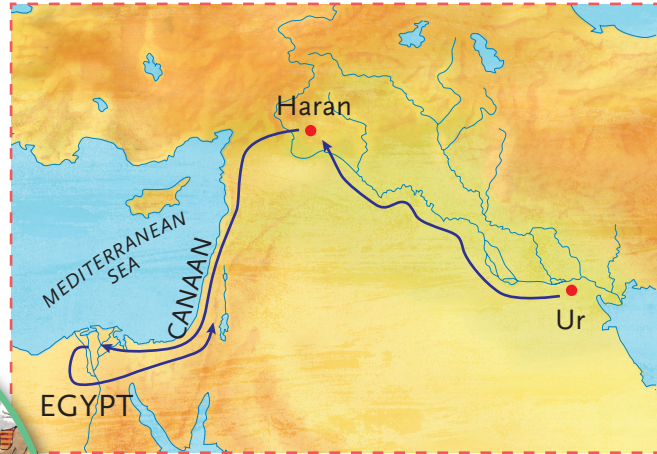
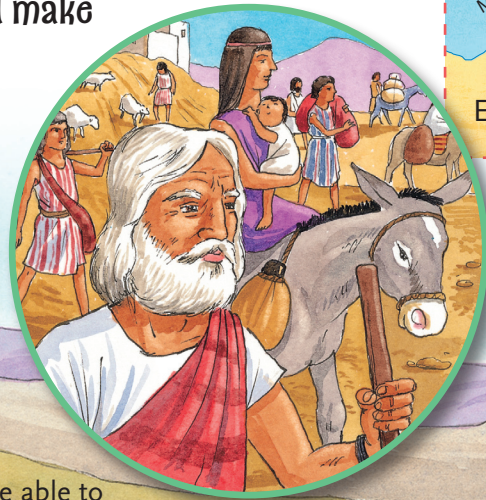


The Abraham trek

The Bible story of the people of Israel really begins with Abraham. Abraham's journey began in the city of Ur. His father, Terah, took the family to Haran. When Abraham was a grown man, he believed God was calling him to go to Canaan and make it his home.



This map shows Abraham's route from his first home to Canaan



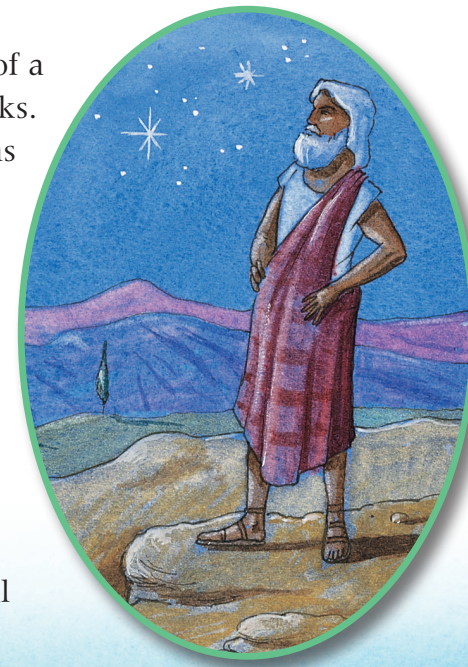
Abraham needed to be able to go from place to place to find pasture for his animals. He and his family lived in tents

On the move

In Canaan, Abraham lived the life of a nomad with his family and his flocks. When the rains failed and there was little for people or animals to eat, Abraham journeyed on to Egypt. He later returned and became wealthy: he had flocks and cattle as well as silver and gold.

The promise

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation. They would be God's special people and they would bring God's blessing to all the world.



Travel tip



Anyone doing the Abraham trek is expected to walk. Sandals or leather boots

are suitable. At times the journey will be along a well-used trading route. Other times you will go off to rough pastures.

Heavy baggage will be carried by donkeys. There will be an ox cart at all times if you get tired and need to ride for part of the trip.



Servants dig a well

Servants cook

Servants and their families

Boys learn to hunt with bows and arrows

Sarah and Isaac

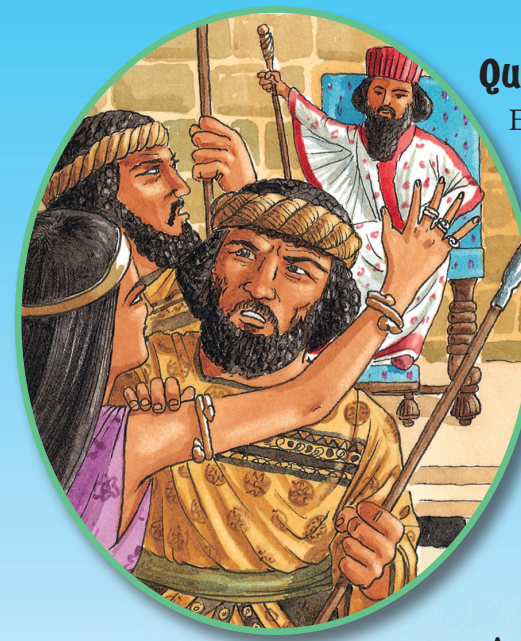
Children help mind the flocks

Girls weave cloth

The Persian royal court

The Babylonian empire did not last long. While the emperors enjoyed being rich and having lavish feasts, the armies of Persia were preparing to attack. They defeated Babylon and captured a huge empire of their own.

The Persian emperors knew that it was a good idea for the people they ruled to feel content. The Jews in Babylon were allowed home. Slowly they rebuilt Jerusalem and, after many years, a new Temple.



Queen Esther

Esther was a Jewish woman who was chosen to be the queen of the Persian king Xerxes. Then one of the king's officials, Haman, hatched a plot to have all the Jews in the empire massacred. Esther's cousin, Mordecai, warned her of what was happening and pleaded with her to help.

Bravely she went to the king's throne room uninvited. She asked to meet him again and told him about Haman's wickedness. In this way she exposed the plot and saved her people.

A palace at ancient Persepolis showing different peoples bringing gifts to their Persian rulers

Daniel and the lions

Daniel was a Jew who had been taken to Babylon at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem. He became a trusted official in the government. When the Persians came to power, the new ruler, Darius, promoted him to high rank.

At the court, enemies plotted against him. They knew that Daniel was faithful in saying his prayers. They tricked the king into punishing him for this. Daniel was thrown into a den of lions.

The king spent a sleepless night worrying about Daniel. In the morning, he hurried to the den.

By a miracle, Daniel was alive. "My God sent an angel to save me from the lions," he declared.

Travel tip

Hunting lions is a popular sport in Persia... but only for the brave and very wealthy!

