

THE GENERATIONS OF TERAH  
(Genesis 11:10-32)

- I. The BEGINNING of the Generations of Terah (Gen. 11:10-11)—see timeline
- II. From Arpachshad to Peleg (Gen. 11:12-17)
  - A. Life spans growing SHORTER
    1. Adam to Noah—average over 900 years
    2. Shem—only 600 years
    3. Arpachshad to Eber—average 440 years
    4. Peleg to Terah—average 215 years
  - B. LUKE 3:36 inserts “Cainan” between “Arphaxad” and “Shelah”
    1. Possibly omitted from ALL OT lists (cf. 1 Chron. 1:18)
    2. Possibly a COPYIST’S ERROR in Luke’s list
- III. From Peleg to Terah (Gen. 11:18-25)
  - A. No need to assume GAPS
  - B. Likely population when Abram left Haran of about 300 MILLION
- IV. Terah’s FAMILY (Gen. 11:26-30)
  - A. Terah’s record ENDS (11:27a)
  - B. Terah’s son HARAN had children named LOT, Milcah, and Iscah
  - C. Terah’s son NAHOR married MILCAH and settled ELSEWHERE
  - D. Terah’s son ABRAM
    1. Married Sarai, Terah’s DAUGHTER by another WIFE (cf. 20:12)

2. Cared for LOT, Haran's son and Abram's NEPHEW

V. The MOVE from Ur (Gen. 11:31-32)

A. The city of UR

1. A SEAPORT on the PERSIAN GULF
2. Large and HIGHLY CIVILIZED
3. IDOLATROUS and very WICKED

B. The city of HARAN

1. About 600 miles NW along the EUPHRATES RIVER
2. Located on an important TRADE ROUTE
3. Place where TERAH DIED

C. The CONTROVERSY caused by Acts 7:4

1. The PROBLEM

- a. Abram left Haran at age 75 (Gen. 12:4)
- b. Abram was born when Haran was 70 (Gen. 11:26)
- c. Terah died at age 205 (Gen. 11:32)
- d. Therefore, Abram left Haran when Terah was 145
- e. Acts 7:4 says he left AFTER Terah DIED

2. Suggested SOLUTIONS

- a. Stephen may have been MISTAKEN
- b. May have referred to Terah's IDOLATRY as "BECOMING as dead"  
(Josh. 24:2; Matt. 8:21-22)
- c. Abram may not have been Terah's ELDEST SON and could have  
been born when Terah was 130

D. Terah's IDOLATRY (cf. Josh. 24:2)

1. A SAD commentary on a once GODLY patriarch
2. A SOBER warning to not allow EASE or COMFORT to hinder us from  
FOLLOWING CHRIST (cf. Gen. 12:1)