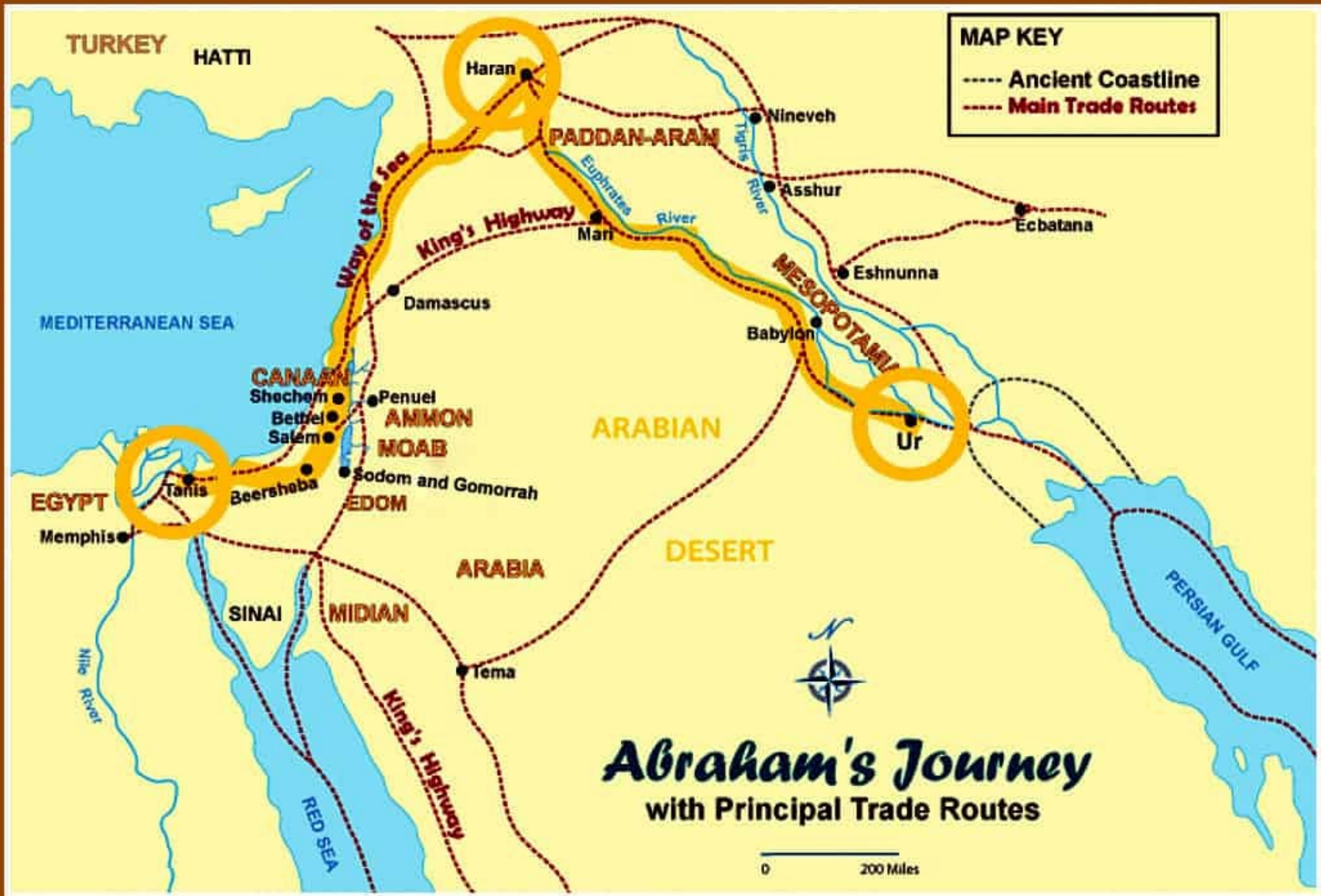




Faith and Friendship

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PROVERBS 14:12

There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

HEBREWS 11:8-12

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he left, not knowing where he was going.⁹ By faith he lived as a stranger in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;¹⁰ for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.¹¹ By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.¹² Therefore even from one man, and one who was as good as dead at that, there were born descendants who were just as the stars of heaven in number, and as the innumerable grains of sand along the seashore.

ROMANS 4:1-3

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

ROMANS 4:4-6

Now to the one who works, the wages are not credited as a favor, but as what is due.⁵ But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing of the person to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

ROMANS 4:7-8

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven,

And whose sins have been covered.

⁸ Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.”

ROMANS 4:9-11

Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness."¹⁰ How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised;¹¹ and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised...

DEUTERONOMY 30:6

“Moreover, the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and all your soul, so that you may live.

GENESIS 17:1-7

Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. ² I will make My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly." ³ Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, ⁴ "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.

GENESIS 17:1-7

⁵ No longer shall you be named Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.

MEANING

- Issac (Yitzak): One who laughs; he laughs

HEBREWS 11:13-16

¹³ All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen and welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. ¹⁵ And indeed if they had been thinking of that country which they left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

THOUGHT

The real question we should consider is not the city we are living in, but the city we are living for. What are we living for?

HEBREWS 11:17-19

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and the one who had received the promises was offering up his only son; ¹⁸ it was he to whom it was said, “Through Isaac your descendants shall be named.” ¹⁹ He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

JAMES 2:18-26

But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

JAMES 2:18-26

²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

HEBREWS 6:9-20

But, beloved, we are convinced of better things regarding you, and things that accompany salvation, even though we are speaking in this way.
¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, by having served and by still serving the saints. ¹¹
And we desire that each one of you demonstrate the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and endurance inherit the promises.

HEBREWS 6:9-20

¹³ For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear an oath by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, “indeed I will greatly bless you and I will greatly multiply you.” ¹⁵ And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For people swear an oath by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath serving as confirmation is an end of every dispute. ¹⁷ In the same way God, desiring even more to demonstrate to the heirs of the promise the fact that His purpose is unchangeable, confirmed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to hold firmly to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and reliable and one which enters within the veil, ²⁰ where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

DO WE HAVE HOPE?

- Our hope is sure and reliable
- Our lives need to reflect our faith, demonstrated by our works.
- Our works are not just public, but private as well.
- Do we trust God to instruct and guide our lives?
- What city are we living for?