

The Written Account of the Generations of Terah

11:27 to 25:11

Moses edited and compiled eleven family documents in the book of **Genesis**. The major structural word for **Genesis** is *toldot*, which means **the written account of**, or *this is what became of these men and their descendants*. The noun is often translated *generations*, *histories* or *descendants*. After the section on the written account of the generations of Shem from 11:10 to 11:26, we have the seventh *toldot*, **the written account of the generations of Terah**. **The previous toldot went from the curse of the Tower of Babel to the blessing of the beginning of God's program. Therefore, what this seventh family document tells us is what became of Terah. And what became of Terah was Abraham: God's covenant with Abraham and God's plan for blessing.**

Abraham would become the father of the faithful. But beforehand, **God** would bring **him** through four very definite crises, each of which was designed to build **his** faith. First, **he** was called to leave **his** homeland, Ur of the Chaldeans. **He** was to leave **his** family. That would be a real test for **him** and **he** didn't do very well at first, but, nevertheless, **he** eventually left. Second, **he** was asked to separate from **his** nephew Lot. **Abraham** loved Lot, but the time would come when they would have to separate, and Lot would go down to Sodom. Third, **he** will be tested by being asked to separate from **his** boy, the son of Hagar, Ishmael. **He** would love that boy and would hate to be separated from him, but out of obedience, **Abraham** would send him away. Finally, **Abraham** would come to **his** supreme test, the fourth great crisis in **his** life. **He** would be asked to sacrifice Isaac, the son of promise, as a sin offering. **He** wouldn't understand it, but **he** would be willing to go through with it. **And Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son as a sin offering on Mount Moriah would become a picture of God the Father's willingness to sacrifice His only Son as a sin offering on Mount Calvary.**