

Abraham – Lessons in Faith

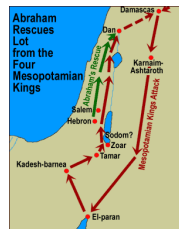
Text: Genesis 11:26 - 25:10; but read Acts 7:2-8.

Biographical introduction: Picture of Ur of the Chaldees



1. Genesis 11:24; Numbers 33:27; Luke 3:34 - Abraham was a descendant of Shem. He was the son of Terah, born in Ur of the Chaldees about 2030 BC.
2. Genesis 17:5 - He was named at birth Abram which means “father of high and windy places” but was later renamed Abraham, which means “father of many nations.” This renaming took place prior to the birth of Isaac when Abraham was struggling with his wife’s inability to conceive.
3. Genesis 12:1 - He left Ur at God’s command.
4. Genesis 11:32 - Though he was told to leave his kindred, he took with him his father Terah and his nephew Lot. This lack of perfect obedience ended up costing him. Instead of proceeding to the Promised Land he settled for a while in Haran (which interestingly enough means “the dried up place”) until his father died.
5. Genesis 13:8-11 - Entering the promised land he unselfishly allowed his nephew Lot to have the choicest grazing land for his cattle.

Map of Abraham’s rescue mission



6. Genesis 14 - He was later instrumental in releasing Lot from the spoils of the kings who attacked Sodom.

Picture of Abraham, Hagar and Ishmael by Il Guercino (Giovanni Francesco Barbieri) 1591-1666



7. Genesis 15-16 - Abraham's faith was tested by worry and he took his future into his own hands by conceiving Ishmael through Hagar the maidservant.
8. Genesis 18:10-15 - After both Abraham and Sarah were past the age of child-bearing, Abraham was told he would have a son Isaac (laughter).

Picture of Abraham and Isaac



9. Genesis 21:2 - Isaac was born and grew up to his adolescence.
10. Genesis 22:2 - At that point Abraham was told to sacrifice his miracle child Isaac.

Picture of Isaac's sacrifice stopped by angel



11. Genesis 22:10-13 - Abraham, by this time had perfected his obedience and the Scriptures say that he woke up early to perform his grisly task. He had Isaac bear the wood up Mt Moriah (a type of Christ's future bearing the cross up Mt. Golgotha to be our sacrifice) and was about to kill his beloved son when Hashem provided a ram in a thicket.
12. Genesis 25:7 - Abraham died at the age of 175.

Map with location of Hebron (and Mamre)



13. Genesis 25:9 - He was buried in Mamre. Mamre was located at, or very near, ancient Hebron, which is just south of Bethlehem and Jerusalem.
14. 2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23 – His epitaph would be “He was known as a friend of God.”

Lessons from Abraham's life:

1. Genesis 11:32 – **Trust nothing but God.** As Abraham left the security of Ur of the Chaldees we too must be willing to leave behind everything we think of as our security and trust God instead.
2. Genesis 12:1-3 – **Be a nomad in this world.** As Abraham went to a new land we too must recognize that we are nomads in this world and not place too much emphasis on its calls.
3. Genesis 12:8 – **Let worship and sacrifice characterize your life.** As Abraham's first act was to build an altar; worship and sacrifice must characterize our lives.
4. Genesis 13:8-9, 18 – **Lean upon God for your care.** As Abraham trusted God for provision we too must lean upon God for our care.
5. Genesis 14:14 – **Pursue social justice regardless of the cost.** As Abraham pursued Lot and rescued him even though he had only 318 men under arms we

too must be willing to throw our selves into the fray for the cause of justice, regardless of the cost.

6. Genesis 15:5-6 – ***Develop and improve your faith.*** As Abraham used faith to resist fear and doubt we too must constantly work at perfecting our trust in Attiq Yomin, the Ancient One.
7. Genesis 22:8 – ***Trust God’s heart even when you don’t understand His ways.*** As he had faith that provision would be made for Isaac we too must trust God’s heart even when we do not understand His ways.
8. Genesis 22:14 – ***Be quick to give Him His due.*** As he recognized that God had provided we too must be quick to express our gratitude and give Jehovah Jireh His due.
9. Genesis 24:3-4 – ***Place your loved ones in His care.*** As He had faith that a bride would be miraculously provided for Isaac from his own people we too must place our loved ones in His care.

Lessons in faith:

1. Romans 3:28 - ***Faith begins and sustains the whole process of the Christian life.***
2. Genesis 12:4; Hebrews 11:8 - ***Faith is required to follow God.***
3. Genesis 12:8; Hebrews 11:10 - ***Faith causes us to put God first.***
4. Galatians 5:23 - ***Faith should be reflected in a gracious attitude.***
5. Psalm 18:39 - ***Faith will provide courage in time of danger.***
6. Genesis 15:6; Psalm 43:5 – ***Faith can be bolstered by Scripture.*** When our faith is wavering, knowledge of the Scriptures, doctrines and the principles applied by faith are a cure.
7. Psalm 18:6 – ***Faith brings comfort.*** Faith in the fact that even in hopeless situations God provides, brings comfort to those who are in great difficulty.
8. Matthew 6:26 - ***Faith looks to God as the great provider*** for His children.
9. Romans 3:27 - ***Faith is the only acceptable form of relationship between man and God*** as it is the only form of perception which has no human merit.
10. Deuteronomy 5:10 - ***Faith gives confidence*** in one's future and the future of one's family.
11. Matthew 17:20 - ***With faith everything is possible.***