

# Acts Week 19

Verses 7:6-

**6 But God spoke in this way: that his descendants would dwell in a foreign land, and that they would bring them into bondage and oppress them four hundred years. 7 'And the nation to whom they will be in bondage I will judge,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and serve Me in this place.' 8 Then He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so Abraham begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot the twelve patriarchs.**

We left off last time when Abraham would be called out of Ur of the Chaldeans. The question I asked was, out of which town did God call Abraham? Ur of the Chaldeans or Haram? These are often the type of verses that secular people use to demonstrate supposed inconsistencies; we find they have done so over the centuries in regard to the differences in the synoptic gospels, the death of Judas Iscariot, and others. Can we who are taught and believe there are no contradictions in the Scripture then accept or tolerate one who seeks to cause doubt and get away without correction?

As we learn more about the Scripture we sometimes discover writings that witness issues from different angles, those who seek to prove the bible has numerous inconsistencies use these to cause doubt about the Scripture. Someone who denies the bible as some old myth and then begins to tell you about the proof of evolution must accept there has never been a conspiracy theory anywhere in history that was written by 40 different authors, 66 books over a period of 1400 years and still not proven a fake? Just because it was written long ago does not then mean anyone can challenge its truths just because of its age. If the Bible had as many discrepancies in it that evolution has I might not believe it, but that is not the case.

Our challenge here is, regarding Ur and Haram, which did God call Abraham from? Can there be two truths? Was it Haram or was it Ur of the Chaldeans the place where God called out Abraham. Janet took this question and we have been communicating during the week on a number of verses. The idea behind all of this is to promote interest and learn how to dig deeper, as you do you will find the importance of how to better present the question. A lot of our communication problems are the fault of not asking the question the right way. Attorneys will often change the direction of questioning when challenging witnesses, we far too often do not even think of this when studying. Learning through word studies will often aid in looking at the application of words in their original use and how it is different in English and used today.

Since so much of history was passed on through word, hieroglyphics, and artifacts at a time when people used these means to record events, many seek to deny the accuracy of the Scripture. Verbal records were taken much more seriously as opposed to later time periods as man has become accustomed to adding to or taking away from the historical facts. As we live

today we find lies and fabrications before our very own eyes and it causes people to not believe or run with the story that suits them best, the itchy ear syndrome we find in 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

Communication is important even as we read books, the author if they are trying to communicate a message to make you laugh, make you cry, feel something you may not have ever felt or bring back memories you find joy in... there is a point to be made through communication.

It is much more important when we are learning the Bible and wanting to understand it for it all has to say that we make and take time to research and ponder every word we read. Some things may seem unimportant at the time as we study but God does not use idle talk. Everything we read and study requires us to ask God, what am I to take away from this? Even the shortest verses will become a part of a deeper meaning. Jesus wept, John 11:35. Two words... but there is a strong image to which it portrays the heart and desire of how much we mean to our Lord and God.

Ur, We have three maps and all three are different. Does this mean the bible is incorrect?

As we are looking at the question of where Abraham was called out of, it tells us much about the territory and people of whom he lived with and their religious practices. It turns out that Ur and Hara were linked closely together in their moon-god-worship. The people were said to have prayed to the moon. Much of the confusion as to where Ur actually resides is due more to recent archaeological findings.

“This site was excavated and named by the famous archaeologist Sir Leonard Woolley in the 1920s. But it is far from being the established location of Abraham and Terah’s “Ur of the Chaldees.” In fact, a long-standing position (held by influential ancient historians such as Josephus and Maimonides) has been that the city was located in northern Mesopotamia, in or around the modern-day border of Turkey. Proposed locations in this geographical region include Urartu, Urfa and Urkesh. The New Testament likewise affirms that Ur of the Chaldees was in “Mesopotamia” (Acts 7:2-3). The name Mesopotamia technically refers to the territory between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, primarily the northern part of the Fertile Crescent. The Sumerian Ur sits just outside, and south, of these rivers—not within.”

<https://armstronginstitute.org/349-has-abrahams-father-terah-been-discovered>

**Genesis 11:28; And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans.**

- (1.) Heb. haran; i.e., "mountaineer." The eldest son of Terah, brother of Abraham and Nahor, and father of Lot, Milcah, and Iscah. He died before his father (Gen 11:27), in Ur of the Chaldees.
- (2.) Haran: mountainous country.

If I were to go looking for the history and artifacts in regard to Ur and Haran, I would first consider the definition of Haran for both the man and the city. Here we see the name linked to mountaineer and mountain country, this would be something I would deeply consider. A man may be named for the area of which he was associated with, but he could have moved, not so with the city, so it appears that the exact location is yet to be completely established.

**Joshua 24:2; And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.**

What were some of these gods and how were they served by the people?

“Mesopotamian moon god. He was called Nanna in Sumerian, and Su'en or Sin in Akkadian. The earliest writings of both are roughly contemporary, and occur interchangeably. An additional name, which is only attested in literary texts, is Dilimbabbar. The true etymologies of both Nanna and Su'en remain unclear (Krebernik 1993-98b: 360-64).”

<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/amgg/listofdeities/nannasuen/>

**Genesis 11:31; And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there.**

**Genesis 12:1; Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.**

**Genesis 12:4; So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.**

As we look at the work still being done it will be interesting if there was possibly to Ur s along with the understanding that God called out Abraham twice. When we run across issues such as this we must settle our understanding by digging deeper. God has kept many things a secret for millennia, even the secret of Jesus was not revealed until the time of the New Testament, Colossians 1:26.