

Lesson No. 5

Abraham

References:

Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

Objectives:

General:

Specific:

1. The uniqueness of Abraham's character
2. Through faith and obedience a man can be very close to God Afriend@
3. God condemns homosexuality as in the story of Sodom and Gonorrhea

Instructions:

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Bible Verse:

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.@

(Ps 1:1)

Lesson:

Abraham (The Man of Faith)

A'BRAHAM (a'bra-ham; "father of a multitude") 2161 B.C.

Why was Abraham Blessed:

In the parable Jesus said about Lazarus and the rich man he said AAnd it came to pass that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom@(Luke 16:22) The Jews used to boast of that they are Abraham's sons. One must stop and think, *why does Abraham have that very special place in the history of religion on earth?!!*

Why was God's covenant was with Abraham and his descendent? **Why was he that very**

blessed man?

The answer is very simple as he had been the subject of great tests and in all of them (no matter how hard they were) he proved to be successful, obedient and trusting in God. The answer remains in Abraham's character:

1. Obedience

\$ God ordered him when he was more than seventy years of age, "Now the Lord said to Abram, Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you" (Gen 12:1).. He left his brother Nahor's family and departed, taking with him Lot, probably regarded as his heir, and all his substance, to go "not knowing where he was going" (Heb 11:8). For, in those days of slow transit, imperfect communication, and weak geographical knowledge, the mere name of a country several hundred miles distant would convey almost no idea of the country itself. Being of that old age with no idea of where he is going or what kind of a language they were speaking was not an easy thing to do BUT Abraham Obeyed.

\$ The increased wealth of Abraham and Lot became the cause of their separation. The country did not furnish sufficient pasture for the flocks and herds of both Abraham and Lot. He gave the choice of locality to Lot, who selected the most prosperous land. Being an old man and the uncle of Lot he could have chosen the best land where he will not exert an effort but he didn't. And when Lot was in danger he took his men and went and saved from captivity (Gen 14:1-12)

2. Unlimited faith and trust in God:

\$ When Abraham was one hundred years old, and Sarah ninety, the long-promised heir was born, (Isaac) 2061 B.C. Here occurred the hardest test of Abraham's faith and his final years. Abraham's Great Trial (Gen 22:1-25:11), When Isaac was nearly grown (twenty-five years old,) God subjected Abraham to a terrible trial of his faith and obedience. He commanded him to go to Mt. Moriah (perhaps where the Temple afterward stood) and there offer up Isaac, whose death would nullify all his hopes and the promises. The altar was built and Isaac placed upon it. The uplifted hand of the father was arrested by the angel of Jehovah, and a ram caught in the thicket was substituted for Isaac. Abraham called the name of the place Jehovah-jireh

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A very special man:

God's visit to him:

\$ Abraham was favoured, *with an interview with God*. Sitting in his tent door under the oaks of Mamre he saw three travellers approaching and offered them his hospitality, according to oriental custom. These three persons were, doubtless, the "Angel of Jehovah" and two attending angels. The promise of a son by Sarah was renewed, and her incredulity rebuked. .

A discussion with God:

\$ By the end of this visit by God to Abraham, The Lord revealed to him the coming judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah; and then followed that wondrous pleading in behalf of the cities (Gen 18). This story about Sodom and Gomorrah showed two main

points:

- \$ 1. ***God can have a very special relation with the human being.*** Abraham was what we can say God's Afriend@ that he didn't hide anything. When he decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah he told Abraham about that and he even allowed him to discuss this issue, as Abraham begged if they are fifty men God won't destroy the city, then he said 30 then he said 10 and God listened to him in all of these arguments.

- \$ 2. ***God condemns homosexuality.*** This is apparent in the judgment God has passed on Sodom and Gonorrhoea Abraham rose early the next morning to see the fate of the cities and saw their smoke rising "up as the smoke of a furnace" (19:27-29), 2063 B.C.

Abraham died when he was 175 years old and God kept his promise for him and blessed Isaac and Jacob after Isaac and through his descendent Jesus was born.

Conclusion:

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