

Genesis 11-15

The Tower
of Babel
Gen. 11:1-9



“Come let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven and let us make for ourselves a name...”

Genesis 11:4

Marks of Babylon Gen. 11

Vs 3 They used imitation materials with which to build.

Vs 4 The motive was to make a name for themselves.

Vs 4 They attempted to reach heaven by their own efforts.

Vs 4 They defied God who commanded Noah & his sons in 9:1, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth”

Vs 6 There was unification, but not true unity.

“And the Lord said, Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. ...and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.” Genesis 11:6

vs 7 “Come let Us go down and there confuse their language that they may not understand one another’s speech”

* Why? God knew what could happen when sinful men unite w/o Him.



One People vs 6

United Nations, European Union,
NATO, NAFTA, LAFTA

Same Language

English, “the universal language,” translation software,
computer languages

Nothing Impossible

WMD's: nuclear, biological, chemical.
computers, world wide web, global communications,
media, an exponential increase in knowledge, genetic
engineering, cloning, space exploration, A.I.



Man is manipulating God's creation in ways that are outrunning our moral/ethical ability to make the right decisions.

The spirit of Babylon which represents a false religious system, is still alive today & will culminate in a one world system called the great harlot, referred to in Rev. 17

Abraham's Background

Gen 11: 10-25 traces the descendants of Shem to Abram who becomes the head of the Hebrew nation

Gen 11: 26,27



Abraham's Background

11:28 Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in Ur of the Chaldeans

11:31 Terah took Abram & Lot and set out for Canaan, but ended up settling in Haran and died there. Perhaps Terah never recovered from the loss of his son Haran.

* Terah never made it to the Promised land. We should not let past disappointments interfere with future opportunities. It seems Terah's horizons were limited to the Haran's of this world.

Abraham's Background

- Abraham was an idolater. Josh. 24:2 “And Joshua said to all the people, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, *namely*, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods.’”

Abraham's Background

* What changed Abraham from being an idolater to a worshipper of the true and living God?

Acts 7:2 “And he (Stephen) said, ‘Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran’”

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12:1 “Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you.”

The Call of Abram Gen. 12

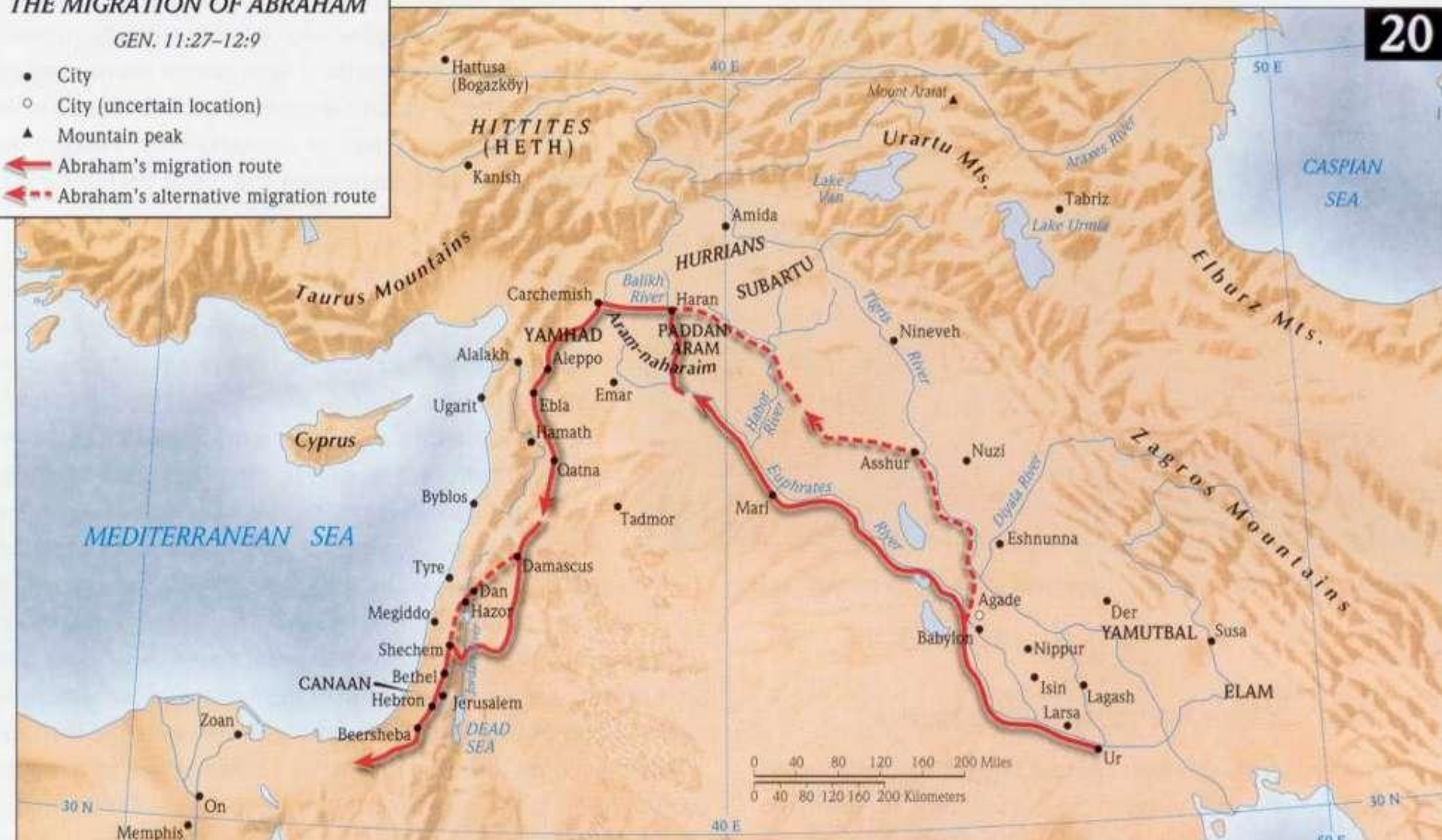
The path of faith can mean:

- 1) Going from the seen and the known to the unseen and unknown. Hebrews 11:8 “By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.”
- 2) Unknotting precious family ties. Gen. 12:1 “Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you”

THE MIGRATION OF ABRAHAM

GEN. 11:27-12:9

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



The Call of Abram Gen. 12

The path of faith means:

3) Constant dependence on God and His guidance 12:1 “...To the land which I will show you”

4) God rewards faith and obedience. 12:2,3

“And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

The Call of Abram Gen. 12

5) Abram's life was characterized by:

a) Altars. Gen.12:7 “And the LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’ So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.”

b) Tents. Gen. 12:8: “Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.”

Hebrews 11:9 “By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents...for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God”

6) Faith has its lapses: Abram lied about Sarai 12:10–20

What lessons can we learn from this incident?

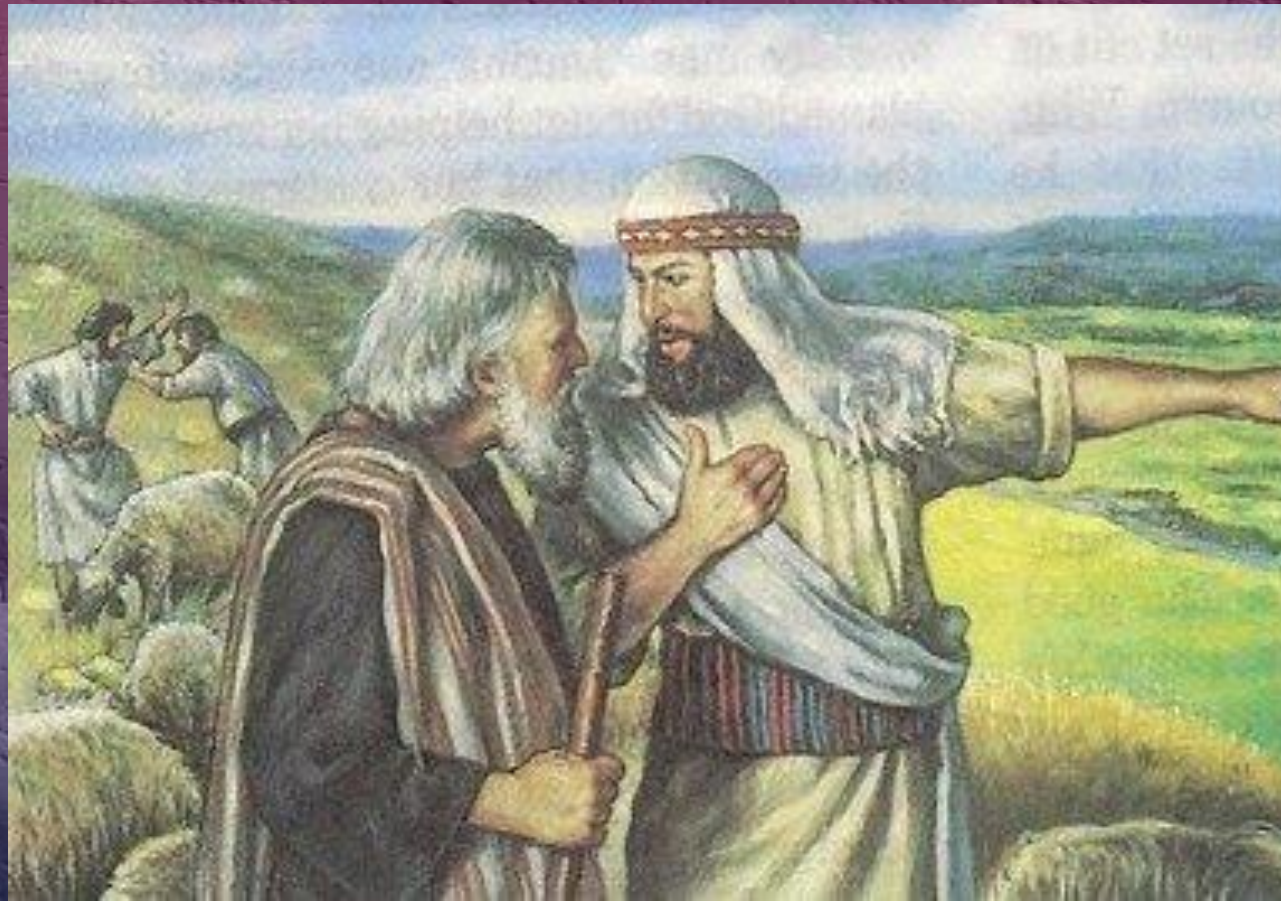
- We are in a spiritual battle, we should not use carnal means.
- The end does not justify the means, we can't sin and get away with it.

Num 32:23 "...Be sure your sin will find you out."

- God did not forsake Abram, but he had to bear the consequences of his sin. Abram was publicly humbled by Pharaoh and deported in disgrace.

Chap 13. The Separation of Abram and Lot.

- v. 6, 7 The land could not sustain Abram & Lot's flocks together resulting in strife between the herdsmen.



Chap 13. The Separation of Abram and Lot.

How did Abram respond?

Vs 8 “Please let there be no strife...” Abraham determined to be a peacemaker, not a troublemaker.

Vs 9 “Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if to the left, then I will go to the right, or if to the right, then I will go to the left.”

Abram is a good example of Phil. 2:3,4 “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Chap 13. The Separation of Abram and Lot.

* How did Lot respond?

- v. 10 “He saw all the valley of the Jordan...” He was walking by sight, not by faith.
- v. 11 “He chose for himself all the valley.” Unlike Abram, we never see mention of Lot building an altar out of worship or thanksgiving to God.
- v. 12 He moved his tents as far as Sodom, even though the city was a cesspool of sin.

Lessons:

- Sometimes human relationships can hinder our vision of God and His purposes.
- Lot lifted his eyes in self-will and got a few acres for a short turbulent time.
- Abram lifted up his eyes in self-renunciation and got the whole land forever. Vs 14 “the Lord said to Abram... Now lift up your eyes...for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and your descendants forever”
- “Lot got grass for his cattle, but Abram got grace for his children”

Vs 18 Abram settled in Hebron

22 miles south of
Jerusalem



A lot happened in Hebron!

- Abram's name was changed to Abraham. Gen. 17:5.
- Angels revealed to Abraham that he would have a son, Isaac. Gen. 18:1–15.
- Sarah died at Hebron. Gen. 23:2
- Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah as her burial place. Gen. 23:9.



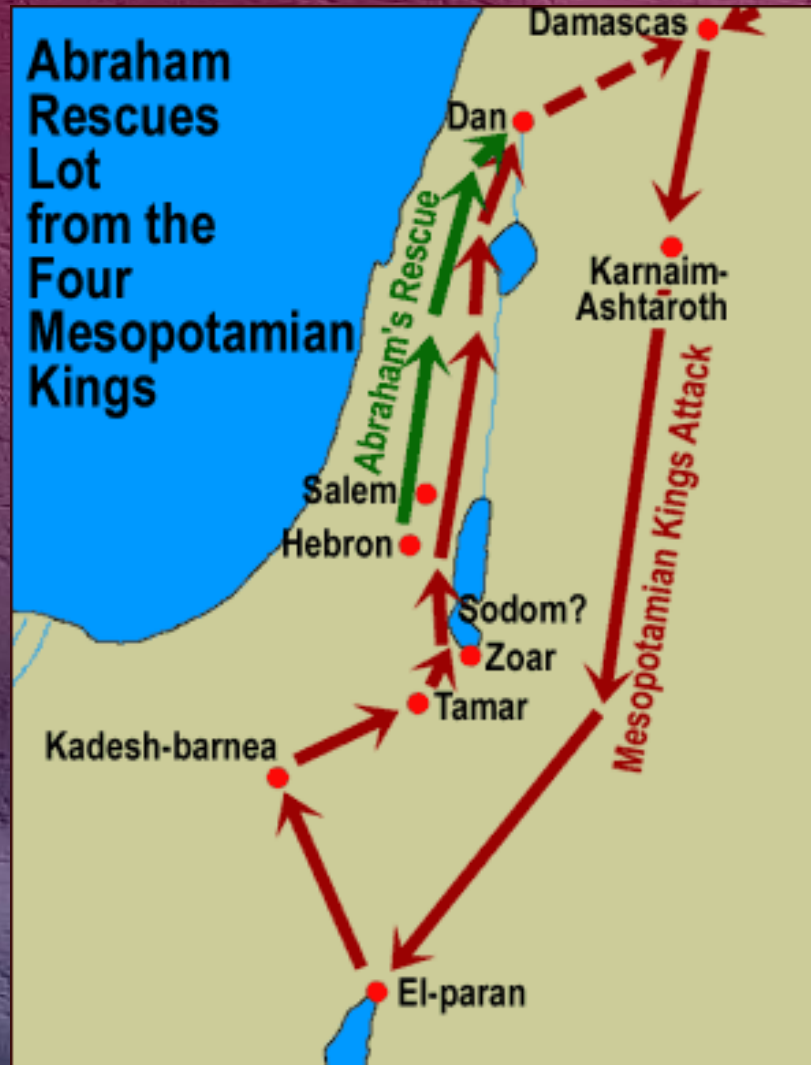


Cenotaph or Monument of Abraham



Monument of Sarah

Chap 14 The Deliverance of Lot by Abram



Chap 14 The Deliverance of Lot by Abram

- 14:14-16 Backsliders bring not only misery on themselves, but trouble on others.
- 14:17,18 On Abram's return from rescuing Lot, he was met by two kings: the evil king of Sodom, & Melchizedek, king of Salem, who brought out bread & wine.
- 14:19, 20 Melchizedek blessed Abram, and Abram gave Melchizedek a tithe of all his captured prizes.
- 14:21 The King of Sodom's request: "Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself" Who does that sound like?

Chap 14 The Deliverance of Lot by Abram

*When was Abram tempted by the king of Sodom?

Right after a great victory! The same can happen to us.

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.” (1 Cor. 10:12)

* How did Abram respond to the king of Sodom’s temptation?

“And Abram said to the king of Sodom, ‘I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’” (Gen. 14:22,23)

Chap. 15 The Covenant with Abram

15:1 “After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.’”

15:2-5 God promises Abram a son & innumerable descendants.

15:6 Abram believed God & He reckoned it to him as righteousness. This is a foundational verse re: the doctrine of justification by faith seen in both the OT & NT

Chap. 15 The Covenant with Abram

15:7-21 God confirms His covenant of a seed (vs 1-5) and of a land (vs 7,8,18-21) to Abram with graphic symbolism of passing between the divided halves of slain animals.

“God alone, whose presence was symbolized by the smoking furnace and lamp of fire, passed through the midst of the pieces of the slain animals, while Abram was simply a spectator of this wonderful exhibition of God’s free grace.” David Baron

“This signified that it was an unconditional covenant, dependent for fulfillment on God alone.” Bill MacDonald



*“Now look toward the heavens and count
The stars if you are able to count them...
So shall your descendants be” Gen. 15:5*