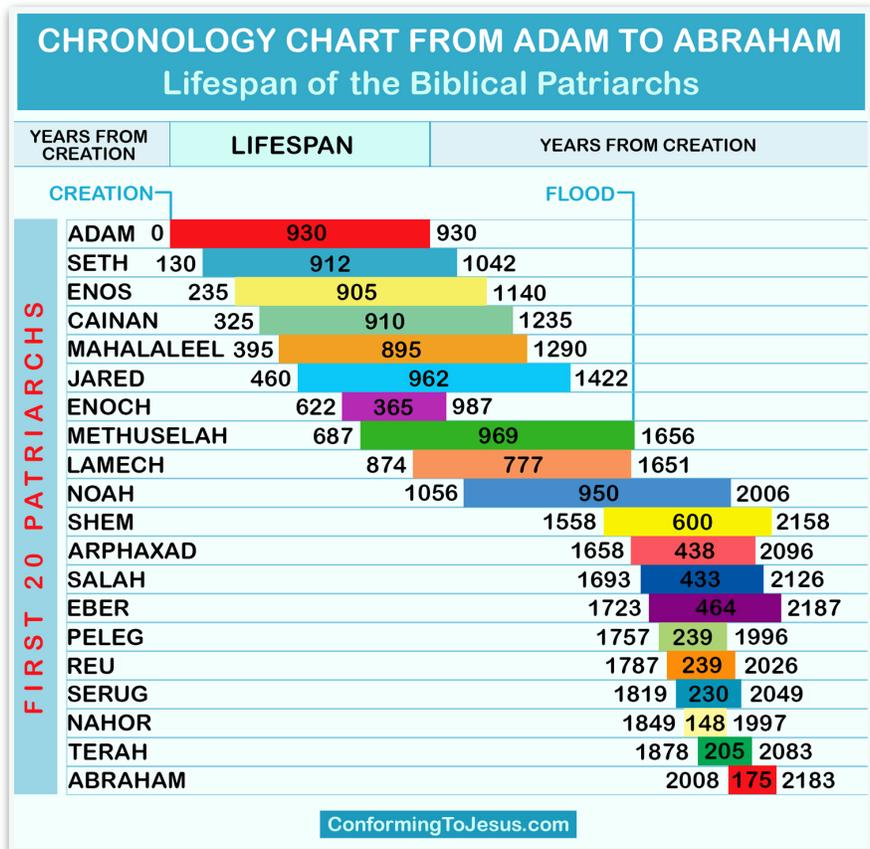


Lesson 1: Faith That Listens to God's Call

Genesis 11:10 – 12:3

Abram was a 9th generation descendent of Shem (Noah's son). Life spans have slowly decreased. Abram's lifespan would only amount to 175 years—nearly 1/3 of Shem's total lifespan. Based on the genealogies, Shem (who lived 600 years) would have been alive through most, if not all of Abram's life (See chronology chart). Did they live near each other? Did they ever interact with each other? Did Abram hear stories about the flood "straight from the horse's mouth"? One thing is for certain, out of all the individuals mentioned in Shem's line, God chose Abram. Not the others. He chose and called Abram. Let's explore what this calling involved for Abram and see what we learn about God in the process and apply it to lives.



Questions

1. What do you learn about Abram from his introduction in the Genesis record? (11:10-32; cf. 20:12) What insight does Joshua 24:2-3 give us into Abram's life before God's calling of him that the Genesis record does not include?

Ur's economic life was centered on trading and imports, wealth and greed were all around and one could just breathe them in the air. Spiritually, the city built on self became even more corrupted by the idolatry of material things, high social positions and wealth by amassing fortunes tainted by the blood of exploited slaves.

The city's patron deity was Nanna, the Sumerian and Akkadian moon god. The ruins of the Ziggurat of Ur, which contained the shrine of Nanna, were partially restored and are still visible today.

2. What caused Abram to move from his home country and again from his 2nd dwelling? (Cf. Gen. 11:31; Acts 7:2-4) Where did he go and settle? How old would he have been when he moved from his home country?

3. What does God's calling involve for Abram's life? (Gen. 12:1-3)

4. How would God specifically "bless" Abram? (Gen. 12:1-3; Cf. Gen. 17:1-6, 16; 22:17-18; 24:1, 35)

5. What does it mean that Abram "will be a blessing" and that "in [him] all the families of the earth will be blessed"? (Cf. Gen. 24:35; Num.24:3-9; Gen. 26:4; 28:14; Acts 3:22-26; Gal. 3:6-14)

6. How does God's calling of Abram compare to Jesus' call? Compare with the following scriptures:
 - Matthew 10:32-39
 - Mark 8:34-38
 - Mark 10:21, 28-31
 - Luke 9:23-27, 57-62
 - Luke 14:25-35
 - John 12:26

7. What is something from this section about God's call of Abram that impacts your faith and how?