

The Life of Abraham—The Journey Begins

Credits

In this study on the Life of Abraham, various resources were used. A debt of gratitude and credit goes to the following for their outstanding work to help Christians grow.

Dr. Charles Swindoll—Abraham

Dr. J. Vernon McGee—Through The Bible

Dr. Harold L. Willmington Willmington’s Guide to the Bible

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The Journey Begins

In the previous chapter we looked at Abram’s lineage and marriage, now we begin to walk with him as God begins to direct his life. Like most journey’s there are beautiful paths to follow but then there will spots that are difficult and even perilous. So it is with every life.

Genesis 12:1-3

(1) Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

(2) I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

(3) I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

In my college year, I was introduced to the wonderful writings of J.R.R Tolkien. In his first book, The Hobbit. A very common and plain individual named “Bilbo Baggins” had his life interrupted by a wizard who peaks his curiosity which leads to many adventures. Perhaps Abram, or as we know him by the name Abraham, was curious too. He really wanted to know God and believe in Him and see where His paths would lead. Abraham was spiritually a child, He needed to learn some lessons along the way. Let’s get our walking sticks out and begin our journey too.

The GPS has become an invaluable tool for travel. You can plan your trip, see the route ahead of you, know how long it will take and some of them warn you of problems ahead. It will even talk to you and let you know ahead of time when to turn or if you missed your turn, how to get back on the right path. God’s GPS is slightly different. He says “Go...to a land that I will show you”. Just trust him. It’s natural for us when we are driving to want to be in control but in this journey of life, it’s best to let God be in control. Our direction is found in

Proverbs 3:5,6.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Inside this study guide

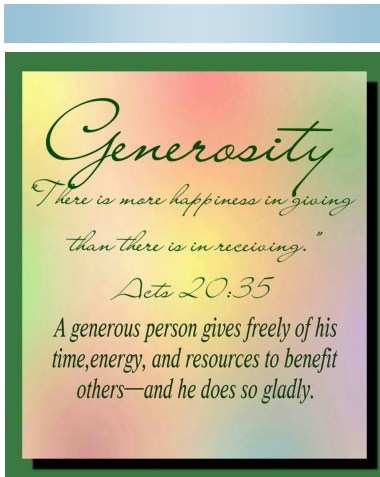
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From Ur, Abraham traveled **700 miles** to the borders of present-day Iraq, another 700 miles into Syria, another 800 down to Egypt by the inland road, and then back into Canaan - what is now Israel.



Abraham's Generosity

Greatness & Generosity

When God chose Abraham, He wasn't looking for perfection. God looks far deeper than man has the ability to see. He sees the humbleness of the heart and the willingness to Trust and Obey!



Abraham's Greatness



Faith will lead us to Christ

ABRAHAM WAS A GREAT MAN—BUT HE WASN'T PERFECT

Abram's Greatness

ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS

Judaism, Christianity and Islam

These three religions have their roots in Abraham



Abraham's Greatness

While it is true that Abraham was a great man, he was far from perfect. God tested him some four times and each time Abraham failed. What was it about that him that made him so great?

1. He was Great in Character. James 2:23
2. He was Great in Generosity. Genesis 13
3. He was Great in Faith. Hebrews 11:8-10
4. He was Great because **God** made him Great. Genesis 12:2

It is on this last point we dwell for a moment. Abraham's faith was renown! Hebrews chapter eleven records this and also in the book of Romans.

For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS." (Romans 4:3)

The three main religions of the world are rooted in the faith of Abraham. Only Christianity is built on the Rock, the living Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. This is where faith will lead us, into the loving arms of Christ Jesus.

that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

(Galatians 3:14)

Abraham's Generosity

One does not have to look any farther than the story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13. Abraham wanted peace and gave the choice to Lot to choose where he and his people would live. God saw this generosity and blessed Abraham for it. Lot chose Sodom and Gomorrah out of selfishness instead of gratitude. Abraham was *grateful* to God and built him an altar. Lot, on the other hand, was *greedy*.



Haran (also Harran) is located 28 mi. [45 km.] south-southeast of Sanliurfa in an open plain ar-

Abraham's Obedience and Disobedience

God's covenant with Abram was Unconditional

Abraham was raised in Idolatry but saw independently that it was wrong.

Abraham's Obedience and Disobedience

Genesis 12:4-6

(4) So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

(5) Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.

(6) Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.

Like many of us, Abraham started off the right way. He departed just like God told him too. By our reckoning, he was already advanced in years. It was not only a journey to a destination, but also to increase his faith and trust in God. He was told by God in Genesis 12:1 to get out from his family and father's house and go where God will show him to go. Instead, he took Lot with him, also Terah, his father. This was disobedience. Family can be a blessing but also a hinderance in our walk with God. Especially when you have a direct command from the Lord concerning what He expects you to do. Joshua 24:2 gives us more insight into this.

Joshua 24:2

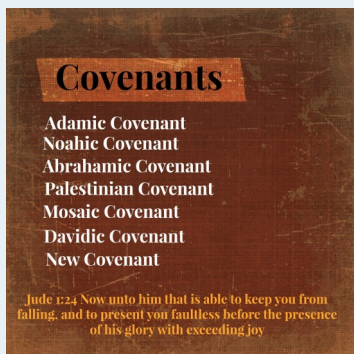
(2) And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.'

His father, Terah and others had dwelt on the other side of the flood and had worshiped false gods. God was separating them so He could teach Abraham alone without the distraction of the elders and their wrong beliefs. During his time in Haran, God did not speak to him. It was the place of delay. At least we have started this journey. He goes as far as the "Terebinth tree" the "Tree of Learning". I can imagine people gathering under this tree and being taught by the elders.

Are you hindered in your journey? Did you obey the Lord in what instruction He gave you?

Remove yourself from fellowship with people who would dissuade you from following the one true God

God's Covenant



God's Covenant

After Abraham's delay he finally get's back to where God was sending him. Here's what happens.

Genesis 12:7-9

(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.

(8) And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

(9) So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

God had not spoken to Abraham since he was delayed but now that he is back on the journey and heading South, God speaks a covenant with him. We will deal more with covenants when we get to Genesis 15, suffice to say that there are basically two types of Covenants.

1. **Unconditional Covenant**—A covenant that does not require any action on our part.
2. **Conditional Covenant**—A covenant that requires us to do something as well.

This unconditional covenant in Genesis 12 is totally dependent on God. He promised it, He will provide and accomplish it by His power alone.

Notice that in Genesis 12:7, 8 Abraham begins leaving altars built for God along the way. It's his testimony that He worships the one true Living God.

Abraham's Testimony

*What kind of
Testimony will you
leave behind?*



Abraham's Testimony

Notice that in Genesis 12:7, 8 Abraham begins leaving altars built for God along the way. It's his testimony that He worships the one true Living God. By following God, one puts his "all" on the altar. Everywhere Abraham went, each new place, he would pitch his tent and build an altar to God. When we move into a new community, subdivision, after we "pitch our tent" we should make our testimony for God known! There is no glory for God in a secret Christians life. I was save in 1970 and the first thing my best friend and I did was go door to door telling people about Jesus. No one told us to do that. It came from our hearts because we were excited that we were going to heaven. When a person becomes a Christian, they will want to

live for the Savior who died for them.

*And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and
this life is in His Son.*

(1 John 5:11)

*For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we
conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity,
not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly
toward you.☒*

(2 Corinthians 1:12)

Growing in Christ

What we have learned in this lesson?

- Obey God's instructions. Not obeying God will cause delays.
- Delaying the journey with God brings only silence from God.
- Your Character, Generosity and Faith are seen by others.
- Know that because we are human we will fail God. Pick yourself back up and continue the journey.
- Satan cannot steal a Christian's soul so he is out to destroy your Testimony for God.
- God's covenant is based on His Power and Grace and the finished work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary

SINNER'S PRAYER

Dear God, I know that I'm a sinner and I need a Savior. I want to turn away from my sinful life to the life You have planned for me. Please forgive me for my sins. Cleanse me of my past, make me new. I know Your Son, Jesus Christ died for me. I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. At this very moment, I accept, confess, and proclaim Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior... to live in my heart from this day forward. Thank you Jesus for Your Grace that has saved me from my sins and has given me eternal life. Please send Your Holy Spirit to guide me, and to help me do Your will for the rest of my life, in Jesus name Amen

How Can I Go to Heaven?

1. Realize you're a sinner.

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE;

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2. Know God loves you.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. God's love is through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. Confess, Believe, Accept.

Rom 10:9,10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13 For "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."