

Abraham

The Man of Faith

Objectives

To understand why Abraham was chosen by God to be the father of His chosen people and to learn life lessons from him

References

- ❖ http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/871201_Abraham.html
- ❖ <http://www.keyway.ca/htm2002/abraham.htm>
- ❖ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham#Significance>

Scriptural Verse

“Because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes and my laws” (Genesis 26:5)

Introduction

Abram was born in Ur of the Chaldeans, located in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley region. From Ur, Abram and his family moved to Haran, about 600 miles (975 kilometers) to the northwest. There, at the age of 75, he received his calling from God:

”The Lord had said to Abram: Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:1-3)

Abram obediently left for Canaan (today Israel) with his family, including his wife Sarai (later renamed Sarah) and his nephew Lot. He traveled down through the land, Shechem, Bethel, Ai, and right south toward the Negev. During that time The Lord appeared to him and told him that, “To your offspring I will give this land” (Genesis 12:7).

Lesson Outlines:

- ❖ Abraham may be looked upon as the starting-point or source of Old Testament religion. So that from the days of Abraham men were accustomed to speak of God as the God of Abraham.
- ❖ Although all bloodline Jews of today are descended from him, Abraham's son Isaac, had a son Jacob (who was renamed Israel), who had 12 sons (from whom came The Tribes of Israel), one of which was Judah, from whom came the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Our father Abraham observed the entire Torah before it was given to Israel. He was a man of faith. He loved God and worshiped Him even when his father was

idols maker. Judaism, Christianity and Islam are sometimes referred to as the "Abrahamic religions", because of the progenitor role Abraham plays in their holy books. In the Jewish tradition, he is called *Avraham Avinu* or "Abraham, our Father".

- ❖ For Muslims, he is a prophet of Islam and the ancestor of Muhammad through his other son Ishmael - born to him by his wife's handmaiden, Hagar. Abraham is also a progenitor of the Semitic tribes of the Negev who trace their descent from their common ancestor Sheba (Genesis 10:28).
- ❖ Abraham's faith was revealed through many tests of faith; the most difficult of them was when God asked him to sacrifice his only son Isaac to Him. The imagery of a father sacrificing his son is seen as a type of God the Father offering his Son on Calvary.
- ❖ Abraham's obedience to God rewarded him and his offspring a great promise from God "through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed Me" (Genesis 22:16-18).
- ❖ The promise in Genesis is considered to have been fulfilled through Abraham's seed, the Lord Jesus. It is also a consequence of this promise that Christianity is open to people of all races and not limited to Jews.

Conclusion

Abraham had many tests of faith and obedience to God that granted him many of God's promises which were all fulfilled. Therefore, we should read and learn of all the promises of God to us in the Bible and trust and await their fulfillment by faith.

Activities/Discussion Points

Divide the group into 3 smaller workshop groups. Let every group choose one of the tests of faith that our father Abraham had experienced and discuss the actions of our father Abraham through these tests of faith and what lessons to be learned from them.