

Abraham (Day 1)

Meaning of name: Father of many (or a multitude)

First mention in the Bible as Abram: Genesis 11:26

First mention in the Bible as Abraham: Genesis 17:5. Here God renamed Abram to Abraham.

Birth place: Not known specifically; his family was most likely nomadic. When God called him, he lived in a place known as "Ur of Chaldees" which is believed to be located in modern day Iraq.

Wives: Sarai, Hagar, Katura

Children: Ishmael, **Isaac**, Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, Shuah

Biblical significance - Is the patriarch of the nation of Israel; received a special covenant from God; practiced faith without sight.

Life span: 175 years

INFORMATION

The Bible's last word on Abraham is of tremendous value and purpose. Consider what James 2, verse 23 says of Abraham:

And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

God imputed righteousness to Abraham because of his belief. Also, God called Abraham his friend. God desires obedience from us, so that he can have a relationship with us just as he had with Abraham. Abraham is an excellent example for us to study and to emulate. Abraham exhibited qualities that many people never do: humility, meekness, faith, hope, brotherly love, wisdom, and a desire to seek God. Nevertheless, he was still a sinful man. But, his sin did not separate him from God because he always returned and called upon God. David was known as a man after God's own heart. Abraham was known as a Friend of God. These are great endorsements of God's complete and total forgiveness and atonement of sin.

MORE TO COME

Abraham is a central character in the Bible, so we will spend a few days learning about his life and how we can apply the lessons of his life to ours.

Relevant Passages

Genesis 18:19

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Hebrews 11:8-17

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

James 2:23

And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Abraham (Day 2)

GENESIS 15:6

And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

WHAT CAN OUR FAMILY LEARN FROM ABRAHAM

God made great promises to Abraham. One, he promised that he would be the father of many nations, and that, in him, all the people of the earth would be blessed. When Abraham died, he had not experienced the fulfillment of this promise. In fact, the fulfillment of this promise would not come for a very long time. Even so, Abraham was faithful to God, believed God's promises and taught his children to be faithful too. **We should learn to be patient and trust in God's promises, even when they seem to be very far away or nearly impossible.**

When Abram saved the king of Sodom, the king of Sodom offered to give Abram whatever he wanted. Abram declined. He stated that he would not let people say he was rich because of the king of Sodom. **In other words, he was not greedy or covetous. We should emulate this.**

When Melchizedek came to greet Abram after the defeat of Chedorlaomer, a battle that freed Lot, Abram gave Melchizedek tithes from all the spoils. **Abram was not sparing or lenient in how he gave, so let us not be.**

When confronted with a difficult family challenge involving Lot, his nephew, and strife between their workers Abram practiced humility and wisdom. Instead of Abram taking a position of dominance and demanding to have first choice, Abram allowed Lot to choose whatever part of the land he wanted. **Abram did not exercise pride, but exercised meekness, humility and brotherly love. We should do the same.**

Abraham spoke with God on many occasions. **We should speak with God often.**

Abraham built altars to God. These were unique places where Abraham would go to worship and to call upon the Lord. **We should build altars, not walls, between us and God. We can do this by setting aside specific times in private places where we can commune with God.**

On two separate occasions, Abraham lied to powerful men regarding Sarai. In both cases, he said that she was his sister, not his wife. He did this not only because she was beautiful, but because he was afraid of being killed. In both instances, Abraham showed a lack of faith, and, as a result, he sinned. Both times these wicked men pursued Sarai, and, both times, God protected Sarai. We see, here, that Abraham ended the ordeal by going to God. **When we sin, let us remember that God still protects us. So, let us not forget to return to God, quickly.**

Hebrews 11:10 tells us "For he [Abraham] looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." **We should be looking for the same city, the future temple that is the New Jerusalem.**

Relevant Passages

Romans 12:10-13

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; 11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; 12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; 13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

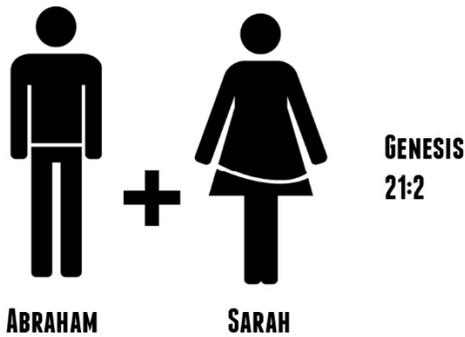
Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

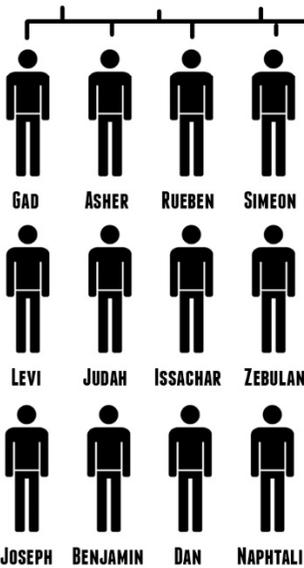
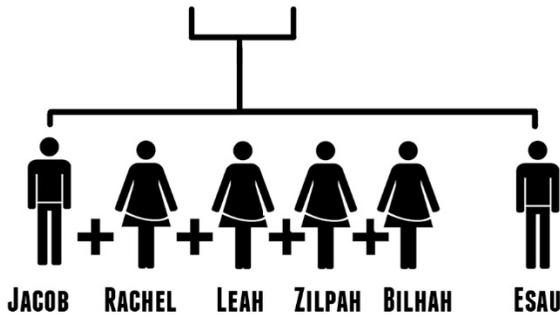
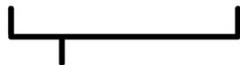
1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Abraham's Family Tree



GENESIS 21:2



The sons of Jacob represent the 12 tribes of Israel.

Esau is the father of the Edomites. Many scholars agree that the Edomites are the modern day Palestinians.

Jesus, through Mary his mother, was from the tribe of Judah.



GENESIS 16:4



It is from the union of Abraham and Hagar that we have our modern day Arab nations - through Ishmael.

After Sarah died Abraham married a 3rd wife named Keturah. Keturah gave birth to 6 sons of Abraham. These were: Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah.

GENESIS 17:5 “...FOR A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE THEE.”

GENESIS 22:18 “AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED; BECAUSE THOU HAST OBEYED MY VOICE.”

Biblical Timeline of Abraham in Genesis

