

**Scriptures:**

Gen 12:1 - 17:1-

Gen 20:2 (Sarai's Relationship to Abram)

Rom 4:1-3 / Gen 15:6 (Justification by Faith)

Acts 7:2 (Stephen's Address to the Sanhedrin)

Isa 51:1 ( Look to Abraham and the rock you were hewn from)

**Names given to Abraham :**

\* Friend of God-- James 2:23--

\* This title allows him prophetic insight & privilege / who else do we see in the Bible called friends of God?--

\* John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

\* Father of the faithful-- Heb 11:7-8

**--Backdrop--**

\*Gen1 1-11--Part 1 of the Book of Genesis

\*Gen 12--Marks the beginning of part 2 in the Book of Genesis

\*Intro to Abram's Ancestors & Family -- Peleg / Terah / Sarah / Haran / Lot / Why does this matter?

\*Jewish Folklore talks about the likelihood of Terah sacrificing his son to pagan gods--Think of the parallel

\*"ALTERATION" from Abram to Abraham through "ALTARS"--What "ALTARS" have you built?

**--Reading of Scripture--**

**The Petition**-- Gen 12:1 "And Jehovah said to Abram, Go out of your Country, and from your Kindred, and from your father's house into a [**The Place**]land [Canaan] that I will show you.

**The Promise**-- Gen 12:2 " And I will make you a great nation. And I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing. Gen 12:3 "And I will bless the one who blesses you and curse the one who curses you. [**The Purpose**]And in you shall all the families of the earth be blessed." [Abrahamic Covenant]

**The best commentator on Gen 12--His name is Stephen**

Act 7:1 Then the high priest said, Then do you so hold these things?

Act 7:2 And he said, Men, brothers, and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.

Act 7:3 And He said to him, "Go out from your land and from your kindred, and come into a land which I shall show you."

Act 7:4 Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, he moved into this land in which you now dwell.

Act 7:5 And He gave him no inheritance in it, no, not even a foot-breadth. And He promised that He would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, there being no child to him.

**His commentary is important because it completes a picture of Abram's entire Journey--Yes, I did mean to write Abram!**

Where was Abram when God appeared to him?--he lived in Ur, which was.....

Where were you when God called you out of your Ur?....

What circumstances did Abram encounter prior to going to the land God promised?

What circumstances have you encountered since?

**God brings about our Alteration through the Altars we build through the circumstances we endure just as Abram did.**

**But how?-- Let's visit a section of scripture from last week and read a little further--**

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

**Everyone of us has been dealt a measure of faith, the question is not how much we each have been given, but what are we doing with what has been dealt.**

Hebrews 11:1-- Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen

**It is obvious Abram had not yet seen the outcome of God's promises....**