**Week of October 14, 2018**

**Genesis 10:2; 11:10, 27; 12 1-4**

2 The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras. Understanding of the Scripture

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

27 Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot.

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.

32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

12 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

4 So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

**Understanding The Scriptures**

Today’s scripture traces the genealogy of Abram’s family. The preceding lessons studied the beginning of humanity; but now the focus will be on one person, Abram, through whom God chose to birth the nation of Israel. In the Table of Nations (Genesis 10), we see Abram descended from the family line of Shem, one of Noah’s sons, whom God blessed in Genesis 9:26 (And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.) Thus, the family line continues to be blessed and to be a blessing to others. Abram was the firstborn son of Terah (Gensis11:26 – And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran). This is inferred because Abram is listed first in the genealogy; therefore, more than likely, Abram was the eldest son of Terah. “Family” is also referred to as “kindred”. Abram had two brothers, Nahor and Haran, and a nephew named Lot. Abram was married to Sarah, who is also his half-sister. Abram’s father, Terah took his family from Ur of the Chaldees, making his first stop in Harran. This is the first mention of Harran in Scripture. Abram’s journey to Canaan was started before his covenant with God, but his family stopped in Harran, in northern Mesopotamia. Harran was an important crossroads and commercial center in the ancient near east. Harran was also the center where worship of the moon-god Sin took place. Genesis 12:1-3 is commonly referred to as the “Abrahamic Covenant.” The covenant included land and descendants. Amid the promise of descendants and blessings, God also made the promise of redemption. Although Abram is called to be a blessing to others, much rests on how he is treated by others. Those who are positive towards Abram will experience God’s favor; whereas those who despised Abram will know God’s displeasure. The scripture speaks of “those who bless” (plural but of “those who curses” (singular), emphasizing that many more will be blessed than cursed. Indeed, such will be and has been the influence of Abram that “all the families of the earth shall be blessed” in him.

