

Abraham

By David Phillips

Introduction

1. There are few characters in the Bible that show such a clear and motivating example of faith as Abraham.
2. In the New Testament we learn that Abraham's faith was such that he is said to be the father of all who believe unto salvation: "*Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham*" (Gal. 3:7).
3. Therefore it is essential to our faith as Christians that we know the life of Abraham and are able to see and recall the kind of faith he had.

Discussion

I. Who Was Abraham?

- A. He lived in Ur of the Chaldeans with his father (Gen. 11:27-30).
 1. This was the area around modern day Iraq and Kuwait, near the Persian gulf.
 2. Abraham was born about 292 years after the great flood.
 3. Within that amount of time (from God purifying the earth with the flood to the days of Abraham) men had already begun to practice idolatry and practice the very evil that God destroyed 300 years earlier (Josh. 24:2).
 4. But God called Abraham with his family, including his father, out of Ur of the Chaldeans to the land of Canaan.
 5. Read Gen. 11:31-32.
- B. While in Haran God called Abraham away from his Family.
 1. First Abraham left his homeland with his father.
 2. Now, God is asking Abraham to leave his father and to be a wonderer.
 - a. In Gen. 12 we read of the covenant that God made with Abraham and the promised of three great things that would be done for him.
 - i God would give the land of Canaan to his descendents.
 - ii He would cause his see (or descendants) to become a great nation).
 - iii And in his seed (through Christ), God would bless all nations.
 - b. Throughout Abraham's journeys we learn more of this covenant.
 3. Many people today find it hard to leave their families in order to move to a different part of the country. But consider Abraham who not only left that which was familiar to him as well as his father, but where he was going he wasn't going to make himself a home. .
 4. God called Abram to give up any thought of a stationary life in order to be a wonderer, a sojourner, a pilgrim in a land that was strange to him. Read Hebrews 11:8-10.
 5. Notice, however, that God did not have him wonder for nothing. God gave Abraham a reason, something to hope in. Read Gen. 12:1-9.
 6. Hebrews 11:10 says that he waited for a city whose builder and maker was God. He had greater things to hope for than a physical home. He had a spiritual home that He trusted in and that he longed for.
 7. When he began his wondering he had with him his nephew Lot.
 - a. Lot was with him as he went through Canaan for the first time.

- b. He continued with him as they traveled down to Egypt due to the famine that was in the land.
 - c. As they returned from Egypt and approached the Dead Sea Lot and Abraham split up.
 - d. There seemed to be some contention between their herdsmen so they thought it best that they split peaceable (Gen. 13:5-7).
 - e. Lot saw that the land toward the east was good so he traveled that direction, near the Dead Sea and he pitched his tent as far south as Sodom, which would have been somewhere near the southern end of the Sea.
8. Abram continued to wonder in the land as a sojourner.
 9. There was a time when some kings in the area attacked the region where Lot was and took him captive. So Abraham went in and rescued him (Gen. 14:13-16).
 10. Afterward Abram met Melchizedek, who was king of Salem as well as a priest of the Almighty God. Salem was located in the same place as Jerusalem in the days of the Israelite nation.
 11. After these events, when Abram was 85 years old and Sarai was about 59 years old she had still bore Abraham no children so they decided to take matters into their own hands.
 - a. Sarah gave her maid servant, Hagar, to Abraham so that he could have children through her. She gave birth to Ishmael (Gen. 16:1ff).
 - b. But we will find that that was not the way God intended to do things.
 - c. Sarai was only 60 when she gave Hagar to bear children for Abraham. But God would wait until she was 75 years old before He would allow her to give birth to a son.
 - d. In Gen. 17:1ff, when Abraham was 99 years old, God appeared to him to tell him that Sarai was going to bear him a son.
 - e. It was also at that Time that Sarai's name was turned to Sarah (Gen. 17:15-16).
 - f. And Abram's name was changed to Abraham (Gen. 17:5).
 12. So, while Abraham continued to be a sojourner, he remained faithful to the Lord.
 13. Sarah Gave birth to Isaac.
 14. Later on, when Isaac was a young lad, God tested Abraham by telling him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice on an altar. Abraham's faith in God was so strong that he was willing to do it, even though God had already promised to make a great nation through Isaac (Gen. 22).
 15. But God, seeing Abraham's faith, did not cause him to go so far as to actually kill Isaac.
 16. When God was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah Abraham interceded for them and pleaded with God that they would not destroy the cities for the sake of even ten righteous people. Ten righteous could not be found, so the cities were destroyed.
 17. Abraham lived passed the death of his wife Sarah and he buried her.
 18. He later married again and bore six other children by Keturah.
 19. He lived to be an age of 175 years old.
- C. As a sojourner he continually put his faith in God.
1. As he traveled God would speak things to him to give him glimpses of the promises that awaited him.
 - a. Gen. 12:7: *"Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, 'To your descendants I will give this land.' And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him."*
 - b. Gen. 13:14-17:
 - c. Gen. 15:5-6:
 2. There were times, however, that Abraham tried to do things his own way by relying on his own wisdom. But he learned, as we should, that our way is not the best way.

II. The Faith of Abraham

- A. By faith he obeyed (Heb. 11:8ff).

- B. He believed the covenant of God.
- C. He believed when God told him that he would have a great nation.
- D. He obeyed the commandments of God when God told him to offer his son believe that God would raise him from the dead.
- E. He believed to the point that he was willing to wander his whole life.
- F. He believed to the point that he was willing to try and have children even though He was 99 years and Sarah was 75 years and her whom was barren up to that point.

III. His faith was “Accounted to Him for Righteousness”

- A. Rom. 4:3: Some people use this passage to say...
- B. James 2:23: But James also uses this passage and shows us that Paul was not saying that at all
- C. What do we know about the Faith of Abraham?
 - 1. That He was faithful to God when he left the land of his kin (Ur of the Chaldeans) with is Father.
 - 2. That he had faith when he obeyed God by leaving his father in Haran to be a sojourner and pilgrim in the land of Canaan.
 - 3. That he had faith when God told him that His descendants would become a great nation, even though Sarah was barren until she was seventy-five years old.
 - 4. He had faith when God told him that he would have a son at the age of ninety nine.
 - 5. What was the nature of his faith?
 - a. The Hebrew writer says that “*By faith Abraham obeyed...*” ([Heb. 11:8](#)).
 - b. God told Isaac, Abraham’s son, that he made his covenant with Abraham “...*because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws*” ([Gen. 26:5](#)).
- D. What else can we conclude that Abraham’s faith was accounted to him for righteousness because “By faith he obeyed.”

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