



CALLED TO CROSS OVER *Why "Crossing Over?"*

- During his journey, Abraham will literally cross over the Euphrates River.
- The beginning of Abraham's story (late Gen. 11) represents a "crossing over" in God's dealing with mankind.
- The word "Hebrew" (in Hebrew) is related to the verb for "cross over" and nouns like "opposite side or edge."
- In Abraham we see "the entire world standing on one side, while Abraham crossed the boundaries of accepted thought and action by choosing to believe in one God."



CALLED TO CROSS OVER *Main Text: Genesis 11:27-32*

²⁷ This is the account of Terah's family line. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. ²⁸ While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. ²⁹ Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milkah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milkah and Iskah. ³⁰ Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive.

CALLED TO CROSS OVER *Main Text: Genesis 11:27-32*

³¹ Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there.
³² Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

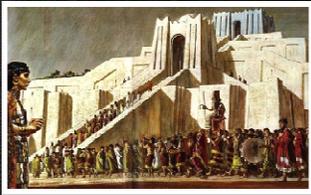
CALLED TO CROSS OVER *Where Do You Come From?*

- Abraham's family originated in "Ur of the Chaldeans."
- Located near the city of Nasiriyah in Iraq today.
- One of the most significant features of the city was the Ziggurat of Ur.




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- This structure was part of a temple complex devoted to the worship of the moon god Nanna.
- Nanna held "such titles as "Father of the Gods" and "Creator of All Things."
- Both Sarai's and Milkah's names are tied to the worship of Nanna - the names are synonymous with "princess," Sarai to Nanna's wife, Milkah to his daughter.

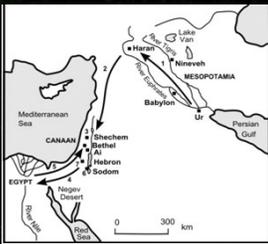


CALLED TO CROSS OVER *Where Do You Come From?*

- Where you come from does *not* dictate who you are or where you will go.
- Joshua 24:2-3 - ² Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.'³ But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates...
- 1 Peter 1:18-19 - ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

CALLED TO CROSS OVER *Where Do You Go?*

- For reasons that aren't explained in Scripture, Terah takes some of his family and decides to move away from Ur and head to Canaan.
- God is sometimes at work leading people, shaping their hearts, gently tugging them, without them even knowing it's happening.
- But, when they arrive in Haran, they settle there instead...



CALLED TO CROSS OVER *Where Do You Go?*

- Haran was another center for worship of Nanna.
- It can be incredibly hard to leave behind what is familiar, known, and safe. Even if you feel a tremendous tug toward something potentially better.
- We don't know how Abram felt about this "stop" along the way, or how long he stayed in Haran.
- Don't get frustrated if you feel like you're at a "stopping point" in your life or journey with God. Sometimes, we simply need to live obediently and expectantly until the next door opens and God calls us to walk through.

CALLED TO CROSS OVER *Closing Reflections*

- Where have you come from? What does your past look like? What events and people and places have shaped you? Those things may influence you, but they don't define you.
- Are you at a "stopping point" in life? What might God be teaching you before your next door opens?
- Is God calling you to "cross over" something? To leave something behind? To start something new?



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