

Abraham

SLIDE 1 Abraham (Character studies show us how God deals with us and the character of God in dealing with us.)

Previously King David & Solomon and Adam and Eve, Noah and now today:

The life of Abraham is a story of great faith and times of a lack of faith like we all have. It also tells us of a God who makes promises and blesses our obedience.

SLIDE 2

1. Call to go to the Promised Land

God told Abraham to leave his country where they worshipped idols and go to the land of Canaan the promised land, soon to be called Israel. Abraham left by faith and took his nephew Lot.

SLIDE 3

2. God makes promises (Covenant)

God made an **unconditional eternal everlasting covenant with Abraham called the Abrahamic covenant**. While it is unconditional & guaranteed disobedience of the nation to worship other gods or idols cause God to chasten them or remove the blessing temporarily, but the promise is eternal and will happen in the end. **Deuteronomy 30:19** "Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

Covenant consists of: Unconditional & eternal or everlasting. Many descendants (ancestors) the land of Canaan (Israel) blessings, called to be a blessing to others, the whole world would be blessed as Jesus would be born a Jew and salvation for the world would come through Jesus.

The land of Israel today is only a small part of what God has promised and what they will receive when they turn to Jesus, most likely in the millennial reign and in the new earth.

SLIDE 4

3. A lack of faith

God promised them a son and many nations would come from this son (Genesis 17:16) but they were past child bearing age, plus God made them wait for 25 years after telling Abraham they were going to have a son. Abraham was 100 and Sarah was in her 90's when they eventually had a son.

Sarah while waiting had a lack of faith and told Abraham to have a baby with their servant girl Hagar which was not God's plan. The baby was named Ishmael and this is where the Arabic people came from. Sarah became jealous of Hagar and the baby and this lack of faith caused lots of problems which exist until today with the animosity of the Arabic people and the Jewish people.

Since Ishmael was Abraham's son God promised to bless him and many nations would come from him also. But God said in Genesis 16:12 that he would be wild, have problems with others and be against his half brothers Israel.

Two angels and the Angel of the Lord (Jesus) came to confirm with Abraham that the promise was still true of the coming of a baby boy. Sarah laughed when she heard it.

Abraham had another lack of faith when travelling. He told people Sarah was his sister instead of his wife as he thought they would kill him so they could have Sarah as their wife because she was so beautiful. A King took her into his harem but later found out she was Abraham's wife and gave her back to him upset because he could have committed adultery.

SLIDE 5

4. Isaac is born

Isaac was finally born when Sarah was 90 and Abraham was 100. One part of the beginning of the Abrahamic covenant.

From Isaac would come Jacob who God renamed Israel and he had 12 sons who were the 12 tribes of Israel.

From Israel's line, Jesus the Savior would be born who would be a blessing to the whole world.

SLIDE 6

5. Sodom & Gomorrah

Abraham's nephew Lot lived in Sodom and Gomorrah a very wicked place. God told Abraham He was sending the destroying angels to destroy the city and he asked to get his nephew Lot and family out. Upon the angels arrival the men of the city wanted to have sex with them. The angels blinded them.

Abraham bargained with God and got down to if there are 10 righteous people would God spare it, there were not, so God destroyed these cities.

Ezekiel 16:49-59 "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.

- Sin progresses if left unchecked as we will see...

Jude 1:7 And don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment.

SLIDE 7

6. Sacrifice your only son

God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son, the son in which many of the promises are supposed to come through, think how hard that would be. But Abraham trusted God and believed God could bring him back from the dead (Hebrews 11:19). So he raised his knife to cut his throat and God said wait, don't do it, I will provide myself a sacrifice and just then a ram was caught in the thickets. God ultimately did provide Himself a sacrifice once and for all, Jesus.

SLIDE 8 **Apply it:** When God tells you to do something hard will you do it? Whatever God calls you to do He will provide the strength and resources to do it, you just have to trust and obey.

Sometimes God asks us to do things that don't make sense like Abraham sacrificing his son, but God is looking for our obedience even when it does not make sense. God will bless your obedience and you will experience all God has for you, but it takes faith and obedience.

Waiting is hard, we need to make sure while waiting we don't take things into our own hands or look at the circumstances to make decisions. Many bad choices are made when we look at the circumstances instead of find and waiting for God's will. It starts with daily obedience

SLIDE 9 Transition to the gospel - God offers you a promise too, called the New Covenant.

He promises us a new heart, a new life, forgiveness of sin, the hope of heaven and eternal life.

To receive this promise you must:

- Realize you have sinned
- Believe that Jesus paid the penalty for your sin upon the cross, death and resurrection from the dead.
- Repent- change your mind about your sin and agree with God that it is wrong.
- Do you realize you have sinned, do you believe Jesus paid your penalty?

Questions

2nd prizes

1. God made a promise or Covenant with Abraham - what was it called? Abrahamic covenant.
2. What is 1 of the promises in this covenant? Unconditional, eternal or everlasting, many descendants, land of Canaan (Israel), blessing, all nations would be blessed through it because of Jesus, that they would be a blessing to others.
3. God promised Abraham a son while waiting - what did they do that was a lack of faith? Had a child through their servant girl Hagar and the boy's name was Ishmael.
4. What was Abraham's nephew named? Lot
5. What did God do to Sodom & Gomorrah? Destroy it by fire

1st prize

6. Why did God destroy Sodom & Gomorrah? They did exceedingly wicked things
7. What great test of faith did God give Abraham? He asked him to sacrifice his only son.
8. What did God do so Abraham did not have to sacrifice his son? Provided a sacrifice.