

## **The Foundational Lineage The Constant and Rapid Falling Away But God's Longsuffering Through It ALL**

Have you ever wondered how if Abraham was in the line of Shem, who was one of Noah's sons, how did his family so soon end up making idols to serve other gods in the land of the Chaldeans?

Hopefully this study will allow us to see how our Lord protected His Truth and the people of His Truth throughout all the times they would be found pushing His Truth aside. I hope this study helps us better see the faithfulness and the long-suffering of our God, and that our hearts would melt before Him again today as we realize He has preserved who He is and what He has promised to do for all of us throughout the ages. He is ever so faithful even when we have chosen not to be.

### **1. Abraham came from the line of Shem**

After the flood, the godly line through which the knowledge of the One True God continued was through Shem, the son of Noah.

The genealogy is given in **Genesis 11:10–26**.

Shem = Arphaxad = Salah = Eber = Peleg = Reu = Serug = Nahor = Terah = Abraham

So, Abraham clearly descended from the line that originally knew the Lord.

### **2. But the knowledge of God was being lost**

Even though the true knowledge of God came through Shem's descendants, mankind quickly drifted into idolatry again after the flood. By the time Abraham was born, most of the world including many descendants of Shem had turned to false gods. The Bible directly tells us that Abraham's family was involved in idolatry.

#### **Joshua 24:2**

And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and **they served other gods**.

So, Abraham grew up in a household where idol worship was already present.

### **3. Ur of the Chaldees was an idolatrous center**

Abraham lived in Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 11:31), which was one of the major religious centers of the ancient world.

### **Genesis 11:31**

And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

The Chaldeans were known for worshipping the moon god Sin, various planetary and celestial gods and images and idols connected to those deities. So Abraham was born into a culture saturated with idolatry.

### **4. God called Abraham out of that environment**

What makes Abraham unique is not that he was raised in a pure environment, but that God called him out of idolatry.

### **Joshua 24:3**

And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.

God intervened and brought Abraham out from that system.

### **5. In light of Christ and the Cross**

This actually reveals something profound about Redemption. Abraham was not chosen because he already knew God perfectly. He was called out of darkness by God's grace, just as all Believers are. And the promise given to Abraham ultimately pointed to Christ and His sacrifice.

### **Galatians 3:8**

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

So, Abraham's calling out of an idolatrous world foreshadows what God does through the Cross as He is calling people out of darkness into the knowledge of His Son. In short, Abraham descended from Shem, but the knowledge of God had greatly declined. His father Terah served other gods as Ur was a center of idol worship. God called Abraham out of that system and began the covenant line that would bring forth Christ.

Let us look at something very interesting in about how long Shem was still alive during Abraham's lifetime, which sheds even more light on God's most remarkable faithfulness and long-suffering.

So, was Abraham alive during the days of Noah?

The biblical timelines in Genesis allow us to see this clearly.

## 1. Noah lived a long time after the flood

### Genesis 9:28-29

28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

29 And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.

The flood occurred when Noah was 600 years old (Genesis 7:6). He then lived 350 more years afterward.

### Genesis 7:6

And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

## 2. Abraham was born 292 years after the flood

Using the genealogy in **Genesis 11:10–26**, the years from the flood to Abraham's birth add up to about 292 years. So, the timeline looks like this:

### The Flood occurs

292 years later - Abraham is born

58 years later - Noah dies

This means that Abraham and Noah were alive at the same time for about 58 years.

## 3. Shem lived even longer during Abraham's life

Noah's son Shem lived 600 years (**Genesis 11:10–11**).

### Genesis 11:10-11

10 These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood:

11 And Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

When the timeline is calculated:

Shem lived about 502 years after the flood and

Abraham lived 175 years

So, Shem and Abraham overlapped for about 150 years. This means Abraham could have lived during the lifetime of:

Shem

Arphaxad

Salah

Eber

Many of the earlier patriarchs were still alive when Abraham was born.

#### **4. Why this is important**

This shows something remarkable. Even though Noah and Shem were still within historical reach, the world had already turned back to idolatry by the time Abraham lived.

As we saw earlier, “Terah, the father of Abraham... served other gods” (Joshua 24:2). So, despite the living memory of the flood and the testimony of Noah’s family, mankind again drifted away from the true God. That is why God called Abraham out.

#### **5. In the Light of Redemption**

Abraham being called out of that world points forward to Christ. Just as God called Abraham out of an idolatrous world, God now calls people out of darkness through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### **Galatians 3:16**

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

The promise given to Abraham ultimately pointed to the Seed, being Jesus Christ and His Redeeming work at the Cross.

Now let’s look at something very fascinating about how close Abraham actually was to Adam in the timeline of history. It’s much closer than most people realize. When we carefully follow the genealogies in Genesis, we discover something remarkable. Abraham lived only a few generations removed from Adam. The timeline shows that the knowledge of God could have been passed down almost directly.

#### **The Genealogical Line from Adam to Abraham**

Scripture records the ages of the patriarchs when their sons were born, which allows us to trace the years. Genesis 5 records the line from Adam to Noah, and Genesis 11 continues the line from Shem to Abraham.

#### **From Adam to the Flood**

Adam  
Seth  
Enos  
Cainan  
Mahalaleel  
Jared  
Enoch  
Methuselah  
Lamech  
Noah

## **Adam and Methuselah**

An interesting overlap occurs here. Adam lived 930 years.

### **Genesis 5:5**

And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.

Methuselah was born while Adam was still alive.

In fact, Methuselah lived more than 240 years during Adam's lifetime, meaning Methuselah could have heard the history of creation and the fall directly from Adam himself.

## **Methuselah and Noah**

Another connection is Methuselah lived 969 years.

### **Genesis 5:27**

And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.

Noah was born while Methuselah was still alive. So Noah could have learned about Adam through Methuselah.

## **Noah to Abraham**

After the flood, the line continues through Shem, and as we discussed earlier, Shem was still alive during Abraham's lifetime. So the chain of living testimony could look like this:

Adam = Methuselah = Shem = Abraham

Only three links between Abraham and Adam.

Why this matters is because this means the knowledge of creation, the fall of man and God's promise of Redemption could have been passed down through only a few individuals. Yet despite that close connection to the beginning, the world still turned to idolatry, as we see in Abraham's family.

### **Joshua 24:2**

And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

## **The Promise of Christ**

Even in the earliest days, the hope of redemption was already declared.

**Genesis 3:15**

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

That promise of the Seed runs through the line from Adam to Abraham and ultimately to Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice at the Cross fulfilled God's plan of Redemption.

So, when we look at Abraham in Scripture, we are seeing a man who stood only a few living connections away from Adam himself, yet who was chosen by God to carry forward the promise that would ultimately bring forth Christ and His Redeeming work on the Cross.