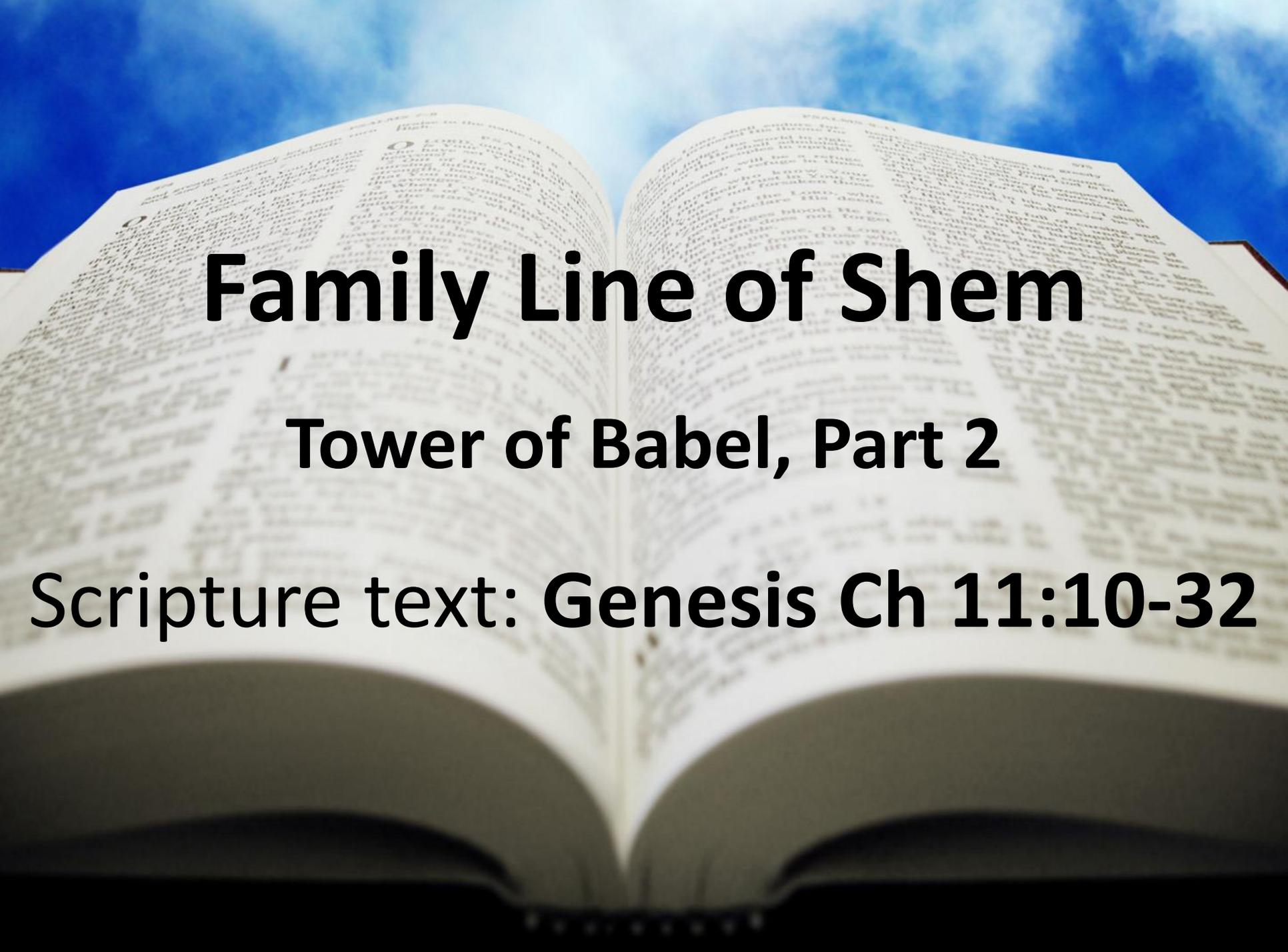


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# **Family Line of Shem**

## **Tower of Babel, Part 2**

**Scripture text: Genesis Ch 11:10-32**

**Genesis 11:10-15** These are the generations of **Shem**. When Shem was 100 years old, he fathered **Arpachshad** two years after the flood. And Shem lived after he fathered Arpachshad 500 years and had other sons and daughters. When Arpachshad had lived 35 years, he fathered **Shelah**. And Arpachshad lived after he fathered Shelah 403 years and had other sons and daughters. When Shelah had lived 30 years, he fathered **Eber**. And Shelah lived after he fathered Eber 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

**Shem (shem)** = A name; i.e., celebrated, distinguished; renown; name; (root = a name; a celebrated name).

**Arpachshad = ARPHAXAD** Shem's son and Noah's grandson, born two years after the Flood.

Arphaxad's descendants were probably the Chaldeans (Gn 10:22–24; 11:10–13; 1 Chr 1:17–18, 24; Lk 3:36). Arphaxad was born two years after the Flood when his father was one hundred years old (Gn 11:10) and was the grandfather of Eber, whom some believe was ancestor of the Hebrews (1 Chr 1:17–25; Lk 3:35–36).

**Shelah #1 (she'-lah)** = Prayer; petition; peace; (root = request petition).

**Shelah #2 (she'-lah)** = Sent; shooting forth; i.e., of waters; (root = a weapon; a missile; a sprout). A son of Arphaxad, of the line of Shem. A descendant.

**Eber (e'-bur)** = He who passed over; the region beyond. A passer over. A shoot. (root = to pass over a river; to go through a land; to pass by). Beyond: the other side (as having crossed over).  
The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

**Genesis 11:16-22** When **Eber** had lived 34 years, he fathered **Peleg**. And Eber lived after he fathered Peleg 430 years and had other sons and daughters. When Peleg had lived 30 years, he fathered **Reu**. And Peleg lived after he fathered Reu 209 years and had other sons and daughters. When Reu had lived 32 years, he fathered **Serug**. And Reu lived after he fathered Serug 207 years and had other sons and daughters. When Serug had lived 30 years, he fathered **Nahor**.

**Peleg (pe'-leg)** = Division. A channel (as a cleft, dividing).

**Reu (re'-u)** = Associate; i.e., of God; a friend; friendship. Feed ye.

**Serug (se'-rug)** = Branch; shoot; firmness; (root = to intertwine). Interwoven.

**Nahor (na'-hor)** = Snorting; breathing hard; slayer; inflamed; heated.

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**Genesis 11:23-27** And **Serug** lived after he fathered Nahor 200 years and had other sons and daughters. When **Nahor** had lived 29 years, he fathered **Terah**. And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah 119 years and had other sons and daughters. When Terah had lived 70 years, he fathered **Abram, Nahor, and Haran**. Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered **Lot**.

**Terah (te'-rah)** = You may breathe. Delay; i.e., slowly born. Chaldean: To delay. Wild goat; turning; wandering.

**Abram (a'-brum)** = A high father; father of height; the exalted father; high and lofty thinker; high or honored father.

**Haran #1 (ha'-ran)** = Mountaineer; very high; enlightened; strong. (Generally refers to a man).

**Haran #2 (ha'-ran)** = Very dry, (place parched with the sun); (root = to be dry; to kindle; to burn).

Grievous. (Generally refers to a place).

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**Genesis 11:27-29** Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered **Lot**. Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was **Sarai**, and the name of Nahor's wife, **Milcah**, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and **Iscah**.

**Lot (lot)** = Covering; veil; covered; concealed; myrrh; (roots = [1] a covering; a veil; [2] to cast over; to wrap in). A wrapping.

**Sarai (sa'-rahee)** = Contentious; Quarrelsome. My ruler. My princesses.

**Milcah (mil'-cah)** = Queen. Chaldean: Counsel.

**Iscah (is'-cah)** = She will look out, as to God; she will see. Sheltered; protected. He will pour out; he will anoint her; he will screen her.

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**Genesis 11:30-32** Now Sarai was barren; she had no child. Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

As I look at this text, there seem to be a mystery here. Why would they leave the Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan?

The book of Jasher gives us something to ponder.

**Jasher 7:22** And Peleg his brother begat Yen, and Yen begat Serug, and Serug begat Nahor and Nahor begat Terah, and **Terah was thirty-eight years old, and he begat Haran and Nahor.**

**Jasher 7:34** And when Nimrod was forty years old, at that time **there was a war between his brethren and the children of Japheth**, so that they were in the power of their enemies.

**Jasher 7:35** And Nimrod went forth at that time, and he assembled all the sons of Cush and their families, about four hundred and sixty men, and he hired also from some of his friends and acquaintances about eighty men, and he gave them their hire, and he went with them to battle, and when he was on the road, Nimrod strengthened the hearts of the people that went with him. And he said to them, Do not fear, neither be alarmed, for all our enemies will be delivered into our hands, and **you may do with them as you please.**

**Jasher 7:37-39** And all the men that went were about five hundred, and they **fought against their enemies, and they destroyed them, and subdued them,** and Nimrod placed standing officers over them in their respective places. And he took some of their children as security, and **they were all servants to Nimrod and to his brethren,** and Nimrod and all the people that were with him turned homeward. And when Nimrod had joyfully returned from battle, after having conquered his enemies, all his brethren, together with those who knew him before, **assembled to make him king over them, and they placed the regal crown upon his head.**

**Jasher 7:40-42** And he set over his subjects and people, princes, judges, and rulers, as is the custom amongst kings. And **he placed Terah the son of Nahor the prince of his host, and he dignified him and elevated him above all his princes.** And whilst he was reigning according to his heart's desire, after having conquered all his enemies around, he advised with his counselors to build a city for his palace, and they did so.

**Jasher 7:45-46** And all nations and tongues heard of his fame, and they gathered themselves to him, and **they bowed down to the earth**, and they brought him offerings, and **he became their lord and king**, and they all dwelt with him in the city at Shinar, and **Nimrod reigned in the earth over all the sons of Noah, and they were all under his power and counsel**. And all the earth was of one tongue and words of union, but **Nimrod did not go in the ways of the Lord**, and **he was more wicked** than all the men that were before him, from the days of the flood until those days.

**Jasher 7:47-48** And he made gods of wood and stone, and he bowed down to them, and **he rebelled against the Lord, and taught all his subjects and the people of the earth his wicked ways;** and Mardon his son was more wicked than his father. And every one that heard of the acts of Mardon the son of Nimrod would say, concerning him, **From the wicked goeth forth wickedness;** therefore it became a proverb in the whole earth, saying, From the wicked goeth forth wickedness, and it was current in the words of men from that time to this.

**Jasher 7:49-51** And **Terah the son of Nahor**, prince of Nimrod's host, was in those days very great in the sight of the king and his subjects, and the king and princes loved him, and they elevated him very high. And Terah took a wife and her name was Amthelo the daughter of Cornebo; and the wife of Terah conceived and bare him a son in those days. **Terah was seventy years old** when he begat him, and Terah called the name of his son that was born to him **Abram**, because the king had raised him in those days, and dignified him above all his princes that were with him.

**Jasher 8:1-2** And it was in the night that **Abram was born**, that all the servants of Terah, and **all the wise men of Nimrod, and his conjurors came and ate and drank in the house of Terah, and they rejoiced with him on that night.** And when all the wise men and conjurors went out from the house of Terah, they lifted up their eyes toward heaven that night to look at the stars, and they saw, and behold one very large star came from the east and ran in the heavens, and he swallowed up the four stars from the four sides of the heavens.

**Jasher 8:3-4** And all the wise men of the king and his conjurors were astonished at the sight, and the sages understood this matter, and they knew its import. And they said to each other, This only betokens the child that has been born to Terah this night, **who will grow up and be fruitful, and multiply, and possess all the earth,** he and his children for ever, and he and his seed will slay great kings, and inherit their lands.

**Jasher 8:5-7** And the wise men and conjurors went home that night, and in the morning all these wise men and conjurors rose up early, and assembled in an appointed house. And they spoke and said to each other, **Behold the sight that we saw last night is hidden from the king**, it has not been made known to him. And should this thing get known to the king in the latter days, he will say to us, **Why have you concealed this matter from me, and then we shall all suffer death; therefore, now let us go and tell the king the sight which we saw, and the interpretation thereof, and we shall then remain clear.**

**Jasher 8:8-10** And they did so, and they all went to the king and bowed down to him to the ground, and they said, May the king live, may the king live. We heard that a son was born to Terah the son of Nahor, the prince of thy host, and we yesternight came to his house, and we ate and drank and rejoiced with him that night. And when thy servants went out from the house of Terah, to go to our respective homes to abide there for the night, we lifted up our eyes to heaven, and we saw a great star coming from the east, and the same star ran with great speed, and swallowed up four great stars, from the four sides of the heavens.

**Jasher 8:11** And thy servants were astonished at the sight which we saw, and **were greatly terrified**, and we made our judgment upon the sight, and **knew by our wisdom the proper interpretation thereof, that this thing applies to the child that is born to Terah**, who will grow up and multiply greatly, and become powerful, and kill all the kings of the earth, and inherit all their lands, he and his seed forever.

**Jasher 8:12-14** And now our lord and king, behold we have truly acquainted thee with what we have seen concerning this child. If it seemeth good to the king to **give his father value for this child, we will slay him before he shall grow up and increase in the land, and his evil increase against us,** that we and our children perish through his evil. And the king heard their words and they seemed good in his sight, and he sent and called for Terah, and Terah came before the king.

**Jasher 8:15-17** And the king said to Terah, I have been told that a son was yesternight born to thee, and after this manner was observed in the heavens at his birth. And **now therefore give me the child, that we may slay him before his evil springs up against us, and I will give thee for his value, thy house full of silver and gold.** And Terah answered the king and said to him: My Lord and king, I have heard thy words, and thy servant shall do all that his king desireth.

**Jasher 8:31-32** And the king hearkened to Terah, and he did so and **he gave him three days' time**, and Terah went out from the king's presence, and he came home to his family and spoke to them all the words of the king; and **the people were greatly afraid**. And it was in the third day that the king sent to Terah, saying, **Send me thy son for a price as I spoke to thee; and shouldst thou not do this, I will send and slay all thou hast in thy house, so that thou shalt not even have a dog remaining.**

**Jasher 8:33-34** And Terah hastened, (as the thing was urgent from the king), and he took a child from one of his servants, which his handmaid had born to him that day, and Terah brought the child to the king and received value for him. And **the Lord was with Terah in this matter, that Nimrod might not cause Abram's death**, and the king took the child from Terah and with all his might dashed his head to the ground, for he thought it had been Abram; and this was concealed from him from that day, and it was forgotten by the king, as it was the will of Providence not to suffer Abram's death.

**Jasher 8:35-36** And Terah took Abram his son secretly, together with his mother and nurse, and **he concealed them in a cave**, and he brought them their provisions monthly. And the Lord was with Abram in the cave and he grew up, and Abram was in the cave ten years, and the king and his princes, soothsayers and sages, thought that the king had killed Abram.

**Jasher 9:1-3** And Haran, the son of Terah, Abram's oldest brother, took a wife in those days. Haran **was thirty-nine years old** when he took her; and the wife of Haran conceived and bare a son, and he called **his name Lot**. And she conceived again and bare a daughter, and she called her name **Milca**; and she again conceived and bare a daughter, and she called her name **Sarai**.

**Jasher 9:4-5** Haran was forty-two years old when he begat Sarai, which was in the tenth year of the life of Abram; and in those days Abram and his mother and nurse went out from the cave, as the king and his subjects had forgotten the affair of Abram. And **when Abram came out from the cave, he went to Noah and his son Shem, and he remained with them to learn the instruction of the Lord and his ways,** and no man knew where Abram was, and Abram served Noah and Shem his son for a long time.

**Jasher 9:6** And Abram was in Noah's house thirty-nine years, and Abram knew the Lord from three years old, and he went in the ways of the Lord until the day of his death, as Noah and his son Shem had taught him; and all the sons of the earth in those days greatly transgressed against the Lord, and they rebelled against him and they served other gods, and they forgot the Lord who had created them in the earth; and the inhabitants of the earth made unto themselves, at that time, every man his god; gods of wood and stone which could neither speak, hear, nor deliver, and the sons of men served them and they became their gods.

**Jasher 9:21** And all the princes of Nimrod and his great men took counsel together; Phut, Mitzraim, Cush and Canaan with their families, and they said to each other, **Come let us build ourselves a city and in it a strong tower, and its top reaching heaven, and we will make ourselves famed, so that we may reign upon the whole world,** in order that the evil of our enemies may cease from us, that we may reign mightily over them, and that we may not become scattered over the earth on account of their wars.

**Jasher 9:22-23** And they all went before the king, and they told the king these words, and the king agreed with them in this affair, and he did so. And all the families assembled consisting of about six hundred thousand men, and they went to seek an extensive piece of ground **to build the city and the tower**, and they sought in the whole earth and they found none like one valley at the east of the **land of Shinar**, about two days' walk, and they journeyed there and they dwelt there.

**Jasher 9:24-25** And they began to make bricks and burn fires to build the city and the tower that they had imagined to complete. And the building of the tower was unto them a transgression and a sin, and they began to build it, and whilst they were building against the Lord God of heaven, they imagined in their hearts to war against him and to ascend into heaven.

**Jasher 9:26** And all these people and all the families divided themselves in three parts; the first said We will ascend into heaven and fight against him; the second said, We will ascend to heaven and place our own gods there and serve them; and the third part said, We will ascend to heaven and smite him with bows and spears; and **God knew all their works and all their evil thoughts**, and he saw the city and the tower which they were building.

**Jasher 9:27-28** And when they were building they built themselves a great city and a very high and strong tower; and on account of its height the mortar and bricks did not reach the builders in their ascent to it, **until those who went up had completed a full year**, and after that, they reached to the builders and gave them the mortar and the bricks; **thus was it done daily**. And behold these ascended and others descended the whole day; and if a brick should fall from their hands and get broken, they would all weep over it, and if a man fell and died, none of them would look at him.

**Jasher 9:29-30** And the Lord knew their thoughts, and it came to pass when they were building **they cast the arrows toward the heavens, and all the arrows fell upon them filled with blood,** and when they saw them they said to each other, Surely we have slain all those that are in heaven. For this was from the Lord in order to cause them to err, and in order; to destroy them from off the face of the ground.

**Jasher 9:31-32** And they built the tower and the city, and they did this thing daily until many days and years were elapsed. And God said to the seventy angels who stood foremost before him, to those who were near to him, saying, Come let us descend and confuse their tongues, that one man shall not understand the language of his neighbor, and they did so unto them.

**Jasher 9:33-34** And from that day following, they forgot each man his neighbor's tongue, and they could not understand to speak in one tongue, and when the builder took from the hands of his neighbor lime or stone which he did not order, the builder would cast it away and throw it upon his neighbor, that he would die. And they did so many days, and they killed many of them in this manner.

**Jasher 9:35** And the Lord smote the three divisions that were there, and **he punished them according to their works** and designs; those who said, We will ascend to heaven and serve our gods, became like apes and elephants; and those who said, We will smite the heaven with arrows, the Lord killed them, one man through the hand of his neighbor; and the third division of those who said, We will ascend to heaven and fight against him, the **Lord scattered them throughout the earth.**

**Jasher 9:36-37** And those who were left amongst them, when **they knew and understood** the evil which was coming upon them, they forsook the building, and they also became scattered upon the face of the whole earth. And they ceased building the city and the tower; **therefore he called that place Babel, for there the Lord confounded the Language of the whole earth;** behold it was at the east of the land of Shinar.

**Jasher 9:38-39** And as to the tower which the sons of men built, the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up one third part thereof, and a fire also descended from heaven and burned another third, and the other third is left to this day, and it is of that part which was aloft, and **its circumference is three days' walk.** And many of the sons of men died in that tower, a people without number.

**Genesis 11:26-28** When Terah had lived 70 years, he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. **Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans.**

**Genesis 11:29** Sarai. ch. 17:15; 20:12. Milcah. ch. 22:20; 24:15. Iscah. Iscah is called the daughter-in-law of Terah, (ver. 31,) as being Abram's wife; yet Abram afterwards said, "she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother." (ch. 20:12.)

Probably Haran was the eldest son of Terah, and Abram his youngest by another wife: and thus Sarai was the daughter, or grand-daughter of Terah, Abram's father, but not of his mother.

*R. A. Torrey, Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge*

**Genesis 20:12** Besides, **she is indeed my sister**, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife.

**Joshua 24:2-3** And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. Then I took your **father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many.** I gave him Isaac.

**Nehemiah 9:6-7** "You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. You are the LORD, the God **who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham.**

**Genesis 12:1-4** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **And I will make of you a great nation**, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was **seventy-five years old** when he departed from Haran.