

ONE NOMAD'S
AMAZING JOURNEY OF FAITH

ABRAHAM

CHARLES R.
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ABRAM'S HALFWAY OBEDIENCE

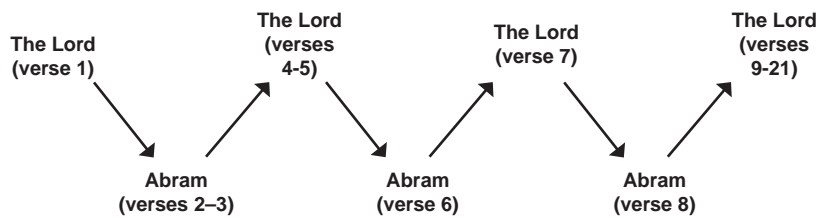
Genesis 11:31–12:3

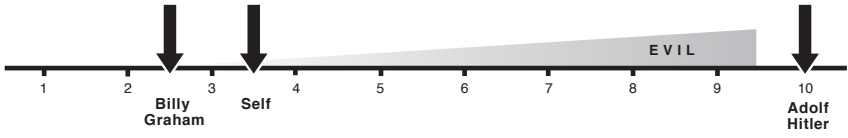
One day Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai (his son Abram's wife), and his grandson Lot (his son Haran's child) and moved away from Ur of the Chaldeans. He was headed for the land of Canaan, but they stopped at Haran and settled there. Terah lived for 205 years and died while still in Haran.

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

Acts 7:2-4

Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia before he settled in Haran. God told him, "Leave your native land and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you." So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran until his father died. Then God brought him here to the land where you now live.





NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1. Oliver Cromwell, *The Parliamentary or Constitutional History of England*, vol. 21 (London: William Sandby, 1760), 200.
2. Oliver Cromwell, quoted in Laura Lunger Knoppers, *Constructing Cromwell: Ceremony, Portrait, and Print, 1645–1661* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), 80.
3. Most statistics show that more than half the world's population claims to be Jewish, Muslim, or Christian. Each of these religious traditions traces its roots to Abraham.

CHAPTER 1: GOING . . . NOT KNOWING

1. Walter A. Elwell, ed., *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 11.
2. James B. Pritchard, ed., *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament with Supplement*, 3rd edition (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969), 179.
3. Manfred Krebernik, "Mondgott A. I.," *Reallexikon der Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie*, vol. 8 (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1993–1997), 361–69.

CHAPTER 2: WHEN THE FAITHFUL FAIL

1. Allen P. Ross, "Genesis," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 47.
2. F. B. Meyer, *The Life of Abraham: The Obedience of Faith* (Lynnwood, WA: Emerald Books, 1996), 41–43.
3. Running to Egypt wasn't inherently wrong for Abram or for his descendants. It was sin for the nation of Israel because God had told them to trust in Him instead. They committed the sin of direct disobedience to God's command.

CHAPTER 3: A DECISION THAT LED TO A DISASTER

1. Thomas Carlyle, *Thomas Carlyle's Collected Works* (London: Chapman and Hall, 1869), 228.

2. Richard J. Foster, *Money, Sex and Power: The Challenge of the Disciplined Life* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985), 61.
3. Alexander Whyte, *Bible Characters: Adam to Achan* (Edinburgh and London: Oliphant, Anderson, and Ferrier, 1896), 134.
4. Walter A. Elwell, ed., *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 949.

CHAPTER 4: ABRAM, THE GREATHEARTED

1. Walter A. Elwell, ed., *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 569.

CHAPTER 5: CAN WE TALK?

1. Patti Davis in Peggy Noonan, *When Character Was King: A Story of Ronald Reagan* (New York: Viking, 2001), 154–55.

CHAPTER 6: RUNNING AHEAD OF GOD

1. Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 56.
2. *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, fourth edition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2000).
3. V. Raymond Edman, *The Disciplines of Life* (Wheaton, IL: Scripture Press, 1948), 79.
4. *Ibid.*, 81–82.
5. *Ibid.*, 83.

CHAPTER 7: DEEPENING OUR ROOTS WITH GOD

1. Eugene H. Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1980), 15.
2. *Ibid.*, 15–16.
3. Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* (New York: HarperCollins, 1998), 1.
4. *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary* (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).
5. William Irwin Thompson, *Evil and World Order* (New York: Harper and Row, 1976), 81.
6. My retelling of this story is based on Billy Rose, “Pitching Horseshoes,” *The Montreal Gazette*, January 30, 1947.

CHAPTER 8: ONE OF THOSE UPPER-DOWNER DAYS

1. C. H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students: A Selection from Addresses Delivered to the Students of the Pastors’ College, Metropolitan Tabernacle*, vol. 1 (London: Passmore and Alabaster, 1875), 172–73.
2. Leon J. Wood, “570 za’aq,” *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 248.

CHAPTER 9: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE PRAY?

1. Unknown Confederate soldier, quoted in Tim Hansel, *When I Relax I Feel Guilty* (Elgin, IL: David C. Cook Publishing Co., 1979), 89.
2. Dr. W. Bingham Hunter, “Believing: The Prayer of Faith,” *IMPACT* magazine (Biola University) 2, no. 2 (Fall 1986): 3.

CHAPTER 10: WHEN THE CESSPOOL OVERFLOWS

1. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).
2. Alexander Whyte, *Bible Characters: Adam to Achan* (Edinburgh and London: Oliphant, Anderson, and Ferrier, 1896), 138.

CHAPTER 11: A WAIL OF TWO CITIES

1. A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1978), 1.
2. H. C. Leupold, *Exposition of Genesis*, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1958), 566.
3. *Ibid.*, 568.
4. Billy Graham, "My Heart Aches for America," Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, July 19, 2012, billygraham.org/story/billy-graham-my-heart-aches-for-america.

CHAPTER 12: OVERCOMING DEPRAVITY'S DANGEROUS UNDERTOW

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2. Michael Leahy, *Porn University: What College Students Are Really Saying about Sex on Campus* (Chicago: Northfield Publishing, 2009), 154.
3. Graham, *World Aflame*, 22–23.
4. Carle C. Zimmerman, *Family and Civilization* (Wilmington, DE: Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2008).
5. Graham, *World Aflame*, 16–17.
6. See the book by Eugene Peterson with the same title: *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000).

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CHAPTER 14: IT'S A BOY!

1. A. W. Tozer, *The Attributes of God: Deeper into the Father's Heart*, vol. 2 (Camp Hill, PA: WingSpread, 2001), 151–52.
2. Walter C. Kaiser Jr., *Ecclesiastes: Total Life* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1979), 60.
3. Walter A. Elwell, ed., *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 462.
4. Pat Alger, Larry Bastian, and Garth Brooks, "Unanswered Prayers," *No Fences* (Nashville: Capitol, 1990).
5. Henry Van Dyke, "Life," *The Poems of Henry Van Dyke* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1920), 168.

CHAPTER 15: FORGIVEN SIN . . . LINGERING CONSEQUENCES

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2. Nahum M. Sarna, *Understanding Genesis: The World of the Bible in the Light of History* (New York: Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1966), 147.
3. See Geoffrey W. Bromiley, ed., *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1988), 674; and Howard F. Vos, *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Manners and Customs: How the People of the Bible Really Lived* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999), 99.

CHAPTER 16: WHEN GOD SAYS, “LET GO!”

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2. John H. Sailhamer, “Genesis,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Genesis–Leviticus*, rev. ed., ed. Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), 210.
3. Gordon MacDonald, *The Effective Father* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1983), 13–14.
4. Eileen Guder, *God, but I’m Bored!* (New York: Doubleday, 1971), 55.
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CHAPTER 17: A HEALTHY HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

1. Kenneth L. Barker, “The Antiquity and Historicity of the Patriarchal Narratives,” in *A Tribute to Gleason Archer*, ed. Walter C. Kaiser Jr. and Ronald F. Youngblood (Chicago: Moody Press, 1986), 134.

CHAPTER 18: ON FINDING YOUR LIFELONG COMPANION

1. While marriage within the same household was taboo, especially between parents and offspring, ancient cultures accepted marriage between members of extended family. Later, the law of Moses would forbid marrying close relatives.
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3. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*, Genesis 24:67.

CHAPTER 19: WHAT A WAY TO GO!

1. The plural *concubines* undoubtedly refers to Keturah and Hagar. Hagar filled the role of concubine when Abraham tried to rush God’s plan (see Genesis 16).
2. Satchel Paige, quoted in Dan Schlossberg, *Baseball Gold: Mining Nuggets from Our National Pastime* (Chicago: Triumph Books, 2007), 227.
3. Larry Tye, *Satchel: The Life and Times of an American Legend* (New York: Random House, 2010), xi.

CHAPTER 20: PORTRAIT OF A HERO . . . WARTS AND EVERYTHING

1. Carl Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and the War Years* (Orlando: Harcourt, 1954), 728.
2. Norman Cousins, *Dr. Schweitzer of Lambarene* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1960), 16.
3. Norman Cousins, *Albert Schweitzer’s Mission* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1985), 137–38.
4. Oliver Cromwell, quoted in Laura Lunger Knoppers, *Constructing Cromwell: Ceremony, Portrait, and Print, 1645–1661* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), 80.