

THE GOSPEL STORY

Lesson 3 "And he believed the Lord"

Text Under Consideration: Genesis 12-22

Scriptural & Historical Context:

In the midst of sin and devastation, God made a promise that a time would come when He would redeem man; the seed of woman would one day bruise the head of Satan (Genesis 3.15). However, the next 2000+ years of human history (recorded in Genesis 3-11) passed with no sign of this redemption. Rather, man departed further into sin and a world-wide flood was God's means of punishing the wicked while saving righteous Noah and his family. Coming to Genesis 12 the narrative slows down as we learn about Abraham and the wondrous promises the Lord made to him. Chief of those promises was that in Abraham "all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12.3). God was starting to reveal how He would keep the promise He made in Genesis 3.15.

Note: we don't possess specific dates for the life of Abraham, but taking information from the rest of Scripture we can surmise that Abraham lived ~2000 years before Jesus was born. God chose to not reveal much regarding human history before Abraham, but with Abraham the narrative slows down considerably.

Key Verses & Events:

- 📖 God calls Abram to leave his country; makes promises that Abram would become a great nation, inherit the promised land and ultimately bless all families (Genesis 12.1-3).
- 📖 God makes a covenant with Abraham, giving certainty that He would keep His word (Genesis 15).
- 📖 Isaac is born when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old (Genesis 21).

Creation
Genesis 1-2 · Undated

The Flood
Genesis 6-9 · c. 2350 BC (trad.)

Abraham
Genesis 12-25 · c. 2000-1800 BC

The Exodus
Exodus · c. 1446 or 1270 BC

Conquest of Canaan
Joshua · c. 1406-1380 BC

David's Reign
2 Samuel · c. 1010-970 BC

Babylonian Captivity
2 Kings 25 · c. 605-539 BC

Return from Captivity
Ezra, Nehemiah · c. 538-432 BC

Life of Jesus
Gospels · c. 6/4 BC – AD 30/33

Establishment of the Church
Acts 2 · c. AD 30/33 (Pentecost)

📖 Abraham's faith was tested when God commanded him to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22).

📖 "And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15.6).

The Story

1. God called Abraham even though he was an _____ man.
 - » May have worshipped _____ (Joshua 24.2).
 - » Resorted to _____ at times (Genesis 12.11-13; 20.13).
 - » Took matters into his own hands regarding his _____ (Genesis 16.1-3).
 - » _____ when promised a son in his old age (Genesis 17.17-18).
2. The distinguishing feature of Abraham was his _____ (Genesis 15.6).
 - » He believed in what he could not _____ (Hebrews 11.1).
 - » He _____ God despite his _____ (Romans 4.20).
 - » His faith prompted _____ (James 2.22).
3. Abraham's faith was counted as _____ (Genesis 15.6).
 - » Genesis 15 takes place in a setting of _____ (vss. 3,8).
 - » The Lord told Abraham that he could "know for _____" (vs. 13).
 - » The Lord assured Abraham by making a _____ (vs. 18).
 - » Righteousness = fulfilling covenant _____. Abraham's covenant obligation was _____.
4. The true _____ of Abraham are those who share his faith (Galatians 3.7-9).

For Further Consideration

1. Paul states that "those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith" (Galatians 3.9). What does it mean to have the same kind of faith as Abraham?
2. Read Hebrews 11.13-16. What reward was Abraham (and other people of faith) seeking?
3. Read Hebrews 11.17-19. What do we learn about Abraham's faith when it was tested?