

A Systematic Study of the Word of God
Lesson 4: Abraham
“The Father of Nations”
Congregational Worksheet – Wednesday, March 3, 2009

This worksheet was created by Pastor Phenis to help you complete and keep structured notes during the corresponding sermon. To fill in the blanks of this worksheet listen to the sermon from the date noted in the header of this worksheet. The sermon MP3 audio can be streamed or downloaded from the sermons page of the church website at <http://www.goshenfirstag.org/sermons.php> or a CD can be purchased (for \$0.50) from the church Media Ministry.

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“The period of the Patriarchs is the groundwork and basis of all history.” (A Patriarch is the father and ruler of a family or tribe.) “It covers the time from Adam to Moses. In consequence of the failures on the part of men during this early period, God called out an individual. He put aside the race and called a man, Abraham, who was to become the father of the Hebrew Nation. We enter into this period in Genesis 12.” (Henrietta C. Mears)

God called Abraham out and made a covenant with him called the Abrahamic Covenant. We will see in future studies that God made this covenant with Abraham’s son Isaac and later his grandson Jacob. He repeated it to no one else. Therefore, these three, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are considered the Covenant Fathers and that is why you read in Scripture *I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.* (Acts 7:32) God never adds anyone else. He gave His covenant to these three and it is for them to communicate it to others. (Genesis 12:1 - 3; 26:1 - 5; 28:13 - 15)

Outline of Abraham’s Life

These are the main facts about Abraham’s life that you should try to remember.

1. His call into Canaan and his response (12:1-9)
2. His sojourn in Egypt and happenings there (12:10-20)
3. His separation from Lot and his following deliverance of Lot from captivity (13 and 14)
4. His reception of the covenant and justification by faith (15)
5. His concubinage with Hagar (16)
6. His circumcision with his household. Circumcision, the covenant sign (17:1-14)
7. The announcement of Isaac’s birth (17:15-19; 18:1-15)
8. The intercession for Sodom and the escape of Lot (18 and 19)
9. His sojourn at Gerar (20)
10. The birth of Isaac and the dismissal of Hagar and Ishmael (21)
11. His willingness to sacrifice Isaac (22)
12. The death of Sarah and the family burial place (23)
13. His choice of Bride for Isaac (24)
14. His children by Keturah (25)
15. His death (25:8)

(Taken from Old Testament Studies vol. 1 by Frank M. Boyd)

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#1. THE CALL of ABRAHAM: The Abrahamic Covenant

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Gen 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Gen 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram *was* seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

Gen 12:5 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.

The events of Abraham's life cover the span of about _____ years. The events that are written down follow one another in chronological order.

Abraham was _____ years old when God called out to him.

One of the main things that we need to understand about the call of Abraham is that his call, and the Nation of Israel which came from him, was for the _____ of blessing the whole world.

It was through the Israelites that...

1. The Scriptures came...
2. That the _____ was born --- “the seed of a woman.” (Gen. 11:10-26)

The obedience and blessing of Abraham to follow God's call is what brings us the blessing and privilege of being saved today.

This call by God to Abraham to go to the land of Canaan is what we call the _____ or Abrahamic Covenant.

In general, the covenant of God with men is a Divine ordinance, it is a binding agreement between God and man with signs and pledges on God's part, and with promises for obedience and penalties for disobedience.

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The Abrahamic Covenant consisted of three phases.

1. **A Blessing to a _____ (Abraham):** Through Abraham’s **obedience** he and his children would inherit the land of Canaan. (v. 1)

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2. **A Blessing to a _____ (Israel):** Through Abraham’s **obedience** he and his children would become a great Nation. (v. 2)

Gen 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3. **A Blessing to the _____ (Then and Now):** Through Abraham’s **obedience** he and his children would bring a great blessing on all of the nations of the world. (v. 3)

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

All that we have today and can experience in God hinged one day on the simple yet essential obedience of one man.

We are reaping the benefits of ones mans simple yet extraordinary act of faith and obedience.

Because Abraham went Jesus tells us we can come.

Mat 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

#2. THE FAMINE, THE FAULT and THE FIGHT:

A. THE FAMINE: A sojourn in Egypt. (12:6-10)

Abraham, Sarah, and Lot make it to Canaan and God appeared unto Abraham and told him this is the land that I will give to you and your seed.

Gen 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

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Abraham continued to travel through the land until there was a great famine in the land and Abraham went down to Egypt to stay there until the famine let up.

B. THE FAULT: Abraham lies. (12:10-20)

Gen 12:10 And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine *was* grievous in the land.

Gen 12:11 And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou *art* a fair woman to look upon:

Gen 12:12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This *is* his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

Gen 12:13 Say, I pray thee, thou *art* my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

Abraham tells what we call today a half-truth but God still calls a _____. He tells the Egyptians that Sarah is his sister which is partly true.

Gen 20:12 And yet indeed *she is* my sister; she *is* the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

Gen 12:14 And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she *was* very fair.

Gen 12:15 The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

Gen 12:16 And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

So Pharaoh gave Abraham an abundance of gifts because of his wife Sarah whom he was told to be his sister.

Even though there are things we consider to be half-truths God still considers them to be a complete lie, and so did Pharaoh.

Gen 12:17 And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.

Gen 12:18 And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What *is* this *that* thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she *was* thy wife?

Gen 12:19 Why saidst thou, She *is* my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take *her*, and go thy way.

Gen 12:20 And Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

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C. THE FIGHT: (Abraham and Lot’s servants fight and they separate. Ch. 13 and 14)

Gen 13:1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

Gen 13:6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

Gen 13:7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

Gen 13:8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we *be* brethren.

Because of this fight between them and the fact that they had such great possessions and could not share the same parcel of ground Abraham gave Lot his pick of all the land to the left or the right.

Gen 13:10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

Gen 13:11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

#3. THE PROMISE REAFFIRMED and ABRAHAM REASSURED: (Ch. 15)

Gen 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I *am* thy shield, *and* thy exceeding great reward.

Gen 15:2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house *is* this Eliezer of Damascus?

Gen 15:3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

Gen 15:4 And, behold, the word of the LORD *came* unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

Gen 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Gen 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Sometimes, just like Abraham, we need God to _____ us of the Promises He has made to us.

With God there is no _____, but perfect time. With us time seems to be an ever fleeting, troublesome, and discouraging thing.

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Abraham was desiring a child to carry on his lineage and he was growing weary wondering if it was ever going to happen.

God reassures Abraham that He is going to bless him and Sarah with a son and Abraham’s faith is _____ and he believes God.

Gen 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

The Lord accepted Abraham on the basis of his faith. Abraham’s righteousness was not found in God’s eye’s by what he did but by _____ and _____ he believed.

It’s the same way with you and me.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

#4. “HELPING” GOD WITH HIS PROMISE: Hagar and Ishmael

(Ch. 16)

Gen 16:1 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name *was* Hagar.

Gen 16:2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

Sarah grows weary with waiting for the promised child and decides to “help” God with His promise.

Unfortunately we do the same things many times. We grow weary with waiting on God and decide to try to fix the situation or remedy the problem ourselves only to make it worse in the end.

If there is one thing we would do well to learn it is this.... “The wheels of God may turn slow but they grind sure.”

God has a _____ plan and a perfect time for His plan.

The Devil knows that if he can’t get us to back up on God than he will try to get us to go _____ than God. In either case we bring more trouble on ourselves than we ever imagined.

Abraham takes Hagar Sarah’s handmaid as his wife and they bear a son Ishmael.

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God _____ Ishmael because he is not the promised seed, but is the product of man’s intervention.

When man thinks he can speed up the hand of God he will always find _____.
Not only does he not succeed in speeding up the hand of God but in many cases creates more work for Him.

Abraham was 86 years old when Hagar had Ishmael, his son.

#5. CIRCUMCISION and REJECTION of ISHMAEL: (Ch.17-18)

A. The Covenant Sign:

Gen 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, *I am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Gen 17:2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

Gen 17:3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

Gen 17:4 As for me, behold, my covenant *is* with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

Gen 17:5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

Gen 17:6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

Gen 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Gen 17:8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Gen 17:9 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

Gen 17:10 This *is* my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

Gen 17:11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

Gen 17:12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which *is* not of thy seed.

The sign of God’s Covenant with Abraham and his children is circumcision.

God commanded that they be circumcised as a _____ of the covenant between Him and them.

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Gen 17:11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

Abraham was 99 years old at this time.

I found this very interesting...

Gen 17:12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which *is* not of thy seed.

Why was circumcision to be carried out on the eighth day?

Medical science has discovered that the eighth day is the only day in the entire life of the newborn that the blood clotting element prothrombin is above 100%. (Ray Comfort)

B. Ishmael is Rejected by God as the Covenant Son:

Gen 17:17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall *a child* be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

Gen 17:18 And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

Gen 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his seed after him.

Gen 17:20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

Gen 17:21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

Remember: Our works done _____ of the will of God; no matter how noble, and no matter how “good” our intentions were, will _____ be rejected by God.

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags...

Man, outside of the will of God, pollutes and taints everything he touches.

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#6. ABRAHAM’S INTERCESSION for SODOM: (Ch. 18 and 19)

Gen 18:1 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

Gen 18:2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

Gen 18:16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

Gen 18:17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

Gen 18:18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

Gen 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Gen 18:20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

Gen 18:21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

Gen 18:22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

In the rest of this Chapter Abraham begins to pray and ask God if he would spare the city for...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. 50 Righteous and God says yes. | 2. 45 Righteous and God says yes. |
| 3. 40 Righteous and God says yes. | 4. 30 Righteous and God says yes. |
| 5. 20 Righteous and God says yes. | 6. 10 Righteous and God says yes. |

Many believe that Abraham stopped at ten because he felt confident that within Lot’s family there would be at least ten righteous people.

However we know that Sodom was destroyed but Lot and his two daughters escaped. His wife, however, looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.

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#7. THE BIRTH OF ISAAC: (Ch. 21)

Gen 21:1 And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

Gen 21:2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

Gen 21:3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.

Gen 21:4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him.

Gen 21:5 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.

So Isaac is finally born and now Abraham and Sarah have their promised son. The _____ son.

However, Ishmael and Hagar weren't as excited about Isaac as Abraham and Sarah were.

Ishmael began to mock Isaac and laugh at him and pick on him because of his jealousy. Sarah saw it and didn't like what she saw so she asked Abraham to send Ishmael and Hagar away.

Gen 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

Gen 21:10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *even* with Isaac.

Gen 21:11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.

This is a type or a shadow of how that our old man is to be cast out for he is the son of a slave. Our new man is the one that will _____ the promise of Heaven and God's Kingdom.

Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Our old man and old nature is not allowed to inherit the kingdom of God. This is a right that belongs only to the new nature, or the one that was created after the image of God and in righteousness.

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God Promises to take care of Ishmael and Hagar because Ishmael is Abraham’s son.

Gen 21:12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Gen 21:13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he *is* thy seed.

#8. ABRAHAM’S WILLINGNESS to SACRIFICE ISAAC: (Ch. 22)

Gen 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*.

Gen 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only *son* Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Gen 22:3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

This test of Abraham’s faith is probably the most remarkable test of faith in all the Bible.

Abraham showed his supreme love for God by his obedience and _____ to give his son for Him.

The Scriptures tell us that Abraham was obedient to offer up his beloved son Isaac to God because he believed that if he did God was willing and able to raise him from the _____.

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,

Heb 11:18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

Heb 11:19 Accounting that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

What a man of faith and dedication this was.

One man said that “while Abraham was heading up Mt. Moriah with the cold wind of trial blowing in his face God was sending the Ram He had provided up the other side to meet them.”

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Many times it's the same with you and me. While we are headed into the cold winds of trial and difficulty, God is sending His provision to meet us at the top.

Gen 22:6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid *it* upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

Gen 22:7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?

Gen 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Gen 22:9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

Gen 22:10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

Gen 22:11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am* I.

Gen 22:12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me.

Gen 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

Gen 22:14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said *to* this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

Gen 22:15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

Gen 22:16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son*:

Gen 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Gen 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

#9 ABRAHAM'S DEATH: (Ch. 25)

Gen 25:5 And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac.

Gen 25:6 But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.

Gen 25:7 And these *are* the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years.

Gen 25:8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full *of years*; and was gathered to his people.