

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Humanities/Physics

Lesson 4 Physics

DEVOTIONS: GENESIS 12:1-9

GENESIS 12:6-7 *Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there he built an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.*

The Moreh (meaning teacher) Trees at Shechem were north of where Jerusalem is today, in the region of Hebron in the West Bank. When Abram stopped there, God promised him, ‘I will give this land to your offspring.’ (Genesis 12:7 ESV) God’s intent for Abram and his descendants was to know and trust the Him, to teach others about Him, and for the Hebrew people to be a blessing to all other nations. The “teacher” tree symbolizes the role the Hebrews would have as the keepers of the faith and as blessings to all nations.

GENESIS 12:2-3 *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.*

Israel, the promised land, was at the crossroads of all the ancient civilizations. Its location was strategic to God. Here, the Israelites could interact with travelers from every direction as they journeyed for trade and commerce. Remember, God’s plans for our world will come to fruition, even when famine, wars, or terrorists try to overturn His plans. Any nation that stands against Israel is also taking a stand against God’s ultimate plans for His people.

From Father Abraham to Jesus, God used the Israelites to build a heritage based on the Bible, God’s Word, and God’s promises of redemption. We call that heritage the Judeo-Christian foundation of our faith. Abraham “went the distance,” overshot it, and returned. He kept the faith by trusting God to the point of not sparing his son, Isaac, when God asked him to go **all in**. We’re called to “run the race with perseverance” and to “fix our eyes on Jesus,” rather than “doing our own thing.” It’s rarely easy, but it is profitable in every way.

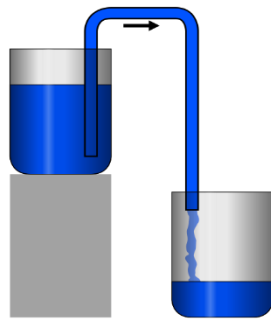
HEBREWS 12:1-2 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

TIMELINE/Introduction (History): After the Flood

2000-1000 BC Egyptian Siphons, Sundial, (Gravity) Waterwheels BC Water towers (Tower of Babel/Pyramids and Ziggurats to Abraham)

Near the end of the Bronze Age, people recognized the power of gravity, water, and wind to do work. It was apparent that water flows downward, but they also observed that it could flow upward under pressure. Pressure systems in siphons, qanats, and aqueducts ushered in an new era of settlements at greater distance from rivers. Later, wheels were utilized to elevate water or to rotate shafts. Even though they couldn't mathematically describe it, this captured energy enabled them to invent new uses for these simple tools.

EARLY INVENTIONS:

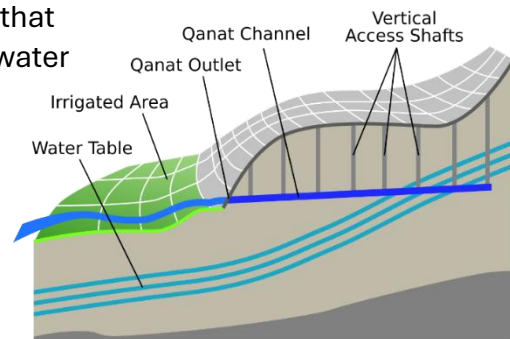


Aqueducts – water channels/canals above ground

Qanat – pipes underground connecting with gravity-driven water

Siphons – a tube used to bring fluids upward, by removing constraints (priming or removing air), draining downward to a lower level

Waterwheels – a water device that taps into the energy of moving water by means of paddles or temporary containers.



Roman Aqueducts



Persian Qanats

Around 2000 BC, God sent Abram out to a distant land. This land, also known as the promised land, would be the home of the Hebrew nation – the actual first nation in history (based on tribes and regions working together). Western civilization owes its foundations,

laws, and understanding of right and wrong to the Hebrew nation called out by God to be a BLESSING to the world.

GENESIS 12:2-3 *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.*

In Genesis 1:28, God commands humanity to "fill the earth and subdue it," to be good stewards of His creation, and to "GO" to be a blessing to others. This mandate encourages us to use our ingenuity, and energy resources like wind, water, oil, light, and magnetism that were created by God, to master our environment. With this understanding, civilizations have advanced and become better able to survive and thrive.



GOT-IT/Apologetics:

1 Timothy 4:7 *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

As a student of both faith and science, it's essential to expose modern science's faulty foundations. Three major battle points with science: 1) A bias against Supernatural causes (God); 2) A foundational belief that simplicity evolved into complexity or diversity; 3) A "name it and claim it" paradigm. That is, if science can "name," define or describe "it," science owns it, not God. Rather than crediting God for the complexity of nature, forces, or phenomenon, and for our ingenuity, language, mental capacity, reasoning, and creativity, science advocates solely for human reasoning and its ownership of its discoveries, as if their discovery equals ownership. Science (*scientia*) simply means knowledge or a quest for knowledge. Knowledge apart from God is foolishness; therefore, science without God can become foolishness. Science belongs to people of faith as well as non-believers.



Believers know that substances and energy sources were created in the beginning by God for us. Science agrees that the amount of matter and energy in our world today is equal to the amount of matter and energy in the universe from the very beginning. It's known as the Law of Conservation of Matter and Energy. However, due to bias against supernatural causes, scientists promote purely human-reasoned theories (which are completely untestable) such as another universe or many universes. God put matter and energy into our universe in the beginning, for us to use, to leverage, and subdue for our benefit and for His plans to prosper us and make us into a great nation of believers.

REFLECTION/Devotion:

John 14:6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Abraham's trust, like Noah's, made all the difference. Israel, against all odds, is in its homeland today. Western civilization rests on the foundation of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. Judeo-Christian values continue to lead the world because of the truth God revealed in His Word, delivered first to the Jews then to Christian believers. Those who saw "TRUTH," manifested in Christ, established our nation and our modern laws.

Our lives should mirror the heroes of faith who trusted what God said and obeyed. His Word is foundational to all we understand, believe, or know. His truth is what will save us, what will lead us on the right path, and what our future holds. We may not know what our future holds, but we know who holds the future.

John 8:32 *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

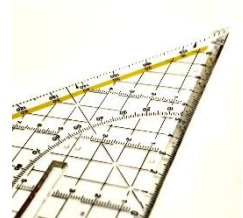
REMEMBER THESE THINGS/Devotion:



“Wheels make the world go round” is a saying that means: there is **something** so important and essential that even ordinary things wouldn't happen without it. Think of all the ways our lives would be different without wheels. Then, consider how important brakes or anchors are! A runaway train, an unanchored ship, or a spinning wheel that breaks free. “Jesus take the wheel,” is a song that calls for God to take both our anchor and our forward motion in His hands. There’s no better place for Him to be than “at the wheel” of our own life.

John 16:13a *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.*

Going the distance requires energy, perseverance, running as if to win, staying on course, and trusting the plan God lays out for you. Abraham had to travel to a distant land to be at the crossroads of the world, to be a blessing to all nations. He had no idea “how” he would accomplish God’s plan, he only knew he should trust and “GO.”



Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*
