

Memory Verse

Genesis 12:1

Now the LORD (*had*) said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.”

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

Thematic Overview of *Genesis 1-12* - Pt 19

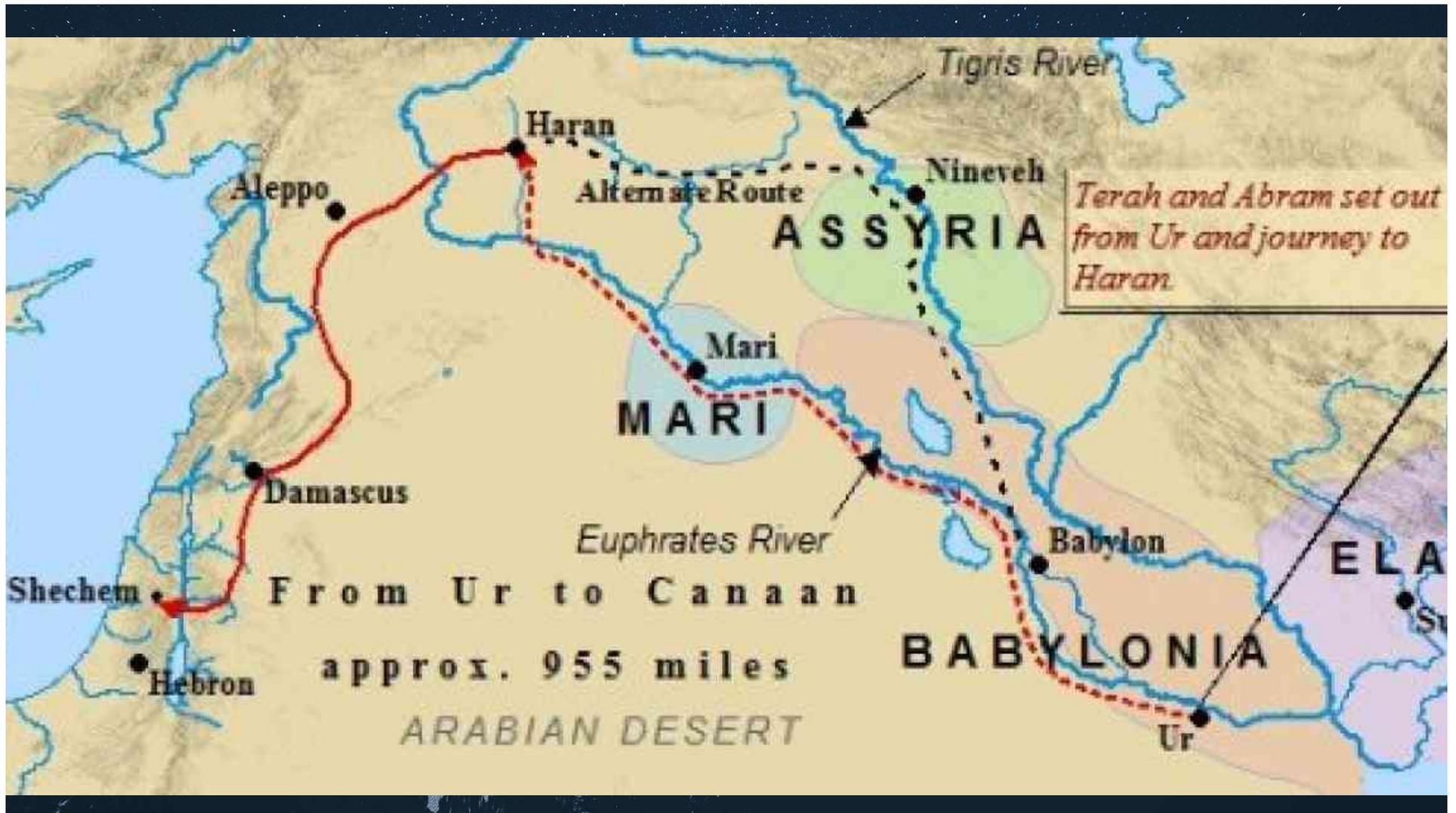
Genesis 12:1-3 –
The Abrahamic Covenant

God created all things, and through His creation (Adam and Eve), **sin and death** came into the world. God judged the sinful world through a **flood**, saving Noah, his family and the animals on the Ark. Humanity became **corrupt again** and God judged the people by ***confusing their languages***, leading to the genealogy of **Abram** in *Genesis 11*. That brings us to the *Abrahamic Covenant*.

Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the LORD (*had*) said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

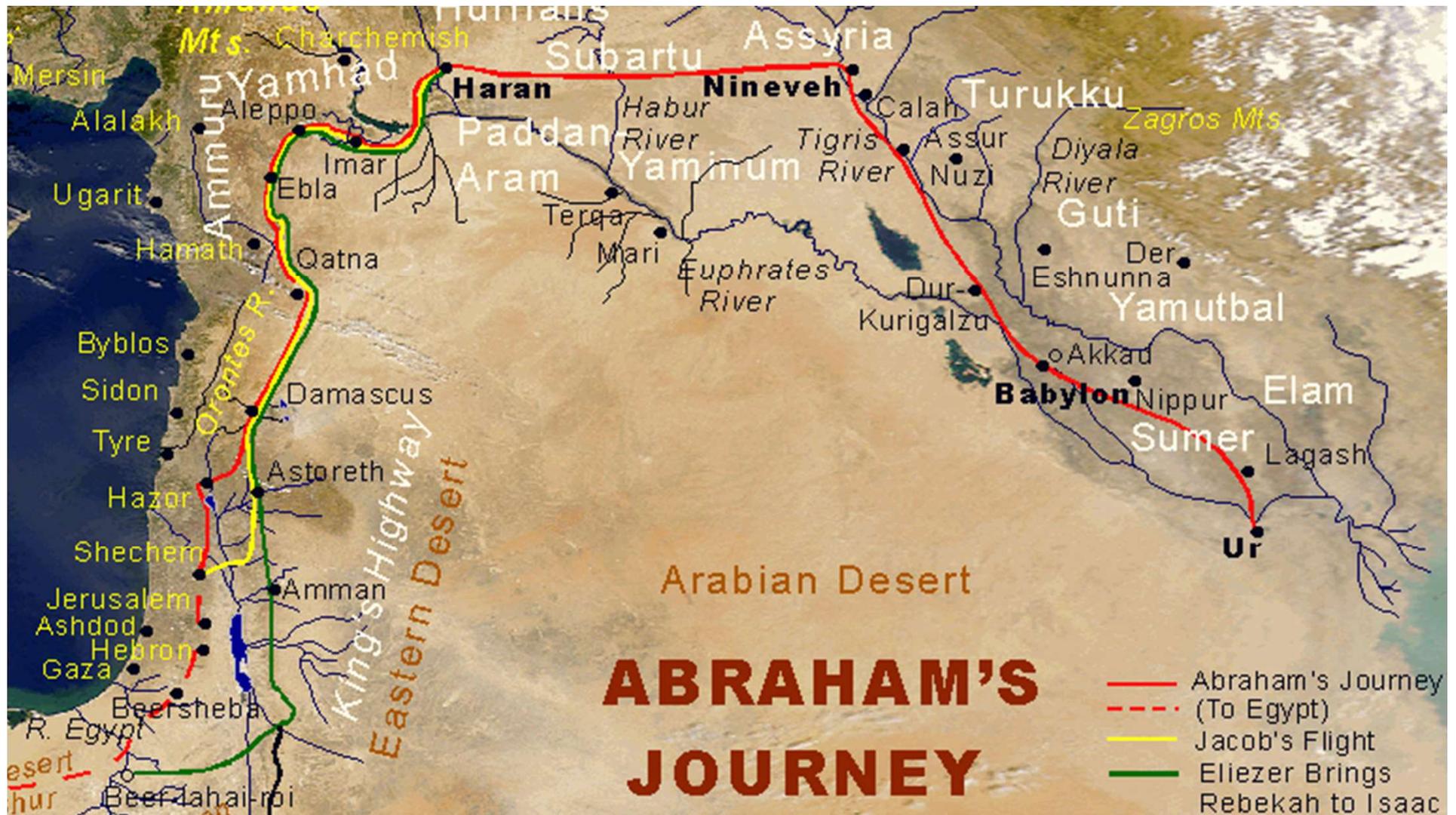
A. 12:1 – God's Command

At the end of *chapter 11*, Abram's family left Ur of the Chaldees to **go** to the land of Canaan. As before, we find a **summary** in *chapter 11*, and **specifics** mentioned afterward, because that is *how the Hebrews wrote*. In *Genesis 12:1*, is God's command to Abram to **leave**... leave your **country**, leave your **kindred** and leave your **father's house**.



A. 12:1 – God's Command

Then, *leave* his **kindred**. This was his family. God is getting more specific. God tells him to leave his father, mother, grandparents and other relatives. This is *not easy now*, and it *wasn't easy then*. Third, *leave* your **father's house**. God is *even more specific*. Abram was told to leave the house he was living in...



Hebrews 11:8-10 - 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. 9By **faith he went** to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10For he was **looking forward** to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is **God**.

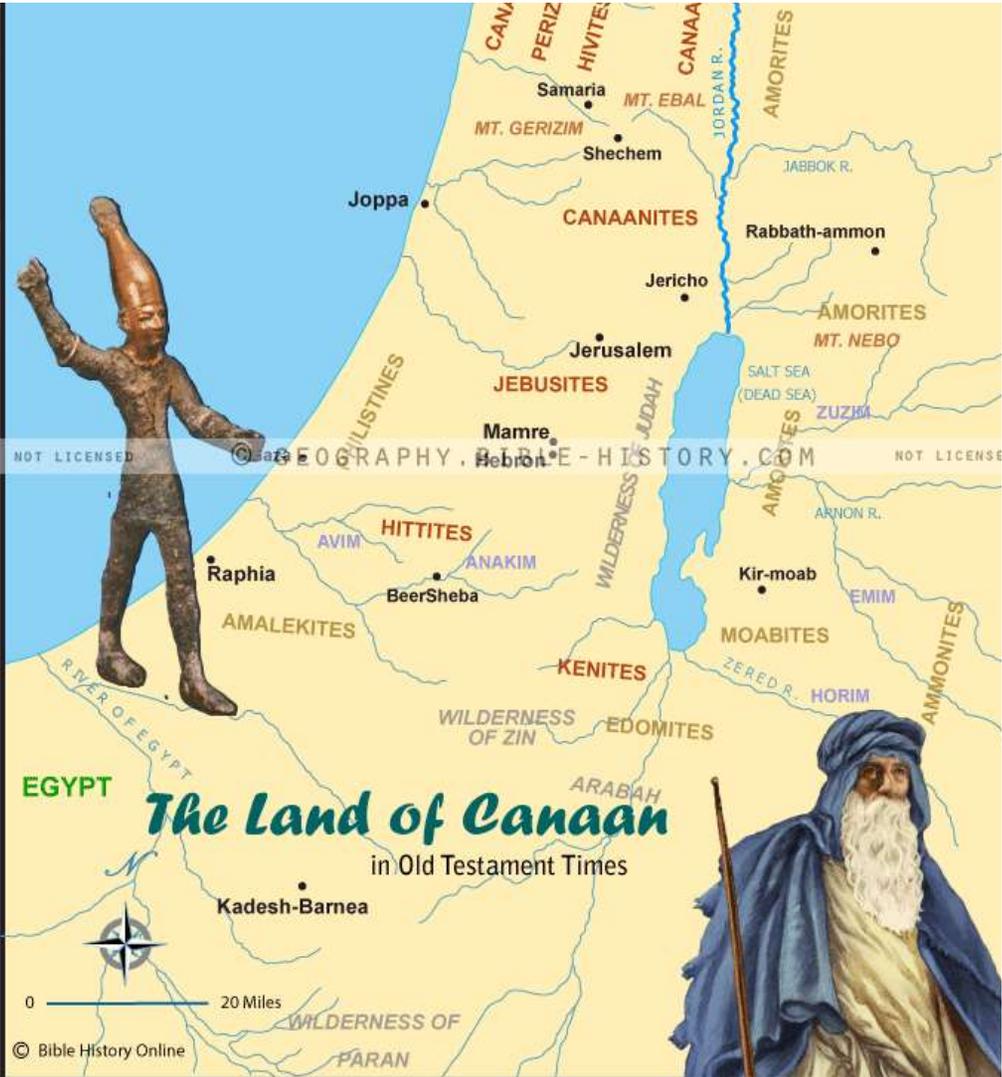
B. 12:2-3 – God's Promise

This is the **Abrahamic Covenant**. In *Genesis 15:18*, this *covenant* is *formally established*, though it was initiated in *chapter 12*. A covenant is a *binding promise based on relationship*. There are *1-way* and *2-way covenants* in the Bible.... The Abrahamic covenant is a **1-way promise** God made to Abram. Abram had to **believe**.

B. 12:2-3 – God's Promise

1. The Land

While part of God's command was to go, a ***land area*** is *part of the covenant promise*.



Genesis 15:1-21 - After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” 2But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my

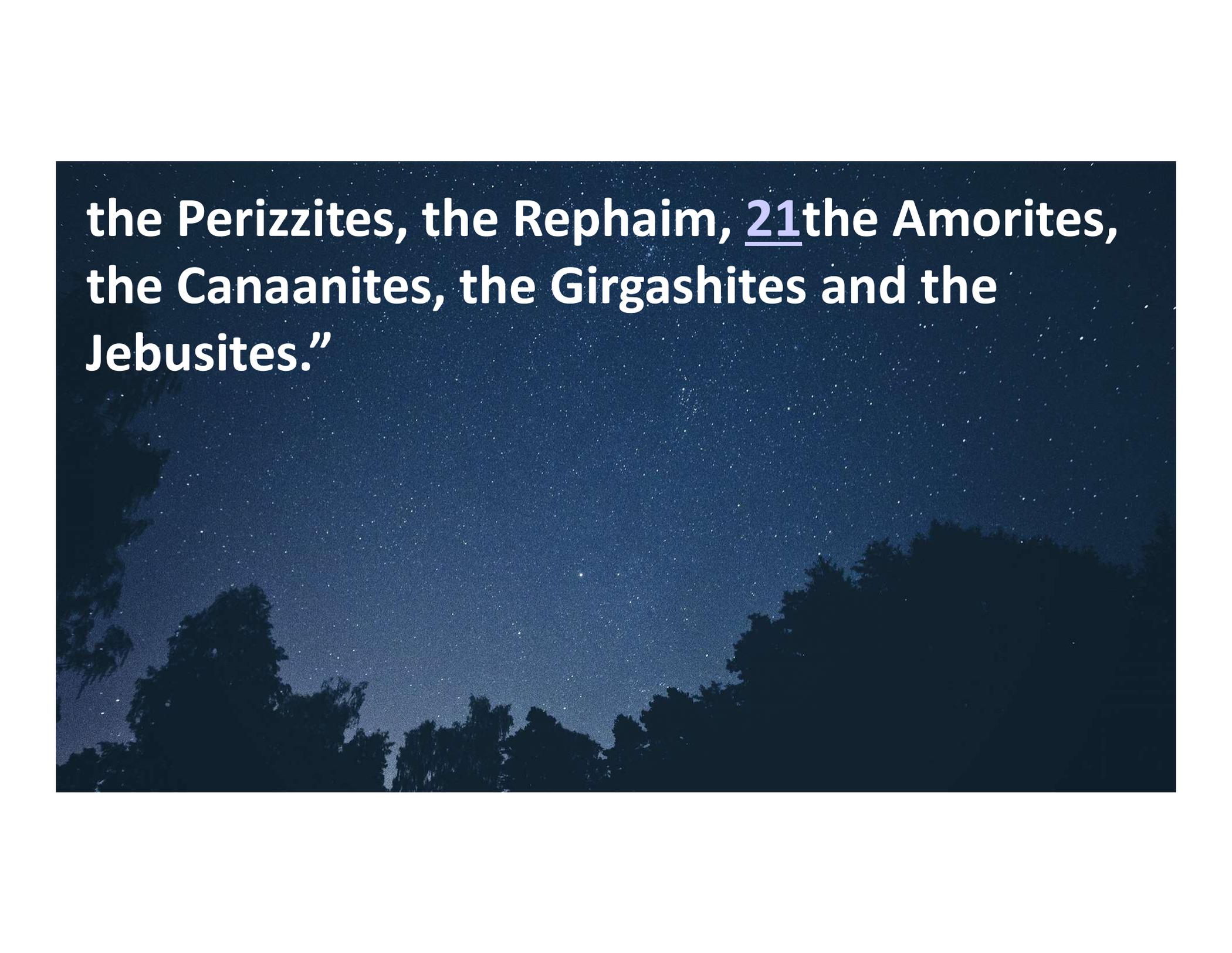
heir.” 4And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” 5And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 6And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

7And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." 8But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half

over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. 11And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 13Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants

there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

17When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20the Hittites,



the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21the Amorites,
the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the
Jebusites.”

B. 12:2-3 – God's Promise

2. I Will Make You a Great Nation

This was **unique** *in the ancient world*. There are no records of a *god making a promise to an individual* to make him/her great, *aside from* this. This is a promise of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc...

B. 12:2-3 – God's Promise

3. I Will Bless You

God blessed Abram in **2 ways** - **physically**, and **spiritually**. He blessed Abram **physically** by giving him riches, and a family. He *did live in tents*, and *travelled quite a bit*, but was promised a land as well. **Spiritually**, Abram was blessed because he trusted in the One true and Living God and had a relationship with Him. *YHWH was Abram's God!*

B. 12:2-3 – God's Promise

4. Make Your Name Great

In *one way* this is a reiteration and saying the same thing as God saying He will bless Abram. But this *re-emphasizes that Abram's name, or character will be remembered*, honored and established for generations. This is *exactly what happened!* Jews, Christians and Muslims look to *Father Abraham* as their forefather in some way...

B. 12:2-3 – God's Promise

4. Make Your Name Great

God said *He was going to do this*. God said He would *make of Abram* a great nation. He would bless Abram, and He would *make Abram's name great!* This is *not something Abram was going to do...* This is *something God did, and something only God could do!*

B. 12:2-3 – God’s Promise

5. Those Who Curse You I will Curse

This is a **major part** of the covenant some do not think about. *Don’t miss this.* This is important for Christians, churches, and nations.

Article - “*Don’t Mess with Abraham*” from the Israel Bible Center:

God promises Abraham that, “everyone who curses him” מְקַלְלֶךָ (*mekalelcha*) will in turn “be cursed” אָרַר (*aor*). The strength of this promise, however, is lost in translation. The first word for “curses” מְקַלְלֶךָ (*mekalelcha*) comes from a root that literally means “to make light of something heavy.” The second word for “curse,” אָרַר (*aor*), actually comes from a completely different root that means

something like “to utterly destroy.”

...the translation could be presented as follows: “**I will bless those who bless you, but the one who disrespects you, I will utterly destroy.**”

<https://weekly.israelbiblecenter.com/do-not-mess-abraham/>

B. 12:2-3 – God's Promise

5. Those Who Curse You I will Curse

For all those who *mock the Jews, abuse them, mistreat them, and lie about the Israeli's* on the news, in media, and in the church – you will answer to God for that! For those who *persecute Jews and Christians* – you will answer to God for that!

B. 12:2-3 – God's Promise

5. Those Who Curse You I will Curse

For those who *think that the church has replaced Israel, and the Jews receive the curses, while the church receives the blessings* – you will answer to God for that!

B. 12:2-3 – God's Promise

6. All Families Will be Blessed

God *blessed Abram*, so *he would become a blessing to others*. It is through Abram, the *families or the nations of earth* shall be and have been blessed. This is the *spiritual blessing!*

Galatians 3:8-9 - And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” 9So then, **those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham**, the man of faith.

B. 12:2-3 – God's Promise

6. All Families Will be Blessed

But through Abram *God blessed us in Christ!*

The **question** is... are we men and women of faith? The fact *Jesus came* and the fact He is a *descendant of Abram* doesn't automatically mean you are blessed. Whether you are Jew or Gentile, you must **express faith** in the promised Messiah. Have you?