

# *The Life of Abraham*

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Genesis 11:27-32 Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. But Sarai was barren; she had no child. And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

- I. Abraham's life is an example of how a patient and longsuffering God works to develop a poor creature of a man into a soul that can be called the friend of God.
  - A. It is a process that requires time and the passing through many experiences.
  - B. If this was true of Abraham, then it is surely true of every person.
  - C. Abraham was a very special person in the history of the world and had more of an impact on humanity than probably any other man who ever lived, besides Christ himself.
  - D. Yet he did not start out as a spiritual superman, but just like all the rest of us.
  - E. He was 70 years old when first began to obey the call of God.
  - F. He was 100 years old before God put the baby Isaac in his arms.
  - G. He was much older than that before he finally settled for good in the place where God had told him to go.
  - H. The work of God takes time, so it is wise to get started when we are young.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Psalms 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

- II. Abraham's life started just like everyone else's.
  - A. He was born into a family and had brothers, and no doubt sisters.
  - B. He took a wife, just like his brother did, and everyone else did.
  - C. But from this point things started to be different in Abraham's life.
  - D. He had no children because Sarah was barren, so his life was different than his brethren, who had children.
- III. Abraham was called by God and dealt with in a special way.

Genesis 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:

- A. The Bible seems to teach that Abraham's father was not the spiritual man that Abraham was,

Joshua 24:2 And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

- B. But Abraham's call and his walk with God must have had some influence on him because he took his family and left Ur of the Chaldees and went to Haran.

- C. The Bible does not say here that Nahor went with them, but either he went with them or he followed later because Abraham's servant went to Haran to find Rebekah for Isaac years later.
- D. The preaching of Stephen in the New Testament gives a little more light about Abraham's call to leave his country, his kindred, and his father's house.

Acts 7:2-4 And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran, And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

- E. It appears that Abraham's attachment to his family was a hindrance to his obeying the call of God.
  - 1. Only when his father was dead did he comply, and then he still took Lot with him.

#### IV. So Abraham has obeyed God and went into the land of Canaan.

Genesis 12:4-5 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. 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.

- A. Each time that Abraham obeyed what God had said God either spoke to him or appeared unto him.

Genesis 12:7-8 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. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

- 1. As the worldly influence decreased the godly influence increased.
  - 2. Each step Abraham took away from his kindred and the influence of his past, took him one step closer to God and a better relationship with Him.
  - 3. This is the first time God has appeared unto a man.
  - 4. This is also the first mention of Abraham building an altar.
  - 5. This is spiritual progress; this is a closer walk with God.
  - 6. This shows that Abraham has better knowledge and a clearer understanding of God.
- B. So thus far Abraham has heard God speak to him, believed, obeyed, saw God appear to him, and has received the promises of God concerning himself and his posterity.
  - 1. Abraham is not playing religion or handling spiritual things lightly.
  - 2. He has made a great sacrifice and separated himself as God has commanded – almost.

Genesis 12:9-10 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south. 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.

- 3. But he still has Lot with him, and it is possible that the influence of Lot had something to do with his "going on still toward the south" and ending up in a mess in Egypt.
  - 4. Obviously, from what we know about Lot, he was the one with an eye for worldly riches and fellowship.

#### V. It is obvious that Abraham was not at peace going into Egypt.

- A. He was expecting trouble because he came up with a scheme to try to keep from getting killed there because of his wife.
- B. The great failure of Abraham was in going down into Egypt in the first place.

1. He would not have ended up in Egypt if he had not "journeyed, still going on still toward the south."
2. He left Bethel (the house of God) and went to the world because of the famine.
- C. This is a common way in which many people get derailed and shipwrecked in their spiritual lives.
  1. When there is a famine in the house of God they drift out into the world and find their sustenance and pleasure there.
  2. And many end up losing their wives and families in the process.
  3. It is better to stay in the house of God and wait out the famine - it will not last forever.
- D. God, in his mercy, protected Abraham and Sarah in Egypt in spite of it all and they were thrust out by the Egyptians.
  1. The world will never accept you if you are a true child of God, so you should not seek to be involved with them.

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

- E. When Abraham left Egypt he was rich, and so was Lot.

Genesis 13:1-2 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

1. This is the first time that it is mentioned that Abraham was rich.
- F. He is rich but headed back to where he started, and the riches are a hindrance to him now.
  1. The things he gathered out of the world are the source of grief and trouble to his household now.

Genesis 13:3-4 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

2. When Abraham got back in the place God wanted him to be Lot had to be separated from him.
3. This is an example of how all things work together for good for them that love God - it was the riches that forced them to separate.
- G. Now Abraham is finally again at a point to go forward with God and so the Lord speaks to him again.

Genesis 13:14-18 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee. Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

1. This is Abraham's second altar that he built – he still has one more to build.
2. The third and final altar is in Genesis 22:

Genesis 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.