

One Can Make A Difference - Part 1

Purpose: to show that the faith of one person can influence an entire family and even nations, and to encourage the listeners to do the same.

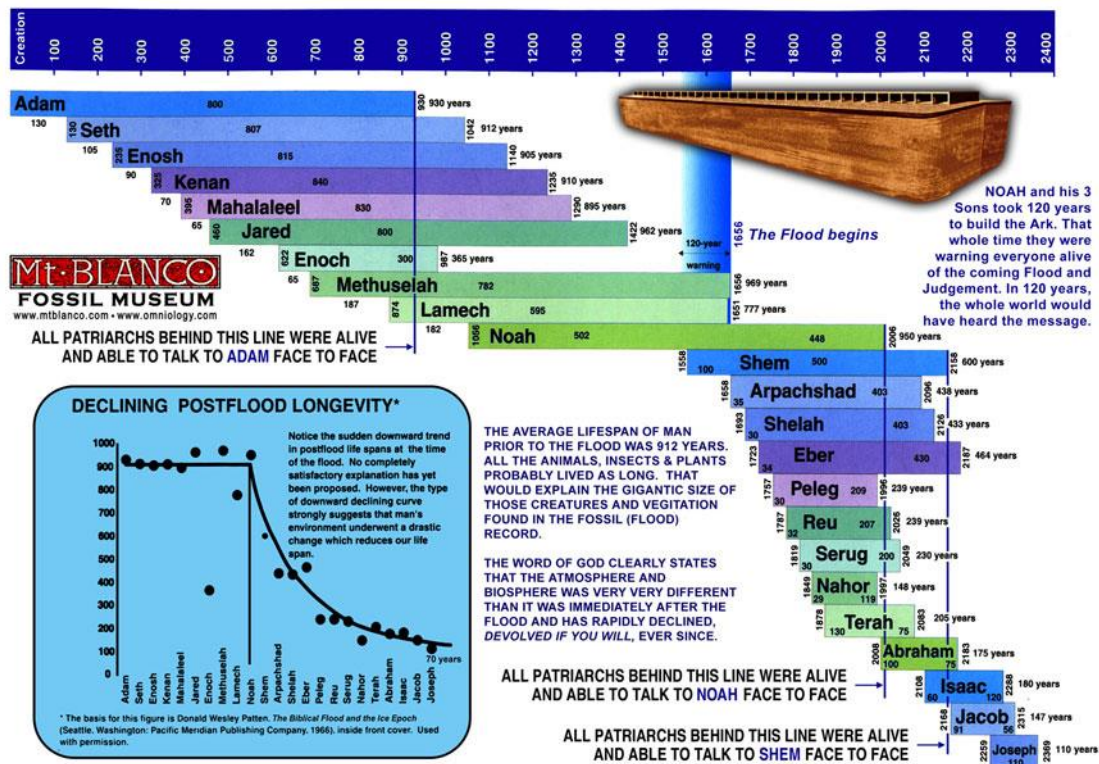
God is still looking for one to make a difference. What about you?

We want to look at thee three things in this section:

- The descendants of Shem
- The descendants of Terah
- The promise to Abram (who later became Abraham)

First we have the generation of Shem:

Genesis 11:10-26



- We actually have their ages recorded
- This is the godly line in which the promise is being kept

Next recorded is the generation of one of Shem's descendants, Terah:

Genesis 11:27-32

- Terah was Abram's dad and we know that he was an idol worshipper

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.

- Terah had three sons (v. 27)
- One son died in their native land, Ur of the Chaldeans (v. 28)
- Terah took Abram, Sarai and Lot and left to go to the land of Canaan, but only went as far as Haran.



- Terah died in Haran

Next is the promise to Abram:

Genesis 12:1-5

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.

2 - I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

3 - I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

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.

Acts 7:2-4

2 - And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

3 - and said to him, 'GET OUT OF YOUR COUNTRY AND FROM YOUR RELATIVES, AND COME TO A LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.'

4 - Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.

What happened to Abram?

- His brother died, which obviously affected his father and family
- God spoke to Abram and told him to move.
- Terah left his homeland and headed out toward the land that God had spoken, but stopped short, at Haran. It seems that his other son, Nahor, did not go with him.
- After Abram buried his father, he left with his wife, his brother's son and all that they had, and went to a land that they did not know.

Hebrews 11:9-10

8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 - By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

10 - for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Three promises that God made;

- To the race of Adam: The seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head
 - [Gen 3:15](#) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."
- To the family of Noah: The Lord should be the God of Shem
 - [Gen 9:26](#) And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem..."
- To the man, Abram: I will make you a great nation
 - [Gen 12:2](#) I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing...

How does God fulfil those promises? One person makes the difference:

- Out of Adam's three sons (Cain, Abel, Seth) one becomes the godly seed (Seth)
- Out of Noah's three sons (Shem, Ham, Japheth) one seeks God (Shem)
- Out of Terah's three sons (Abram, Nahor, Haran) one obeys God's voice (Abram)

For the next several chapters in Genesis, we will see:

- What the world was like during Abram's time
- What it takes to be a person that makes a difference in a fallen world
- What it really means to trust God