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ABRAHAM – PART 5

JOURNEY TO CANAAN AND BETHEL

At age 75 Abram and Lot took all of their possessions and left Haran and went to Canaan which had been their father's original goal forty years earlier upon leaving Ur of Chaldea.

God had told him to go to a land which God would show him. Upon arriving in Canaan, God told him upon appearing to him (Genesis 12:7), ***“Unto thy seed will I give this land.”*** He built an altar unto the Lord (Yahweh, Jehovah) there in that place.

He then moved to a mountain just east of Bethel, pitched his tent, and built another altar unto the Lord.

It is interesting that he settled near Bethel. The place name of Beth-el means “house of God.” The Hebrew meaning of “Beth” means “house” or “place.” El is a word meaning “god.” Bethel has long been considered as a gateway or portal to the heavens. Abram's grandson, Jacob (Israel) years later camped at Bethel where he saw angels ascending and descending on heaven's stairway. Jacob actually camped there twice. On another occasion he wrestled with the Angel of the Lord, a significant visitation from God.

Bethel would remain a holy site in Israel for well over a thousand years. Altars built there were sometimes used to sacrifice to God, but many times were also used to sacrifice to idols. Abram's visit there is the first biblically recorded record of Bethel. Bethel was located about twelve miles north of Salem, better known later as Jeru-salem.

After a while near Bethel, Abram continued his travels, heading south. It is clear from Genesis 12:1-8 that Abram knew God on a personal level. God had appeared to him. Other times God had “said” (spoken) to him. “Appearing” is more personal than speaking and hearing. God can speak to us in many ways. We must have the spiritual “ears” to hear Him. He speaks to our spirit through the Holy Spirit and through His Word. In Revelation, Jesus in speaking to the churches often said, ***“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith...”***

We need to always be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. That is “hearing” Him. Unbelievers do not have that hearing ability. Lukewarm Christians may not have it either. Keep your heart tuned to Him, and He will give you the “ears to hear.”