

# “TERAH”

**Text:** Genesis 11:27-32  
**Subject:** How To Overcome The Power Of Sin

## Introduction

- ◆ Terah is mentioned 11 times in the Bible.
- ◆ Terah was the father of Abraham, Nahor and Haran. (Genesis 11:26)
- ◆ Terah’s name means “**Wandering**”.

**Question:** Why did God put Terah in Scripture?

**Answer:** To show us how Terah became detoured in life by the power (influence) of sin.

**Question:** Why is Terah’s life such a great life principle to study and apply.

**Answer:** “Because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter 5:8)

- ◆ The devil (and sin) want to detour you from your potential.

**Question:** What is a “Detour”?

**Answer:** “A deviation from a direct course of action”.

## (How Was Terah Detoured?)

1. He received instructions from God to leave UR of the Chaldees and go into the land of Canaan.
2. He started out well (Genesis 11:31), journeyed approximately 4 months, and then did something very strange.
3. He turned North of his route to Canaan.
4. He traveled 150 miles out of his way.
5. He became detoured to a place called Haran:
  - ◆ Haran was a commercial city located on the Belikh river, 60 miles from the Euphrates river.
  - ◆ Haran was located on a busy caravan road connecting Nineveh, Asshur & Babylon in Mesopotamia with Damascus, Tyre and other cities in the southwest.
  - ◆ Haran was also a center of the moon god cult.
  - ◆ Haran was a place of idolatry, lust, sin and sensuality.
  - ◆ Haran was a place you’d want to get out of and not stay in (a city to avoid in the first place).

**Question:** Why did Terah get detoured to Haran?

**Question:** What happened to Terah when he stopped there?

**Question:** How did Terah forfeit his future inheritance?

## Remember Beloved

- ◆ Terah arrived at Haran at the age of 185.
- ◆ Terah died in Haran at the age of 205.
- ◆ Terah’s short layover (on the way to Canaan) turned into a 20 year detour.

“Terah lived for 205 years and died while still at Haran” (Genesis 11:32)

### (So Sad Was This, That God Said:)

“Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Nachor: And they served other gods” (Joshua 24:2)

**Question:** Why did Terah serve other gods?

**Question:** How does his failure speak to us now?

**Question:** Why did Terah die in Haran?

## I. Terah Was Blinded (Deceived) By Sin

**Question:** What is sin?

**Answer:** "Sin is an invisible force emanating from satan which impacts on the mind to stimulate the brain to think in terms of life options which detract from and destroy a person's divine potential" (Dr. Richard Dobbins)

**Question:** Is sin something we all should be aware of?

**Answer:** "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat" (Luke 22:31)

**Fact:** Haran was a weakness to Terah.

**Fact:** Haran was a comfortable place to relax and water the herds.

**Fact:** Haran was a foothold of the enemy to weaken Terah's heart.

### How Does Sin Deceive Us?

- #1. Captions appear in the mind. (Ephesians 6:16)
  - ◆ These fiery darts of the wicked one always begin in the mind to draw us away from God.
- #2. Curiosity arouses the imagination and affections. (I John 2:16)
  - ◆ This lust of the flesh is the temptation to gratify the appetites of the carnal nature in ways forbidden by God.
- #3. Carelessness with our thoughts lead to danger. (Philippians 4:8)
  - ◆ Our choice to cast down (or entertain) evil thoughts will determine what we act out.
- #4. Compromise is sought when we refuse to resist sin. (I Thessalonians 5:22)
  - ◆ We will either live on the edge of two worlds or flee the appearance of evil.
- #5. Capturing the heart by sin's alluring power. (James 1:14)
  - ◆ Our will becomes weaker the longer we entertain sin's offer, (this blinds us to the pain of sin by its immediate pleasure at hand).
- #6. Consent of the will to yield to sin's force. (Romans 6:16)
  - ◆ Sin occurs when we choose to yield to temptation.
- #7. Consequences always result from a willful disobedience. (Galatians 6:8)
  - ◆ The universal law of God is that we reap what we sow.

**Remember:** If we would not eat of the forbidden fruit, we must stay away from the forbidden tree.

## II. Terah Ran All The Warning Signals

- ◆ He ran all the red lights.
- ◆ He ignored the Holy Spirit sirens along the way.
- ◆ He forgot that "The little foxes spoil the vine". (Song of Solomon 2:15)
- ◆ He journeyed to a place that he should have avoided in the first place.

### Remember:

- ◆ The longer we resist the calling voice of God, the harder it becomes to hear that voice again.
  - ◆ The longer we stay where we do not belong, the harder it becomes to exit that place.
- "Neither give place (a foothold) to the devil" (Ephesians 4:27)

## III. Terah Wanted The Best Of Two Worlds

Abraham's eyes were fixed on the Promised Land. Terah's eyes were fixed on the present system. Abraham's journey's were characterized by 2 things:

- A. Wherever he went, he #1. Pitched a tent and #2. Built an altar
- B. Whenever he moved, he #1. Took the tent and #2. Left the altar

**Why?** #1. In removing the tent He said: "I am not a citizen here, only a pilgrim"  
#2. In leaving the altar He said: "I belong to a place called heaven whose builder and maker is God".

**(What Do Jesus' Words Mean In Matthew 6:24)**

"No man can serve two masters"

**IV. Terah Became Entangled With (Ensnared) By Sin**

- ◆ He became attached to those he got close to.
- ◆ He lost heart in his race towards Canaan.
- ◆ He couldn't shake off what he surrendered to.
- ◆ He forgot the principle of "weeds":
  - #1. Weeds start small (a questionable thought).
  - #2. Weeds sap your strength (drain you of joy).
  - #3. Weeds hide the fruit (they cover your good deeds).
  - #4. Weeds spread (they multiply rapidly when left unattended).

**(Think Of It:)**

- ◆ The longer Terah stayed in Haran, the worse it got.
- ◆ The longer Terah stayed in Haran, the greater the stronghold became.

**Question:** Could Terah have chosen to leave Haran?

**Answer:** Look what his relatives did:

"And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came". (Genesis 12:5)

- ◆ But Terah lacked the conviction and courage to enjoy rich fellowship with God!

**(7 Reasons Not To Sin)**

- #1. Sin never satisfies the one who sins. (Proverbs 27:20) "The eyes of man are never satisfied"
  - ◆ Sin is powerful and addictive because it is pleasurable and stimulating.
  - ◆ Yet, sin always leaves the sinner with the feeling of discontent and unclean.
- #2. Sin always leads to more sin. (Proverbs 5:22) "The cords of sin hold us fast"
  - ◆ Sin enslaves and puts you under its control.
  - ◆ The very nature of sin is to strengthen its grip the longer it is entertained.
- #3. Sin Humiliates the sinner. (Ecclesiastes 10:1) "A little folly destroys a reputation"
  - ◆ It robs you of all joy and confidence as it drives away the presence of God.
  - ◆ It then steals your respect, reputation and defiles the good deeds you've done.
- #4. Sin hurts more people than you know. (Romans 6:23) "The wages of sin is death"
  - ◆ Sin disgraces Jesus who died to free us of sin's power.
  - ◆ Sin impacts your family and friends far beyond your comprehension.
- #5. Sin robs (saps) the anointing. (Judges 16:20) "Samson didn't realize that the Lord had departed from him".

- ◆ Sin poisons our whole spiritual system.
  - ◆ Sin dulls our hearts and makes us insensitive to gradual backsliding.
- #6. Sin offends the weaker conscience. (I Corinthians 8:12) “When you sin, you wound the weak conscience”
- ◆ It steals and ruins the hope in God’s power to deliver the weaker one.
  - ◆ It damage the confidence people have in Christ and His church.
- #7. Sin may cost you your salvation. (Proverbs 29:1) “He that being often reprov’d hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy”
- ◆ Unrepented sin leads further and further into bondage.
  - ◆ Unrepented sin brings pain now and death down the road.

**Fact:** There are only 2 things in life that no one can take from you:

- #1. Your sins (you must give them up).
- #2. Your salvation, (you alone must make the choice).

“I will reject perverse ideas and stay away from every evil”. (Psalm 101:4)

**Question:** What is God’s greatest provision to keep us from sin?

**Answer:** “Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11)

**(Which means:)**

- ◆ The Word (in your heart) enables you to discern the origin of your thoughts (whether good or evil).
- ◆ As you discern the origin of your thoughts, you’ll understand the consequences of entertaining those thoughts which lead to actions.

**(In Plain Vanilla)**

- ◆ The Word will sift out, discern or let you know what is wholesome or destructive to meditate upon.

**(Remember The Words Of Dr. Bob Jones Sr.)**

“Behind every evil deed is the process of wicked thinking”

**“Sin Is Sacrilege And Suicide” (By Jonathan Edwards)**

“It also follows that sin is the suicidal exchange of the glory of God for the broken cisterns of created things. Paul said, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) Sinning is a “falling short” of the glory of God. But the Greek word for “falling short” (husterountai) means “lack”. The idea is not that you shot an arrow at God’s glory and the arrow fell short, but that you could have had it as a treasure, but you don’t. You have chosen something else instead. This is confirmed in Romans 1:23 where people “exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image”. That is the deepest problem with sin; it is a suicidal exchange of infinite value and beauty for some fleeting, inferior substitute. This is the great insult.

In the words of Jeremiah, God calls it appalling. “Be appalled, O heavens, at this, and shudder, be very desolate, declared the Lord. For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water”. (Jeremiah 2:12-13) What is the essence of evil? It is forsaking a living fountain for broken cisterns. God gets derision and we get death. They are one: In choosing sugarcoated misery we mock the life-giving God. It was meant to be another way: God’s glory exalted in our everlasting joy”.

**AMEN!**

Bill Kirk, Pastor  
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