

GENESIS (Part 1c)

Genesis 11:1-32

- 1) Tower of Babel**
- 2) Babylonian Religion**
- 3) Abram leaves Ur of the Chaldees for Haran**

1) Tower of Babel (Date c. 2233 BC)

Genesis 11:1-9

Babylon (Akkadian 'Babilu') means 'Gateway of the god'

One language – sound

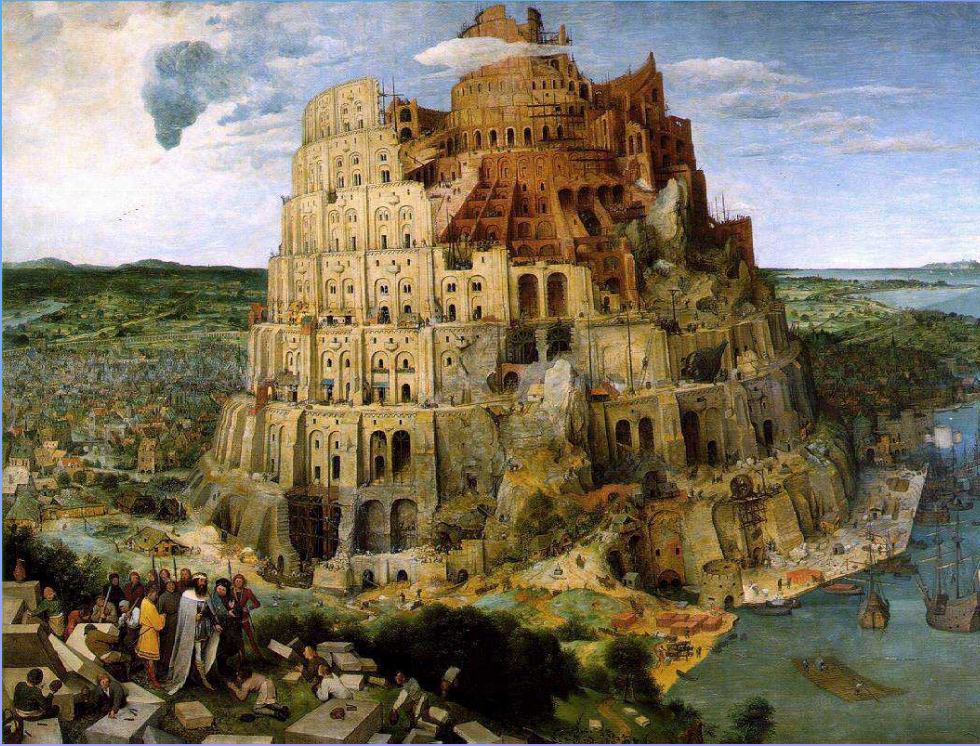
- One speech - words
- Refusing to obey the word of the Lord.
- God scattered the nations by confusing the languages

Character of the builders of Babel – Let Us

Man's independence of God, exaltation of himself, rebellion against God's word.

- Self Dependence – man made materials (means to glorify themselves)
- Self Exaltation – let us build to the heavens (a city and a tower)
- Self Adoration – let us make us a name (to be worshipped)

Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)



Tower of Babel by Peter Bruegel (1563)
Museum Boymans-van Beuningen in Rotterdam.

Tower of Babel was a Ziggurat.

It was built by Nimrod in opposition to worship of the true God.

The Tower of Babel is the origin of idol worship. See Revelation 17:5

The worship of the Mother and child began with Babylonian religion through Nimrod's wife, Semiramis.

Nebuchadnezzar's hanging gardens were named after her.

Ziggurat



Ziggurat means 'rise high'.

It had different stages.

The Ziggurat was associated with temple worship.

Josephus Book 1 Chapter IV

2. (113) Now it was **Nimrod** who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was **the grandson of Ham**, the son of Noah—a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe to God, as if it was through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness.

(114) He also gradually **changed the government into tyranny**, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power. **He also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach! and that he would avenge himself on God for killing their forefathers!**

3. (115) **Now the multitude were very ready to follow the determination of Nimrod, and to esteem it a piece of cowardice to submit to God;** and they built a tower, neither sparing any pains, nor being in any degree negligent about the work; and by reason of the multitude of hands employed in it, it grew very high, sooner than anyone could expect;

Josephus then gives the same account as scripture. (Genesis 11:1-9)

Built of burnt brick (for stone) and bitumen (for mortar)

(116) but the thickness of it was so great, and it was so strongly built, that thereby its great height seemed, upon the view, to be less than it really was. **It was built of burnt brick, cemented together with mortar, made of bitumen, that it might not be liable to admit water.** When God saw that they acted so madly, he did not resolve to destroy them utterly, since they were not grown wiser by the destruction of the former sinners;

(117) but he caused a tumult among them, by producing in them various languages, and causing that, through the multitude of those languages, they should not be able to understand one another. **The place wherein they built the tower is now called Babylon; because of the confusion of that language which they readily understood before; for the Hebrews mean by the word Babel, Confusion.**

Josephus quotes the account of the Sibyl.

The first part corresponds with scripture.

The account of the destruction of the tower does not come from scripture.

(118) **The Sibyl** also makes mention of this tower, and of the confusion of the language, when she says thus:—

“When all men were of one language, some of them built a high tower, as if they would thereby ascend up to heaven; but the gods sent storms of wind and overthrew the tower, and gave everyone a peculiar language; and for this reason it was that the city was called Babylon.”

{a} Moses Charenenses, an Armenian historian, states that God overthrew this tower by a terrible storm.

(119) But as to the plan of Shinar, in the country of Babylonia, Hestiaeus mentions it, when he says thus:—“Such of the priests as were saved, took the sacred vessels of Jupiter, (Enyalius,) or conqueror and came to Shinar of Babylonia.”

The Tower of Babel and the Spread of Religion from Babylon

Revelation 17

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

2) Babylonian religion - Mystery Religion

Anu – the father of the Anunnaki.

Anunnaki – the High Council of the Sumerian gods

Triad

Anu (the sky god) –
the Head.

Enlil –the inheritor of
the throne and

Enki (Ea) – regarded
as the creator

Annuna – fifty great gods

Igigi – minor gods



Understanding the mysteries

The son of Enlil and Ninlil is Nanna (Ninlil was raped)

En was the chief priest - 'lil' means 'air'

Nin means lady

This could be based on Genesis 3 where Satan deceived Eve

Nanna means illuminator

The son of Nanna – Shamash (Sun)

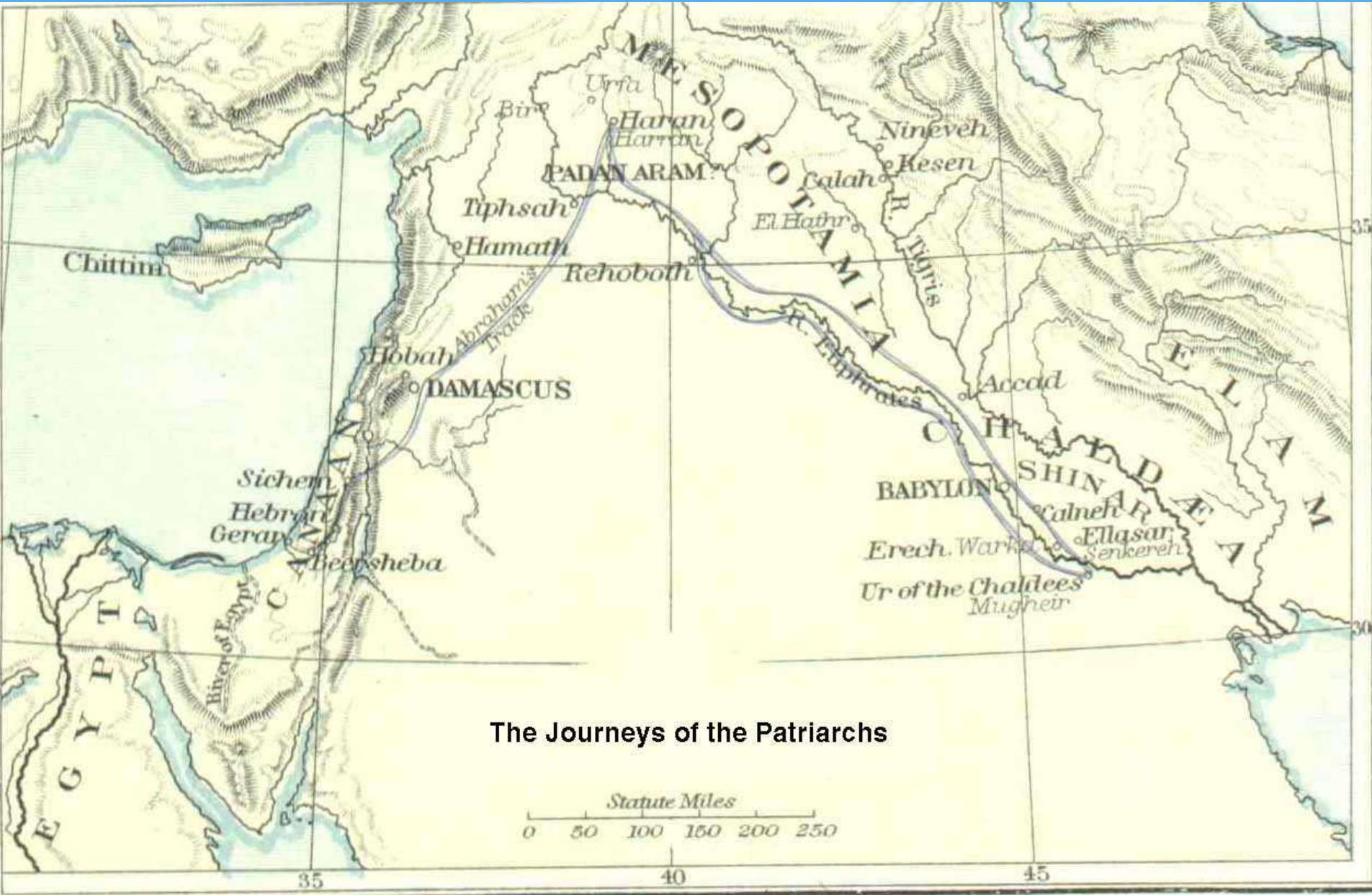
The consort of Shamash – Aya (Dawn)

Nanna the moon god was greater than Shamash the sun god. Nanna is the interpreter of the mystery. Shamash receives light from Nanna, Aya the dawn arises from the revelation given to Shamash.

Epic of Gilgamesh - Inanna daughter of Anu.

Inanna also known as Ishtar- Mother goddess.

3) Abram leaves Ur with his father and his wife, Sarai, and His nephew Lot for Haran. (Genesis 11:31)



Abram's family worshipped the Babylonian gods

Joshua 24:2-3

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

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

Nanna (Sin) – god of the moon

Worshipped primarily in Ur and Haran

Nanna was one of the three sky deities

Nanna – the moon god

Shamash – the sun god

Ishtar (Inanna) – the queen of the heavens (goddess of love and war).

Nanna was the father of Shamash who was the escort of Aya (Dawn)



Ziggurat

The Temple
of the Moon
god Nanna
in Ur

The Ziggurat of Ur as seen by Google

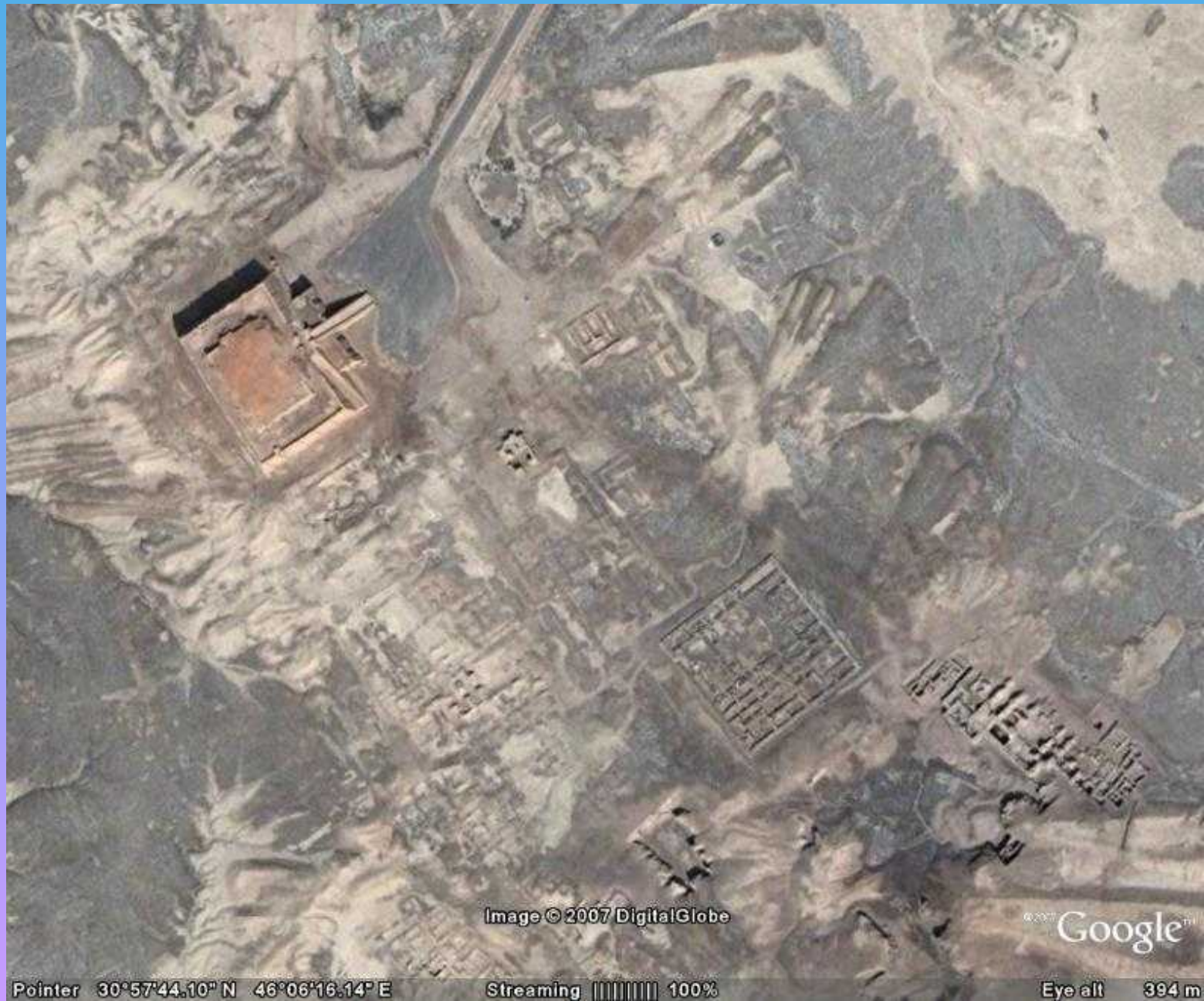


Image © 2007 DigitalGlobe

Google™

Pointer 30°57'44.10" N 46°06'16.14" E

Streaming [progress bar] 100%

Eye all 394 m

The Ziggurat at Ur. (Picture by US Military)



The City of Ur (Tell el-Mukayyar)

Ur was located East of the River Euphrates.

The course of the Euphrates appears to have changed which explains why the place thought to have been Abram's home is now west of the Euphrates.

Population: estimated at up to 65,000. Ur was possibly the largest city in the world (c.2030 – 1980 BC).

Language: Sumerian till about c. 2000BC then Akkadian

Law: Had its own law code

Zur-Nammu of Ur (C.2050 BC)

This was almost three centuries before the famous Law Code of Hammurabi (1780 BC).

Ur of the Chaldees



Peace



War

c. 2600 – 2400BC – Thought to have been carried on a pole as a Standard from Ur of Chaldees. One side depicts War and one side depicts Peace.

Kept in the British Museum

The Code of Hammurabi (1780 BC)



This is one of the earliest codes of law.

Hammurabi (1792-1750 BC). King of Babylonia.

Carving at the top shows Hammurabi being given the symbols of authority from the god Marduk.

Inscribed with 282 laws concerning business, property, work, family, injury.

Found: Susa

Now kept in the Louvre, Paris

Height: 2.25m Width: 0.65m

Mari

If Abram followed the Euphrates River when he left Ur then he would have passed through Mari on his way from Ur to Haran.



Image of Intendant Ebih II
from the Temple of Ishtar in
Mari – Louvre Museum

Modern city at time of Abraham – city
destroyed by Hammurabi (1759 BC)

City known for hair styles and clothes

Major trade centre

Worshipped Sumerian gods and goddesses

Temple of Dagan

Temple of Ishtar (goddess of Fertility)

Temple of Shamash (Sun god)

Expansion of trade from Mari meant that
knowledge of Sumerian gods taken to cities
such as Ebla and Ugarit and integrated
within their religious systems.

Palace of Mari

Tablet of King Zimri-Lin (c.1780 BC) from the Palace of Mari.

Kept: Louvre, Paris



25,000 cunieform tablets were found in the palace of Mari.

The tablets give details concerning matters of state.

Haran

Centre for the worship of the Moon god Sin (Babylonian)



Bee-houses in Haran.

Made without wood.

This style of house was used in Haran for over 3000 years.

Abram's father, Terah, died in Haran. Abram left Haran to go to Canaan with Sarai and his nephew Lot.

Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran.