

For the next three selections, Zaphōn will relate a story about a family that left Ur, which is located about 500 kilometers south of Media, and eventually settled some 1,500 kilometers west in the area along the Mediterranean between the Phoenician cities of Sidon and Tyre and the delta of the Nile. That family was the progenitor of Zaphōn's people. The text comes from the Septuagint, a translation of Hebrew writings begun in the 3rd century BCE by editors and translators in Alexandria.

Here are a few notes about the text:

- The original Greek text uses past tenses. This selection recasts the story in the historical present. You will, however, encounter some future forms.
- You will see that the Hebrew names do not decline, i.e., they do not change form according to the case they assume, so you will need to read carefully and pay close attention to the cases of the definite articles to identify the syntactic role each plays in its clause.
- The Greek of the Septuagint is Koine, a form of Greek that emerged in the wake of Alexander's conquest of Asia. It differs somewhat from the Attic dialect you have been learning, for example, in the use of the pronoun αὐτός, αὐτή, αὐτό. This selection comes primarily from Genesis 11.27-32, but it also incorporates some material from Herodotus and other passages in the Septuagint along with a few additions that parallel material you have seen before.

τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα περὶ τῶν προγόνων

Ζαφών· νῦν δὲ κάθησθε, ὦ φίλοι, καὶ ἀκούετε. ἐγὼ γὰρ ἐθέλω μῦθον ὑμῖν περὶ τῶν ἐμῶν προγόνων λέγειν.

οὕτως ποτὲ Ἀσσύριοι ἄρχουσι τῆς ἄνω Ἀσίας καὶ ἐν τῇ χώρᾳ τῶν Χαλδαίων οἰκεῖ ὁ Ἄβραμ. ὁ πατὴρ τῷ Ἄβραμ Θάρα ἐστὶ καὶ ἀδελφοὶ αὐτῷ εἰσὶ Ναχώρ καὶ Ἀρρὰν. τῷ δ' Ἀρρὰν εἰσι τρεῖς παῖδες καὶ τὰ ὀνόματα αὐτοῖς ἐστὶ Λὼτ καὶ Μελχὰ καὶ Ἰεσχά. ὁ δ' Ἀρρὰν ἀποθνήσκει. καὶ διὰ χρόνου ὁ Ναχώρ καὶ ὁ Ἄβραμ ἄγονται γυναῖκες. ἡ δὲ γυνὴ τῷ Ἄβραμ ἐστὶ Σάραν καὶ ἡ γυνὴ τῷ Ναχώρ ἐστὶ Μελχὰ ἡ θυγάτηρ Ἀρρὰν τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ. ἐστὶ τῇ Μελχὰ καὶ τῷ Ναχώρ υἱός, καὶ τὸ ὄνομα τῷ υἱῷ ἐστὶ Βαθουήλ. ἀλλ' οὐδὲ υἱός ἐστὶ τῇ Σάραν καὶ τῷ Ἄβραμ οὐδὲ θυγάτηρ· ἡ γὰρ Σάραν στεῖρα καὶ οὐ δυνατὴ ἐστὶ τεκνοποιεῖν. καὶ λαμβάνει Θαρα τὸν Ἄβραμ υἱὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ τὸν Λὼτ υἱὸν τοῦ Ἀρρὰν υἱὸν τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ καὶ τὴν Σαραν τὴν νόμφην τοῦ Ἄβραμ τὴν γυναῖκα τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐξάγει αὐτοὺς ἐκ τῆς χώρας τῶν Χαλδαίων εἰς τὴν γῆν Χαναὰν καὶ ἔρχεται ἕως Χαρρὰν καὶ κατοικεῖ ἐκεῖ. καὶ γίνονται πᾶσαι αἱ ἡμέραι τῷ Θαρα ἐν Χαρρὰν διακόσια πέντε ἔτη, καὶ ἀποθνήσκει Θαρα ἐν Χαρρὰν.

καὶ λέγει ὁ Κύριος τῷ Ἄβραμ· "ἔρχου ἐκ τῆς γῆς σου καὶ ἐκ τῆς συγγενείας σου καὶ ἐκ τοῦ οἴκου τοῦ πατρός σου εἰς τὴν γῆν, ἣν ἂν σοὶ δείξω·

καὶ ποιήσω σε εἰς ἔθνος μέγα καὶ εὐλογήσω σε καὶ μεγαλυνῶ τὸ ὄνομά σου, καὶ ἔσῃ εὐλογητός· καὶ εὐλογήσω τοὺς εὐλογοῦντάς σε, καὶ τοὺς καταρωμένους σε καταράσομαι· καὶ ἐνευλογηθήσονται ἐν σοὶ πᾶσαι αἱ φυλαὶ τῆς γῆς."

Vocabulary

※ Green background color indicates core vocabulary.

Nouns (τὰ ὀνόματα)	English Definition	Dict.	Gram.	Author
ὁ μῦθος, τοῦ μύθου	speech, narrative, story	LSJ	231	
ἡ χώρα, τῆς χώρας	space; place; spot; position	LSJ	216	Her. Xen.
ὁ χρόνος, τοῦ χρόνου	time	LSJ	231	Her. Xen.

ἡ νύμφη, τῆς νύμφης	bride, young wife, (here: daughter-in-law)	LSJ	216	
ὁ κύριος, τοῦ κυρίου	master	LSJ	231	Her.
ἡ συγγένεια, τῆς συγγενείας	kinship, family	LSJ	216	
ὁ οἶκος, τοῦ οἴκου	house	LSJ	231	Her. Xen.
ἡ στεῖρα, τῆς στείρας	a woman without offspring	LSJ	216	

Adjectives (τὰ ἐπίθετα)	English Definition	Dict.	Gram.	Author
πρόγονος, -η, -ον	of or relating to those born before ὁ πρόγονος forefather, ancestor	LSJ	287	Her. Xen.

Prepositions (αἱ προθέσεις)	English Definition	Dict.	Gram.	Author
ἕως	until, to a point	LSJ		Her. Xen.

Verbs (τὰ ῥήματα)	English Definition	Dict.	Gram.	Author
ἀκούω	I hear	LSJ	383	Her. Xen.
ἐθέλω	I wish	LSJ	383	Her. Xen.
ἄρχω	I begin, take the lead, rule, govern (σὺν γενικῇ)	LSJ	383	Her. Xen.
ἀποθνήσκω	I die	LSJ	383	Her. Xen.
τεκνοποιῶ	I bear children	LSJ	385	
λαμβάνω	I take	LSJ	383	Her. Xen.
κατοικῶ	I settle in, make a home	LSJ	385	

Adverbs (τὰ ἐπιρρήματα)	English Definition	Dict.	Gram.	Author
ἴσως	perhaps	LSJ	343	Xen.
ἄνω	up, upwards, (here: above, over)	LSJ	345	Xen. Her.
ἐκεῖ	there, in that place	LSJ	346	Her. Xen.

