

Memory Verse

Genesis 12:4

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

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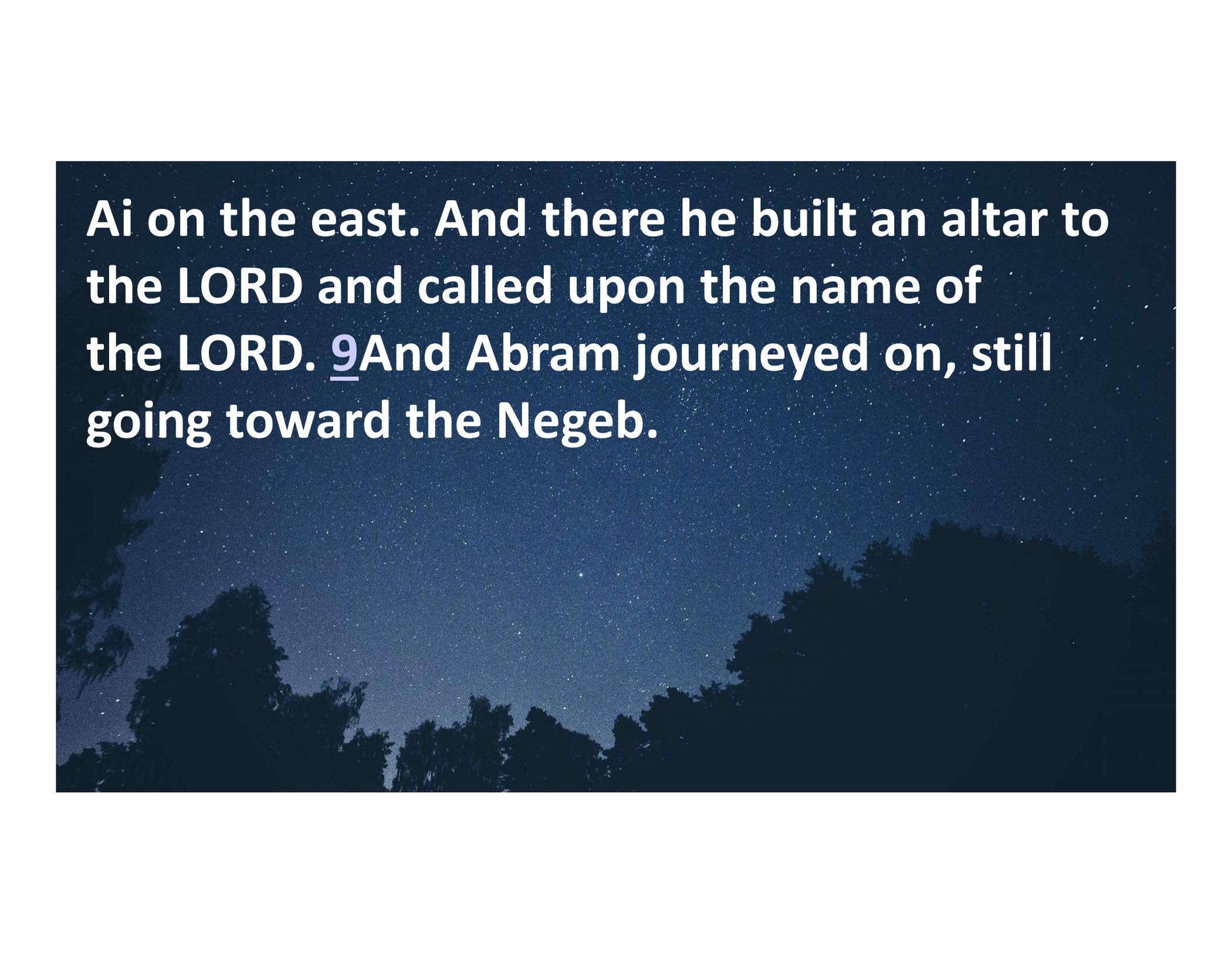
Thematic Overview of *Genesis 1-12* - Pt 20

***Genesis 12:4-9 –
A Journey by Faith***

God created all things and we are **accountable** to Him. **Adam** and Eve, the first 2 humans **broke God's 1 command** and brought **sin and death** into the world. God then **flooded** the **world** because of *man's sin*, starting over with **Noah** and his family. Later, God again judged humanity through ***confusing their languages***. God then focused on one man - **Abram**.

Genesis 12:4-9 - So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan,

6Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and

A night sky filled with stars, with the silhouettes of trees visible at the bottom. The text is overlaid on the sky.

Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. 9And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

A. 12:4-6 – The First Step

God had told *Abram* to leave Ur of the Chaldees to go to a land He would show him. *Verse 4* picks up on this and shows Abram's act of obedience, **by faith**. Abram left, as *the Lord told him*. At God's command, *Abram obeyed*. We see Lot, his nephew, *went with him*, though we are not told why. We also learn how old Abram was - 75 years old...

A. 12:4-6 – The First Step

Abram and his family also took their possessions. He was rich and *apparently acquired more* in Haran, where his dad died. *Others went with Abram*, so it was a **group** that travelled. Abram had servants, some of whom *took care of his livestock* and more. When he left Haran, it wasn't a handful of people with a few animals...

A. 12:4-6 – The First Step

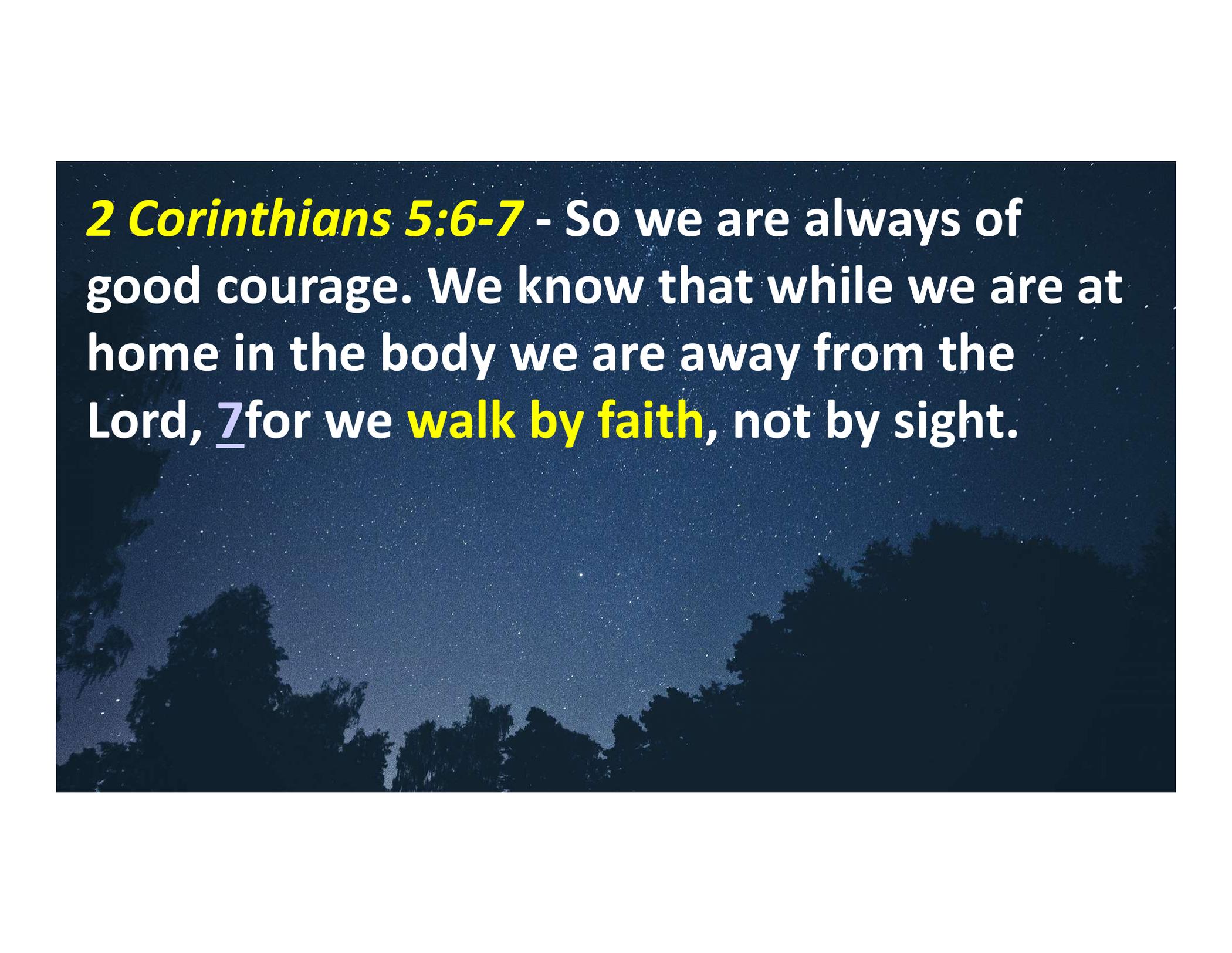
At the end of *verse 5*, within **2 sentences**, Moses talks about *Abram's journey* from Haran to Canaan, about **400 miles**. He and the group left Haran to *go* and *arrived in the land*. Assuming they travelled about 6 miles per day, it may have taken about **67 days** to get there, or **over 2 months**.



Galatians 5:16 - But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify [fulfill] the desires of the flesh.

Ephesians 5:2 - And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Colossians 4:5 - Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

A night sky filled with stars, with the dark silhouettes of trees visible at the bottom. The text is overlaid on this background.

2 Corinthians 5:6-7 - So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7for we **walk by faith**, not by sight.

A. 12:4-6 – The First Step

It is *in the journey or the Christian walk* that we learn, stumble, have victories, defeats, walk with others, say goodbye to others, and partner with others in relationships and ministry. You **won't learn everything there is to know** about the Christian life in the first few months, or decades of being a Christian.

A. 12:4-6 – The First Step

You **will learn** *until the day you die* and are with Jesus. You will be challenged, you will change, you will find what God has gifted you to do and you will ask questions and find answers to some of those questions. Be patient with *yourself* and *with others*.

A. 12:4-6 – The First Step

We all walk at ***different speeds***... depends on a *variety of factors*: time available, diligence, self-discipline, yielding to the Holy Spirit, a willingness to change, time reading, studying, and memorizing the Bible, if you have a mentor or not, your patience, your obedience to the Lord for what you do know, your involvement with a local fellowship.

A. 12:4-6 – The First Step

*The journey you are on is **unique to you**.*

While we walk with others at times, the Lord is working in your life and mine what He knows we need. For some, we *need to become stronger* in the **truth**. Others need to *become stronger* in **grace**. The *Lord challenges some* with delays to work on their patience and love... Remember His past faithfulness...

B. 12:7a – The Promise

While in the *land of Canaan*, God appears to Abram. God again **promises** Abram that his descendants would *be given the **land** he was in*. Again, this was before he had a son. God made a **promise** He *reiterated at this time*. God would fulfill this **promise** to the *nation of Israel*, and as we have *already seen*, in an **unconditional promise** to Abram and his physical descendants.

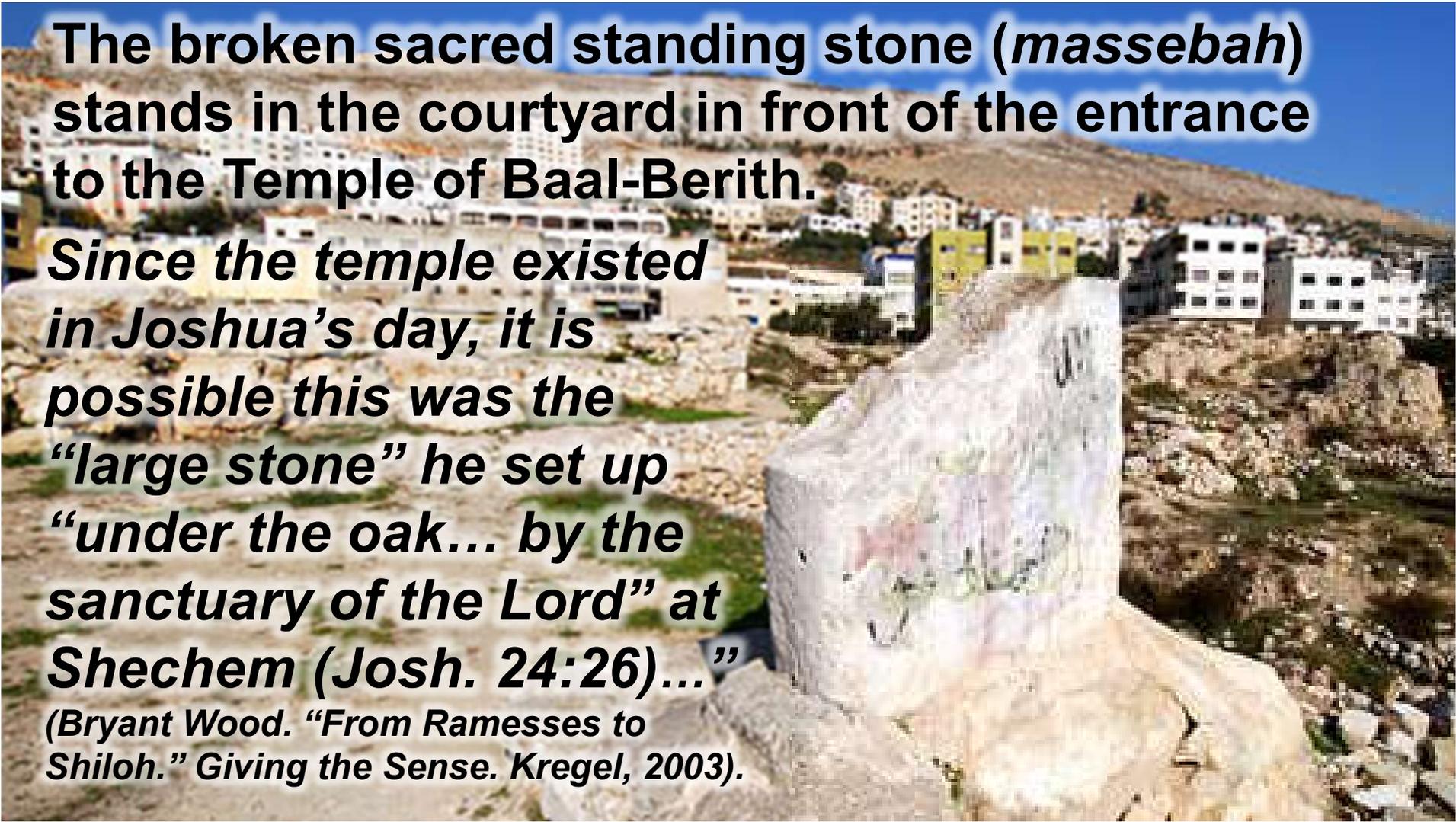
B. 12:7a – The Promise

While *God never promises every Christian will be wealthy*, He promises to **provide our needs** according to His riches in *Philippians 4:19*. The *context* of that verse is giving. God promises when we *trust in Christ* alone for salvation, by grace alone, through faith alone, we are **completely forgiven** of all our sins - *John 3:16*...

C. 12:7b-9 – Worshipping on the Journey

In these verses we see *his continued journey* from between Bethel and Ai. From there he continued to the *Negeb or Negev*, further south in the land of Canaan. But **2 times** we see the same thing. What is that?

Abram built an altar!



The broken sacred standing stone (*massebah*) stands in the courtyard in front of the entrance to the Temple of Baal-Berith.

Since the temple existed in Joshua's day, it is possible this was the "large stone" he set up "under the oak... by the sanctuary of the Lord" at Shechem (Josh. 24:26)..."

(Bryant Wood. "From Ramesses to Shiloh." Giving the Sense. Kregel, 2003).

Genesis 26:23-25 - From there he (*Isaac*) went up to Beersheba. 24And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake." 25So he **built an altar** there and **called upon the name of the LORD** and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well.

C. 12:7b-9 – Worshipping on the Journey

They were **visible**. They could be seen in a particular location. It took **time**, **effort** and maybe **money** to build these. Depending on what they were made of, usually **stones**, you could pay someone to carve stones to build them, if you *didn't do it yourself*. I believe *Abram built these himself*. It *not only* was a **reminder** for you, but something **others saw**...

D. Faith in the Journey

Throughout, Abram displayed *faith*. But here is a question... *What is faith?*

TRUST!

D. Faith in the Journey

Faith is **trust** in the **Lord**, His **promises**, His **character**, His **word**, His **timing** and His **leading**. Faith is *trust in Him no matter how things are or how we perceive them*. Our *Christian walk of faith* is a step by step, *one day at a time, one moment at a time* relationship with Him. It's **not** always easy.

Hebrews 11:1:

NIV - Now **faith** is **confidence** in what we hope for and **assurance** about what we do not see.

ESV, NASB - Now **faith** is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.

NKJV, KJV - Now **faith** is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.

D. Faith in the Journey

In *Romans 4*, referring to Abraham's faith in reference to the son God promised him, the text says: ***Romans 4:20-21*** - No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he **grew strong in his faith** as he **gave glory to God, 21fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.**

D. Faith in the Journey

How do we **grow** in faith? Like everything, it's a **step-by-step process**. As we learn, obey, fail, repent, praise, worship, learn more, take more steps, pray and see prayers answered, etc. our faith can become stronger. *It can get stronger when our prayers are not answered*, but that depends on whether we will still trust Him and do what He says in *those times*.

D. Faith in the Journey

*Faith is an **action**! It is **not** a feeling, emotion, desire, or mystical experience.*

*Faith is acting on what God says, no matter how we feel. Faith is acting on what God says, no matter the situation. This is one reason it is **so difficult**. Obeying God in **hardship** or **temptation**, is when we find out how **strong or weak** our **faith** really is.*

Please take a minute to fill out your

NEXT STEPS

At [GraceLife Church](#), our mission is drawing people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ!

TODAY'S MESSAGE CHALLENGE IS:

Prayer

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” **Philippians 4:6**

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