

Preaching Series:

E38

38 essential passages in understanding
GOD'S STORY, THEIR STORY AND YOUR STORY.

Today:

GOD BUILDS A NATION

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

The Bible is one grand story of God's masterful design in restoring his people.

God builds a brand new nation called Israel. Through this nation, he will reveal His power and plan to restore humanity, and ultimately point to the coming of Jesus – The One who will provide our way back to God.

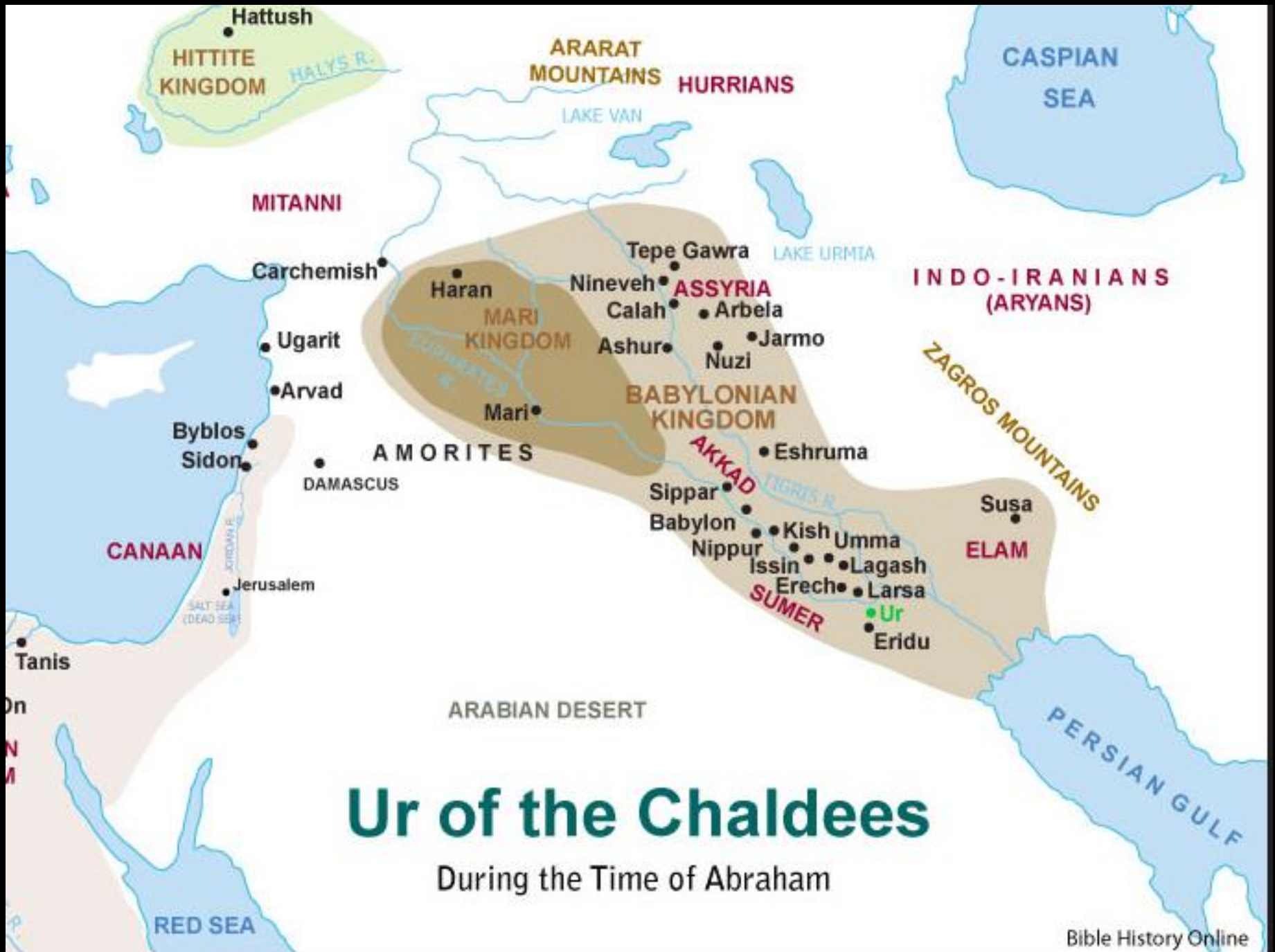
“Consider Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Gal. 3:6

“I need to obey
so I am good.”

OR

“I know God is Good,
so I want to obey.”



Ur of the Chaldees

During the Time of Abraham



“God is going to involve people in his upper story”

“I will make you into **a great nation**,
and I will **bless you**;
I will make your name great,
and you will **be a blessing**.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and **all peoples** on earth
will be **blessed through you**.”

So Abram **went**, as the Lord had told him;”

Genesis 12: 2-4a

The word of the Lord came to Abram
in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,

your very **great reward.**”

Gen 15:1



“O Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I **remain childless...**” Gen 15:2



What ever you think disqualifies
you using Lower Story Logic,
might be the very thing that God
chooses to use with his UPPER
STORY POWER.

Paul the Apostle-

God chooses... the foolish things
the weak things
the lowly things



Ishmael

Do not be **deceived**, you will reap what you sow. Sow to the flesh, you will reap destruction. Sow to the Spirit you will reap eternal life. Gal. 6: 6-7

Wait patiently for the LORD.
Be brave and courageous. Yes,
wait patiently for the LORD.

Ps 27:14



“God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”

Numbers. 23:19

“You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the **sign** of the covenant between me and you.”

Gen. 17:11

“and circumcision is circumcision **of the heart**, by the Spirit, not by the written code..”

Rom. 2:29



“Take your son whom **you love**... Gen. 22:2



Do not do anything to the boy, **I know you fear God...**

Gen. 22:12

God's gift of Isaac had now taken the place of God in Abraham's life. It was then that God stepped in to save both father and son from the consequences of an unclean idolatrous love. ...

I never intended that you would actually slay the lad. I only wanted to remove him from the temple of your heart that I might reign unchallenged there. I wanted to correct the perversion that existed in your love. Now you may truly enjoy the gift, because both of you are sound and well.

-Tozer

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though **refined by fire**—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1: 6-7



“So Abraham called that place **THE LORD WILL PROVIDE**. And to this day it is said, ‘on the mountain of the LORD **it will be provided.**’”

Gen. 22:14





God's goodness is not defined by keeping our lives free of pain. God is good because he uses pain to develop in us internal purity which allows us to experience true peace.

Do you define yourself by GOD'S UPPER STORY
power or life's Lower Story **limitations**?

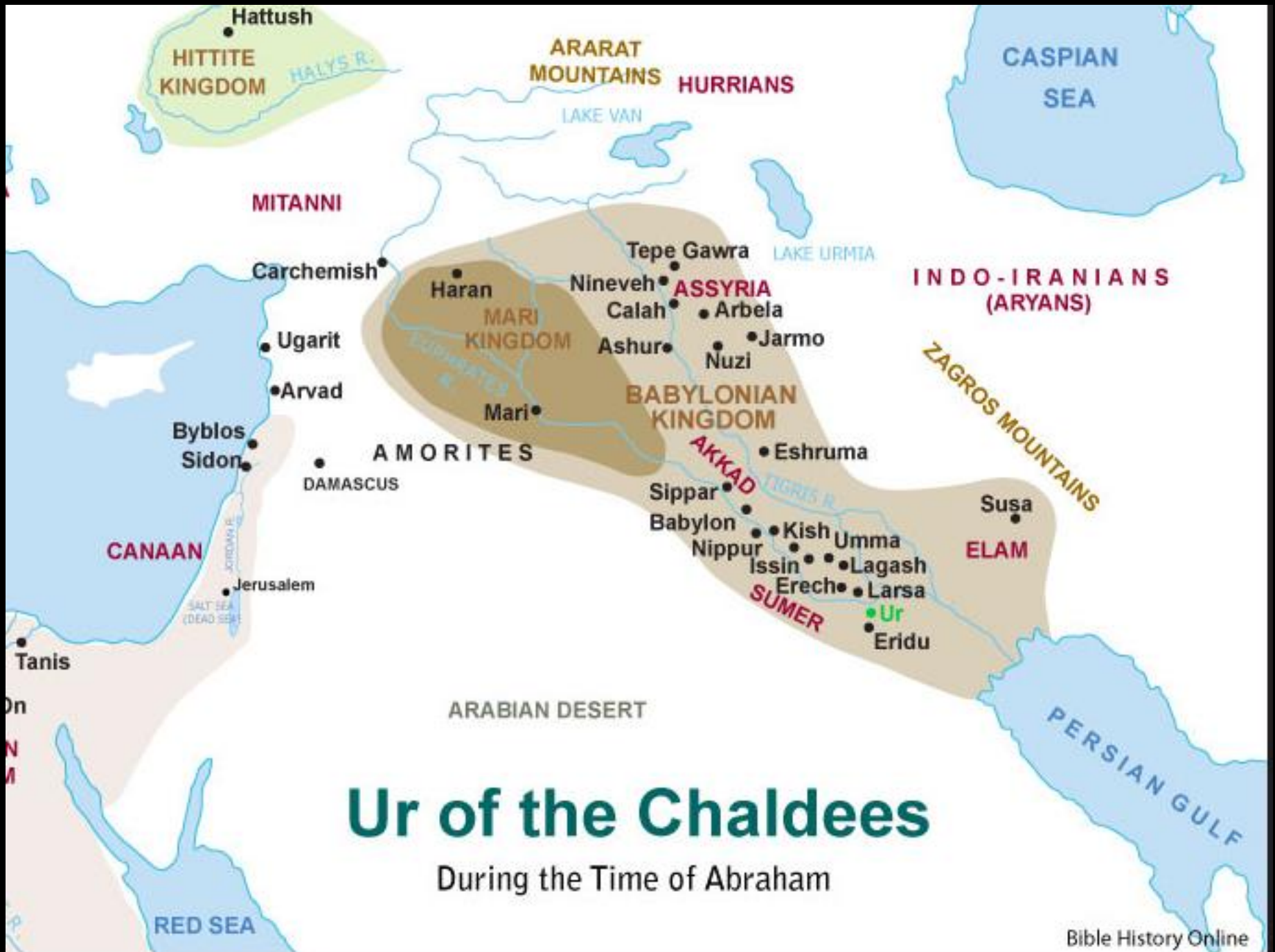
Waiting on the Lord is **never** a waste of time.

It's **not** how you **start** but how you
finish.

“Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, **they settled there.**

Terah lived 205 years, and **he died** in Harran.”

Gen. 11: 31-32



Ur of the Chaldees

During the Time of Abraham

Is **anything** too hard for the LORD?

Gen. 18:14

“The LORD **is good** in all his
ways and faithful in all he does.”

PS. 145:17