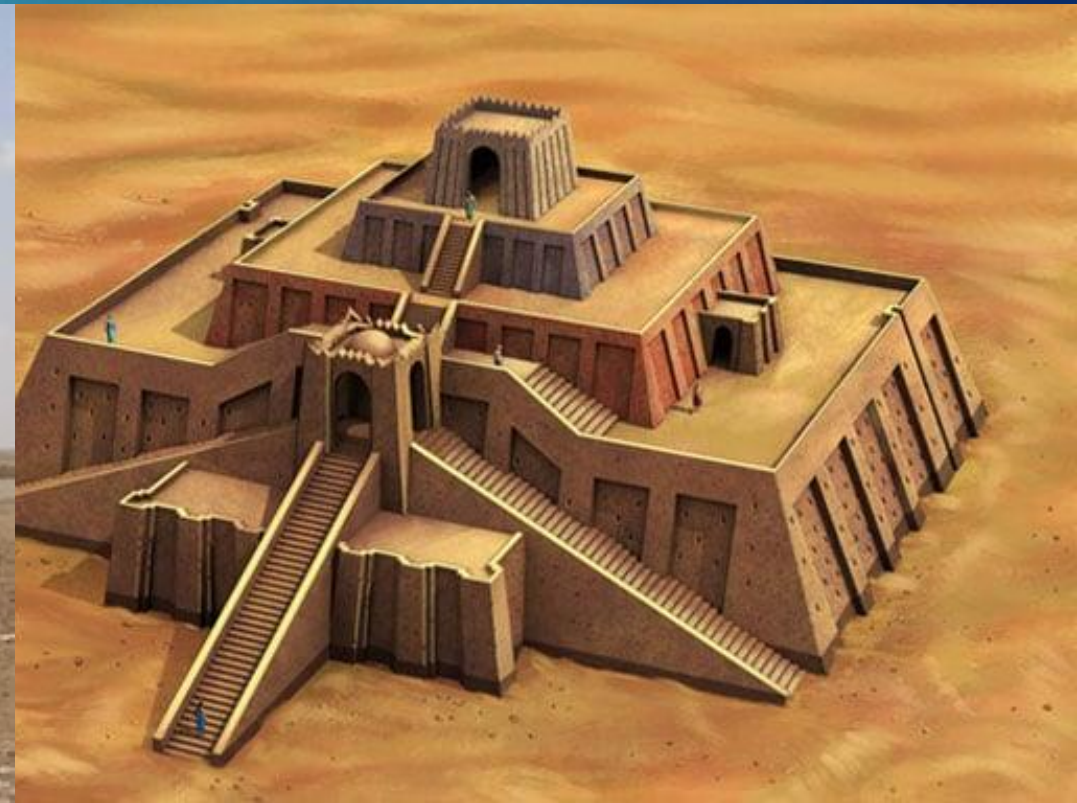


What are the Genealogies Trying to Tell Us?

- ▶ Affirms that humanity is a family that belongs to one another.
- ▶ Affirms that Abraham and his descendants will come out of this table of nations

Tower of Babel: Concluding Frame of Primeval History

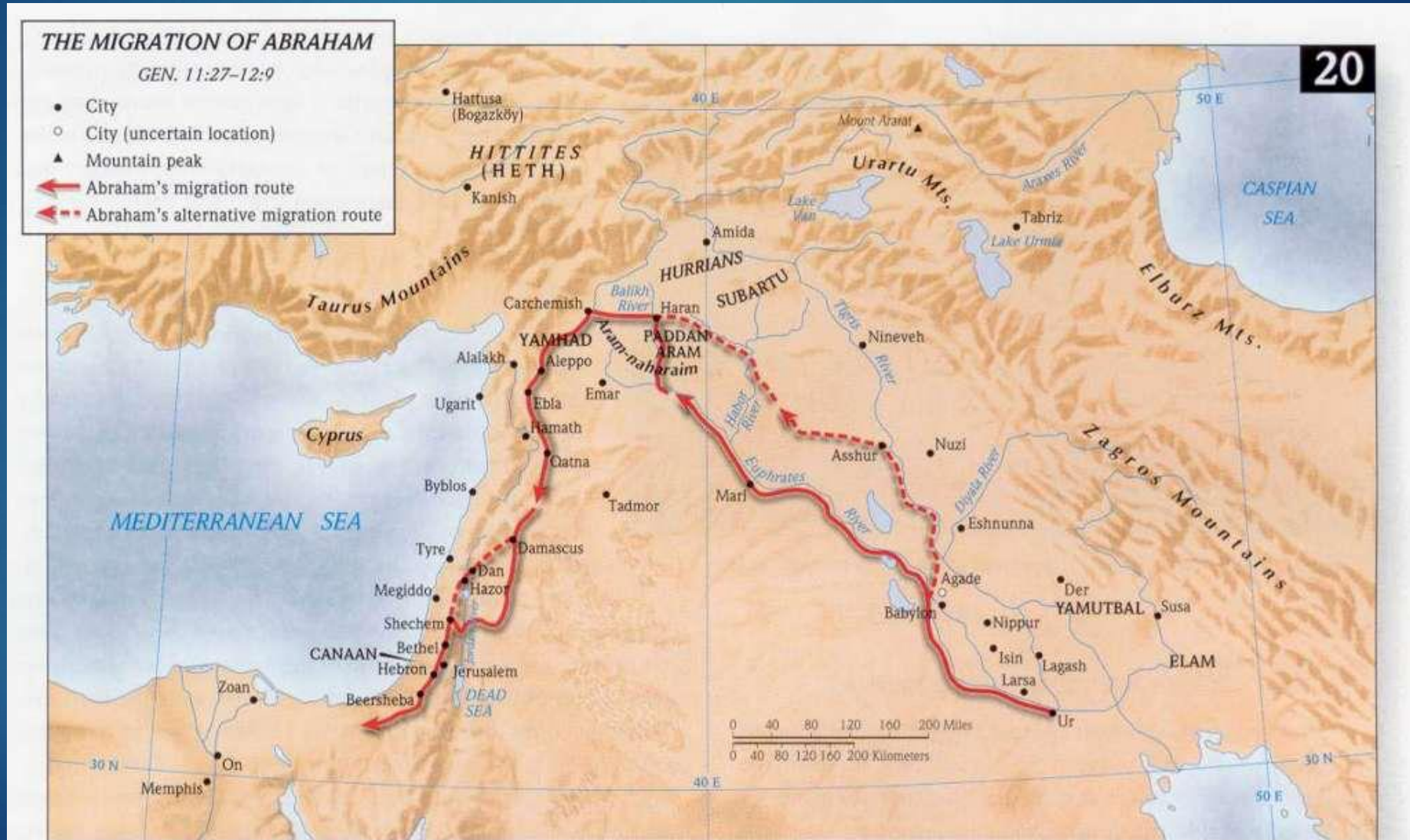
Ziggurat at Ur of Chaldees



Tower of Babel: Human Inclinations and Divine Response

v. 3 Let us make bricks (lebenim)	v. 7 Let us confuse (nebelim) their language
v. 4 a city and a tower with its top in the heavens	v. 5 The LORD “came down” to see their city and tower
v. 4 Lest we be scattered	vv. 8, 9 The LORD scattered them

The Migration of Terah 11:27-32



The Call of Abraham 12:1-3

- ▶ Three promises:

- Progeny

- Land in which to live

- That through Abraham, all the nations of the earth would be blessed

- ▶ “Make your name name great”

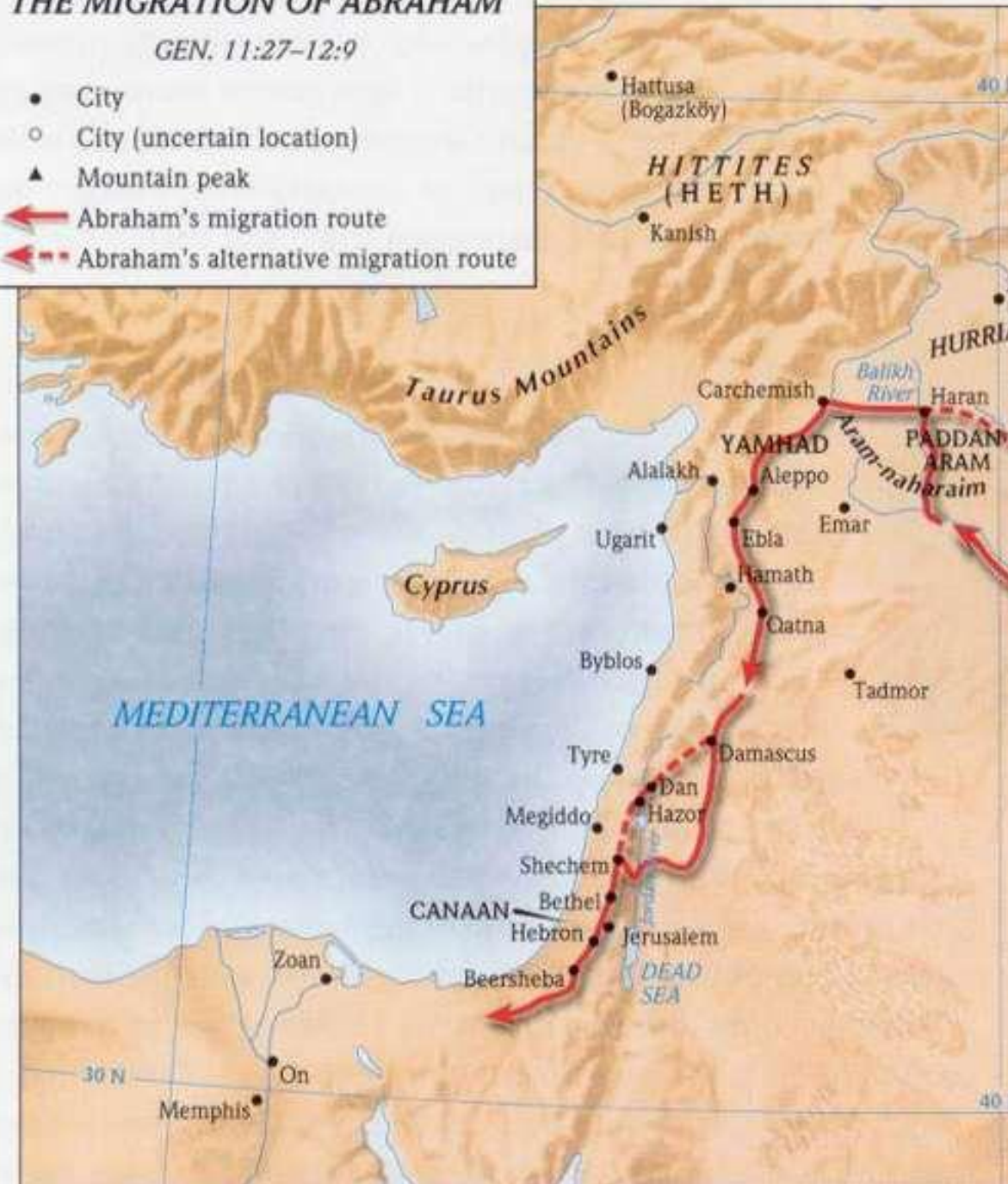
- ▶ “so that you will be a blessing”

The Migration of Abraham

12:4-9

THE MIGRATION OF ABRAHAM
GEN. 11:27-12:9

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



A Scandalous Patriarch (12:10-20)

When the crisis isn't the famine....

Melchizedek: King of Salem

15:17-24

- ▶ Melchizedek—"My King is just"
- ▶ Salem—precursor to Jerusalem
Uru in Sumerian = "city"
- ▶ Properly understand the 'tithe'



Melchizedek in the New Testament

- ▶ Only mentioned in Hebrews 5:6-10; 6:20; 7:1-28
- ▶ Jesus referred to as a "priest after the order of Melchizedek"
- ▶ Key Issue Concerns Jesus as Priest
 - “Now the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe, Moses said nothing about priests.”
--Heb 7:13-14
- ▶ Typology as a method of interpretation

Insights from Genesis 14

- ▶ This “King Melchizedek of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings and blessed him”
Hebrews 7:1

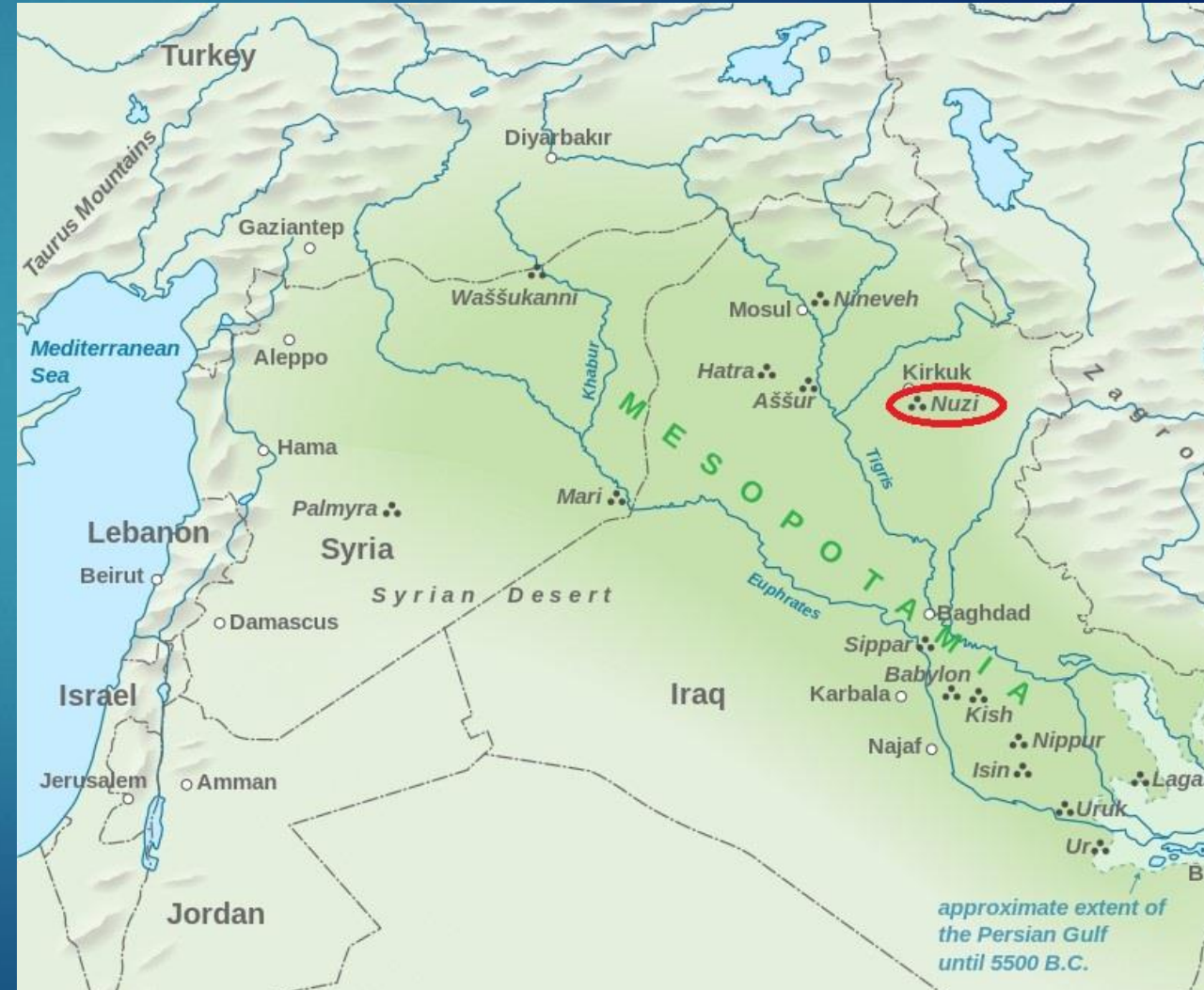
- ▶ “Even Abraham the patriarch gave him a tenth of the spoils. 5 And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to collect tithes from the people, that is, from their kindred, though these also are descended from Abraham. 6 But this man, who does not belong to their ancestry, collected tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had received the promises. 7 It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.”

Hebrews 7:6-7

Another Key Figure: Eliezer as Heir

15:1-2

- ▶ Background: Nuzi Culture
- ▶ A Nuzi contract reads, “As long as X lives, Y shall give him food and clothing and honor him. When he dies he shall mourn him and bury him.”



A Cornerstone Text--Genesis 15:6

Self-Curses and Covenant-Making

- ▶ Abraham's question—v. 8
- ▶ Similar ceremonies are found from around 2000 BC—around Mesopotamia—Mari, Hatti, etc.
- ▶ A symbolic self-curse
- ▶ “The Lord **made** a covenant with Abram” (v. 18)
“The Lord cut a covenant...”

Concluding Reflections

- ▶ Gen 10 invites us to reconsider our vision of others.
- ▶ A new vocation is added.
- ▶ God works with an imperfect people.
- ▶ The future is unknown, but God is not.