

ABRAHAM: FRIEND OF GOD
Hebrews 11:8-10

Introduction:

1. If one were to name the ten most influential men in history, Abraham would certainly be near the top of the list.
 - a. He is honored by Christians, Jews and Muslims.
 - b. Both Jews and Arabs are descended from him.
 - c. He is called “the friend of God” in the Bible (James 2:23).
 - d. Of all the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, only Abraham is listed twice.
 - e. He is the outstanding example of saving faith in the Bible (Romans 4; Hebrews 11; James 2).
 - f. Jews are the physical descendants of Abraham, but Christians are the true children of Abraham (Galatians 3:26-29).
 - g. Christ is the Seed of Abraham in whom all people of the earth are blessed (Genesis 12:3; 22:18; Galatians 3:16).

2. Abraham was in the lineage of Christ through Seth, Noah, Shem, etc.
 - a. His father, Terah, was an idolater (Joshua 24:2).
 - b. The true knowledge of God was still in the world (cf. Melchizedek; Genesis 14:18-20).
 - c. Abraham’s wife, Sarah, was his half sister (Genesis 20:11,12).

3. Abraham was born around 2100 BC in Ur, one of the oldest cities in the world.
 - a. It was a major city in Abraham’s day.
 - b. It was located on the Euphrates River near the Persian Gulf.
 - c. Sir Leonard Woolley excavated the site in the early 1900’s.
 - d. The city walls were 80 feet high and 70 feet thick.
 - e. Two story brick homes, schools and temples were found.
 - f. The city had running water and underground sewers.
 - g. The moon god, Sin, and his goddess, Ishtar, were worshipped.

Discussion:

- I. **GOD CALLED ABRAHAM IN UR OF CHALDEES (Acts 7:2-4).**
 - A. The call contained a command to Abraham:

“Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you” (Genesis 12:1).

B. It also contained several promises:

“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 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” (Genesis 12:2,3).

C. Abraham, Sarah, and Lot left Haran when Abraham was 75 years old after his father, Terah, had died (Genesis 12:4).

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going” (Hebrews 11:8).

II. ABRAHAM LIED ABOUT SARAH’S BEING HIS WIFE.

A. He feared he would be killed and Sarah taken for she was beautiful.

- 1. He asked her to say she was his sister (Genesis 12:10-13).**
- 2. She was indeed his half-sister (Genesis 20:11,12).**
- 3. A lie is a willful intent to deceive (Colossians 3:9).**

B. When Abraham came into Egypt, Pharaoh took Sarah into his harem (Genesis 12:14-20).

- 1. God sent plagues on Pharaoh’s house.**
- 2. He had not yet taken Sarah as his wife.**
- 3. He returned Sarah to Abraham and sent them out of Egypt.**

C. Later, Abraham told the same lie to Abimelech with the same results (Genesis 20:1-18).

D. The Bible is truthful, even revealing the sins of its greatest heroes.

III. ABRAHAM TOOK HIS NEPHEW, LOT, WITH HIM WHEN HE LEFT HARAN.

A. When they could no longer dwell together because of their herds, Lot chose to move toward Sodom (Genesis 13:5-13).

B. Kings from the east attacked Sodom and took Lot’s family captive (Genesis 14; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:5-7:28).

- 1. Abraham defeated them and rescued Lot.**
- 2. He paid tithes to Melchizedek and was blessed by him.**

IV. GOD PROMISED ABRAHAM HE WOULD HAVE A SON BY SARAH.

A. Abraham and Sarah were growing old and Sarah was barren.

- 1. Sarah proposed that Abraham have a child by her maid, Hagar (Genesis 16).**
- 2. A common practice then, it showed a lack of faith in God.**
- 3. Ishmael was born, but he was not the promised seed.**

B. When Abraham was 100 and Sarah 90, Isaac was born.

“And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform” (Romans 4:19-21).

V. GOD COMMANDED ABRAHAM TO OFFER UP ISAAC (Genesis 22).

A. Abraham must have felt two great conflicts:

- 1. He and Sarah must have dearly loved their son for whom they had waited for so long.**
- 2. God had promised Abraham that His promises would be fulfilled through Isaac.**

B. Abraham simply obeyed, leaving it up to God to solve the difficulties.

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense” (Hebrews 11:17-19).

Conclusion:

- 1. Abraham was the father of Israel through whom the Christ came.**
- 2. The land of Canaan was given to Abraham’s descendants (Joshua 23:14).**
- 3. Christ came of Abraham’s seed and blessed all nations (Galatians 3:16).**
- 4. We must have an obedient faith like Abraham’s to be saved (Gal. 3:26,27).**