The early life of Abraham.

Level flight established.

LEVEL FLIGHT ESTABLISHED Genesis 12.4-9

1. He does get started again. verses 4a,5,6,8,9

2. Remember, there are TWO pilots on the flight deck:



The Lord

You

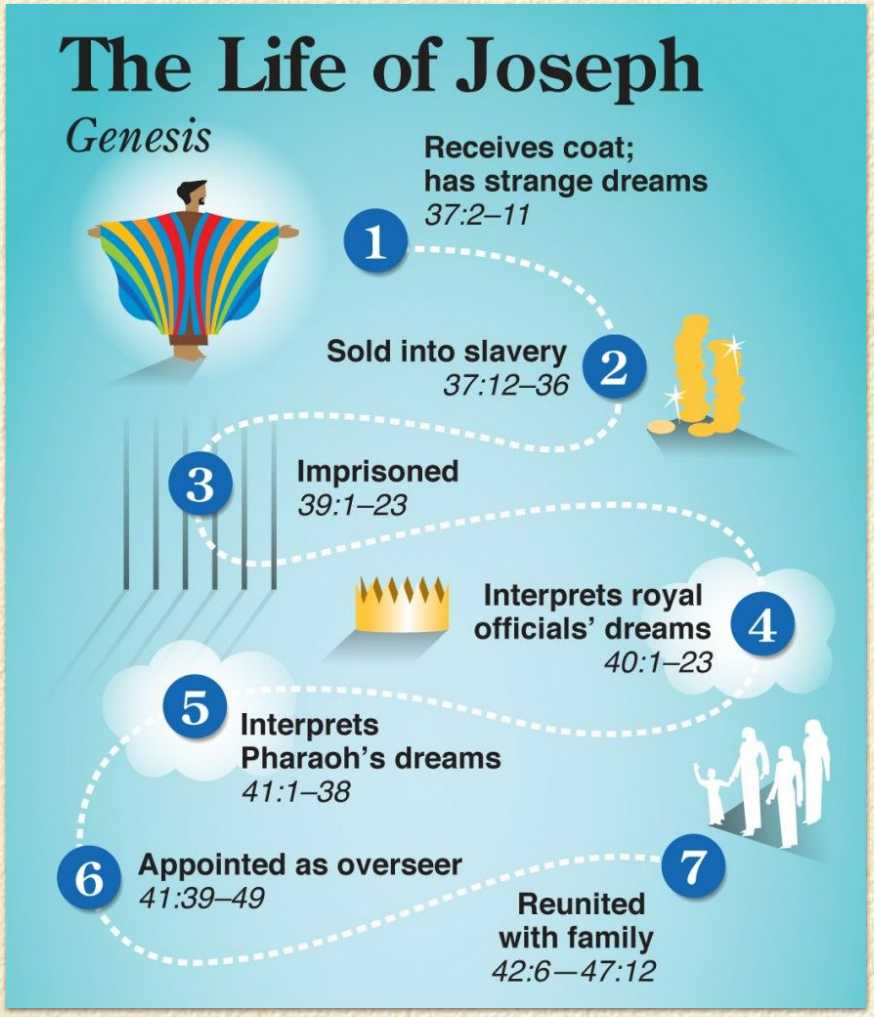
A. THE LORD DID SOMETHING.

Acts 7.1-4 *"After the death of his father,* ***God sent him****"*

1. The Lord is The Initiator, the Prime Mover, The Cause behind our effect. (Yes, but how? See later!)

Let's explore the journey of another man who said "God sent me".

Genesis 45.5-7



a. Example from the life of Joseph. What got Joseph into Egypt?

i. The immaturity of Joseph. Genesis 37.5-11

ii. The stupidity of his father, Jacob. Genesis 37.2-3

iii. The jealousy of his brothers. Genesis 37.4,8,11

iv. The uncertainty of circumstances.
Genesis 39.11-20; chapter 40

v. The sovereignty of the Lord. He "sent" Joseph

God's purposes <u>through</u> Joseph. Genesis 45.5-7, 50.19-20

God's purposes <u>towards</u> Joseph. Psalm 105.16-22
verse 18 AV margin: "They hurt his (Joseph's) feet until iron entered his soul."

A. THE LORD DID SOMETHING.

1. He sent Abraham.

2. He removed a problem Abraham could do nothing about. Genesis 11.32; Acts 7.4



3. He may have spoken again to Abraham. Genesis 12.1

4. He may have let him get fed up with Haran. Romans 1.24, 26,28

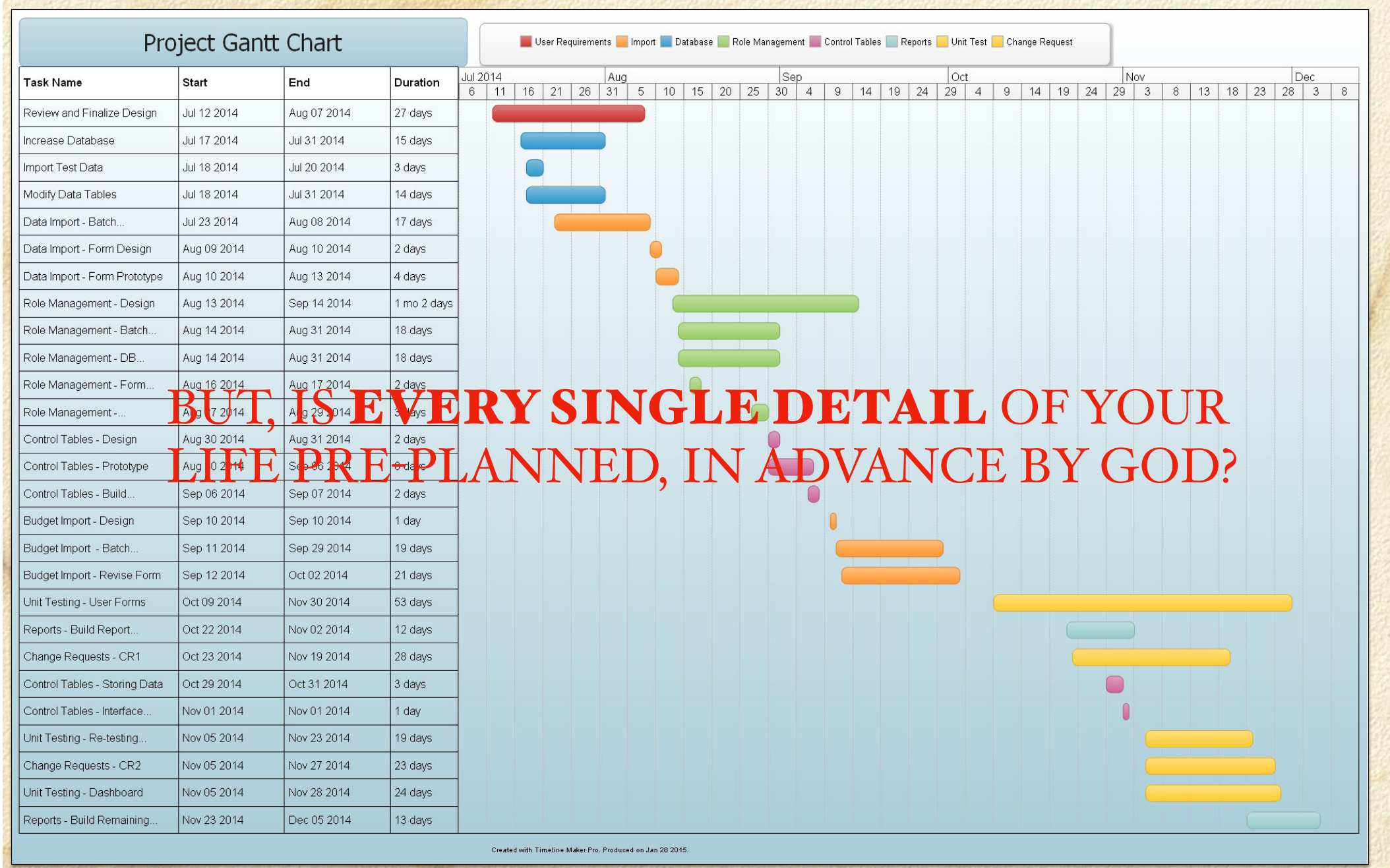
5. And so, an impossible situation is changed... by God.

B. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE WILL OF GOD?



Some questions:
Is the will of God always done?
Is everything that happens the will of God?
Are these the same question?

1. The Pre-ordained will of God. Galatians 4.4-5; John 13.1; Acts 2.1; Acts 1731



Task Name	Start	End	Duration
Review and Finalize Design	Jul 12 2014	Aug 07 2014	27 days
Increase Database	Jul 17 2014	Jul 31 2014	15 days
Import Test Data	Jul 18 2014	Jul 20 2014	3 days
Modify Data Tables	Jul 18 2014	Jul 31 2014	14 days
Data Import - Batch...	Jul 23 2014	Aug 08 2014	17 days
Data Import - Form Design	Aug 09 2014	Aug 10 2014	2 days
Data Import - Form Prototype	Aug 10 2014	Aug 13 2014	4 days
Role Management - Design	Aug 13 2014	Sep 14 2014	1 mo 2 days
Role Management - Batch...	Aug 14 2014	Aug 31 2014	18 days
Role Management - DB...	Aug 14 2014	Aug 31 2014	18 days
Role Management - Form...	Aug 16 2014	Aug 17 2014	2 days
Role Management -...	Aug 17 2014	Aug 29 2014	3 days
Control Tables - Design	Aug 30 2014	Aug 31 2014	2 days
Control Tables - Prototype	Aug 30 2014	Sep 06 2014	6 days
Control Tables - Build...	Sep 06 2014	Sep 07 2014	2 days
Budget Import - Design	Sep 10 2014	Sep 10 2014	1 day
Budget Import - Batch...	Sep 11 2014	Sep 29 2014	19 days
Budget Import - Revise Form	Sep 12 2014	Oct 02 2014	21 days
Unit Testing - User Forms	Oct 09 2014	Nov 30 2014	53 days
Reports - Build Report...	Oct 22 2014	Nov 02 2014	12 days
Change Requests - CR1	Oct 23 2014	Nov 19 2014	28 days
Control Tables - Storing Data	Oct 29 2014	Oct 31 2014	3 days
Control Tables - Interface...	Nov 01 2014	Nov 01 2014	1 day
Unit Testing - Re-testing...	Nov 05 2014	Nov 23 2014	19 days
Change Requests - CR2	Nov 05 2014	Nov 27 2014	23 days
Unit Testing - Dashboard	Nov 05 2014	Nov 28 2014	24 days
Reports - Build Remaining...	Nov 23 2014	Dec 05 2014	13 days

BUT, IS EVERY SINGLE DETAIL OF YOUR LIFE PRE-PLANNED, IN ADVANCE BY GOD?

But, is that all we can say about "the will of God"?

LET'S TAKE SOME TIME OUT AND THINK ABOUT ..... GOD.

A1. THE ESSENTIALS OF GOD'S NATURE.

1. Declarations about God's nature: God / The Lord is

a. Metaphorical - non literal. The nature of God's actions.

b. Metaphysical - non physical. The nature of God's existence.

c. Moral - literal. The nature of God's moral attributes.

A2. THE ESSENCE OF GOD'S **MORAL** NATURE.

"Is there one aspect of God's moral nature that is basic to all the others? Is there one essential that is fundamental to the divine DNA?"

The contenders: John 4.24: God is spirit.
1 John 1.5 God is light
1 John 4.8,16 God is love

I would choose "God is love" in preference to "God is spirit" or "God is light" as the foundational truth of God's **moral** nature for several reasons:

1. When viewed through the lens of linguistics.

a. Remember our 3 categories: Metaphysical, metaphorical and moral.

b. "God is spirit" is primarily metaphysical - re. God's existence... "everlasting", "immortal", "invisible"

c. "God is light" is primarily metaphorical - re. God's actions... "consuming fire", "warrior", "rock".

d. "God is love" is primarily moral - re. God's literal, moral character.

Stanley Grenz: "Love is the fundamental, divine attribute. Love in not merely one attribute of God among many. Rather "God is love" is the foundational, ontological statement that we can declare concerning the divine essence."

2. When viewed through the lens of language.

a. A quick reminder about grammar.

i. A noun - the name of a person, object or place.

ii. An adjective - adds information about / describes a noun.

iii. A verb - an action word that defines what a noun does.

b. In the statement "God is love", "Love" is a **noun**!!!

c. "Love" is a literal noun.

*John Wesley: "It is never written "God is justice" or "God is truth" - although, of course, He is just and He is truthful in all His ways - but it **is** written "God is love".*

3. When viewed through the lens of logic.

"Almost all the statements about God's character do not relate to anything He could have been doing before creation ie when only God existed".

4. When viewed through the lens of the Lord Jesus.

a. What people experienced. John 1.14, 16-18

b. What the Lord Jesus expressed. John 3.16; 1 John 3.16, 4.8-9

c. What the church extended. 2 Corinthians 13.14

5 When viewed through the lens of logical explanation and prediction

a. In science, the more foundational a principle, the more things, often unexpected, it explains & predicts.

i. Example of two basic laws:
Force (F) = Mass (M) x Acceleration (A)

Force (F) = G x $Mass_1$ x $Mass_2$ / Distance $apart^2$

ii. Some things they explain / predict.

b. Similarly, the more foundational our view of the moral DNA of God, the more things it will predict and explain.

B. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE WILL OF GOD?

1. The Pre-ordained will of God.
Galatians 4.4; John 13.1; Acts 2.1; Acts 17.31

2. The Preferred will of God.
Luke 13.34; Luke 7.30; 1 Timothy 2.4; 2 Peter 3.9

a. What God would prefer in an ideal world.

b. But we are not living in an ideal world.

3. The Permissive will of God. Job 1. 6-12; Luke 22.31-32.

a. Whenever we sin.

b. We are not alone in the universe.

c. How do we reconcile 2 and 3 with 1 above?

c1. It is a paradox which we cannot understand.

c2. It is a paradox which we can understand.

c3. We say some things, but not all things are pre-ordained because **GOD** chose it to be so!!!

4. The Proactive will of God? John 9.1-3

"As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."

Often the question we need to ask is not "whose fault is this?" .. or "What is the pre-ordained purpose of this?" but rather "How can I work with God so that something good, God honouring and man blessing comes out of this?"

Romans 8.28

i. KJV translation: "We know that **all things** work together for good……."

ii. Many other, modern translations, like NIV: "We know that **in all things, God works** for the good of those who love Him……"

iii. Even more wonderful possibility. NIV margin "We know that in all things, **God works together with those who love Him**, to bring about what is good".



HOW IS LEVEL FLIGHT RE-ESTABLISHED?

A. THE LORD DID SOMETHING.

But remember, there are TWO pilots on the flight deck:



The Lord

You

B. ABRAHAM DID SOMETHING. Gen 12.4

A “dirty word”



The “dirty word” for many Christians is … “**obedience**”.
However:-

1. Obedience is essential.
2. Obedience is exciting.
3. Obedience is effective.

B. ABRAHAM DID SOMETHING. 12.4

1. Obedience is essential.

a. The content of his obedience.

i. Knowing not doing is common. James 1.22ff

ii. Knowing not doing can be catastrophic. Luke 6.46 - 49

b. The context of his obedience.

i. Not saved by obedience. Ephesians 2.8-9

ii. True faith leads to obedience. Hebrews 11.8

iii. Obedience often needs faith.

2. Obedience is exciting!!!!!! Gen 12.7-8

a. The Lord reappeared to Abraham.

b. The Lord reassured Abraham.

c. The Lord revealed new truth to Abraham.

d. Abraham really worshipped the Lord again



Stop saying "I've got to do....."
Start saying "I get to do ....."

1. Obedience is essential.

2. Obedience is exciting !!!!!!

3. Obedience is effective.

   a. Often there is a time lag between obedience and the consequences.

   b.Satan is into “quick fix”; God is into “delayed gratification”

   c. The little finger and the pulley

   d. Could you run a marathon right now?

   e. SUMO MAN “It is simple ..... but not easy!!”

   f. Dr. John Hunter: “For this, I have Jesus”.