

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Genesis 17:1-5.**
- B. Abraham was born in the Ur and moved to Harran, with his wife, father, 2 brothers, and nephew (Gen. 11:26-32).
- C. He had excellent relations with foreigners, as they respected him as one they could deal with as an equal.
- D. Abraham was wealthy with servants (14:14), and possessions (13:2).
- E. Tonight we will look at the life of Abraham in the following areas:
 1. His family.
 2. His character, and character flaws.
 3. His covenant that God made w/him.
 4. His "sacrifice" of Isaac.
 5. His NT significance.

I. ABRAHAM AND HIS FAMILY.

- A. Abraham traveled quite a bit through modern day Palestine, always building altars and worshipping God. His wife Sarah, his father Terah, his brothers Nahor and Harran, and his nephew Lot traveled with him (Gen. 11:26-32).
- B. Abraham treated Lot like an heir, giving him a share in the land until Lot decided to leave and go near Sodom (Gen. 13:8-13).
- C. At age 86 he had a son, Ishmael, by an Egyptian concubine, Hagar.
- D. At age 99, the promise of the family, nation, and law was repeated. Jehovah changed his name and gave Abraham the covenant sign of circumcision (17:9-16).
- E. Sarah died at the age 127, and was buried in a cave a Machpelah. Abraham later remarried, a woman named Keturah, by whom he had 5 more sons.
- F. After blessing Isaac, and giving him everything he owned, Abraham died at the age of 175 and was buried at Machpelah (Gen. 25:1-10).'

II. THE CHARACTER OF ABRAHAM.

- A. Abraham openly declared his faith in God. Abraham:
 1. Accepted the judgment of God upon sin (18:19; 20:11).
 2. Interceded with God in behalf of Ishmael (17:20).
 3. Interceded with God in behalf of Lot (18:27-33).
 4. Communed with God in a close fellowship (18:33; 24:40; 48:15).
 5. Was granted special revelations in visions (15:1).
 6. Messengers in human/angelic form (16:1-15).
 7. Abraham worshipped Jehovah (13:4).
 8. Built many altars in different places (12:8; 13:4,18).
 9. Was monotheistic amidst the polytheism of his day (Jo. 24:2).
- B. Two times Abraham told lies about Sarah:
 1. To the pharaoh of Egypt (12:11-13).
 2. To Abimelech of Gerar (20:2-11).
- C. Some have even considered the statement made to Isaac about the sacrifice to be deceptive (Gen. 22:8).
- D. Abraham's character is best summed up in the word "faith." He was always ready to obey God when God called him.

III. GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM.

- A. The land portion of the covenant was that Abraham and his descendants would possess the land from the Euphrates and southwest forever (Gen. 15:18-21).
- B. The family portion of the covenant was that Abraham's descendants would be as numberless as the grains of the earth (Gen. 13:16; 17:1-8).
- C. The deposit or token of this covenant was circumcision (Gen. 17:9-14).

IV. ABRAHAM AND ISAAC.

- A. The supreme trial of Abraham's faith came when he was asked to offer his son, Isaac, who was the only means whereby the divine promises concerning the covenant could be fulfilled (Gen. 22:1-19).
- B. Abraham had rationalized that if he did sacrifice Isaac, God could raise him back from the dead (Heb. 11:17-19).
- C. This incident makes Abraham the God-like figure in the OT. Moses is the Christ-like figure. Abraham is likened unto God here because God did sacrifice His own Son for the sins of the world. Abraham was willing to do the same.

V. ABRAHAM'S NEW TESTAMENT SIGNIFICANCE.

- A. In NT times Abraham was revered as the ancestor of Israel. He is the great father of the Jews (Mt. 3:9; Ac. 13:26).
- B. He is the great ancestor of the Levitical priesthood (Heb. 7:5).
- C. Abraham is a descendant and "a father" of the Messiah himself (Mt. 1:1).
- D. The NT speaks of the great covenant as an oath (Lk. 1:73), a covenant (Ac. 3:25), a promise (Rom. 4:13) and a blessing (Gal. 3:14).
- E. Gentiles become children of Abraham when they are baptized into X. Since Abraham received the promise by faith, Xians do also (Gal. 3:26-29).
- F. Abraham's faith was a type of that which leads to justification (Rom. 4:3-12).
- G. The life of Abraham is summarized in Acts 7:2-8.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Our lesson tonight was a brief biography of the life of Abraham.
- B. I wish there was more time to go deeper into the stories of Lot and Melchizedek.
- C. There are many great things about this man of God that we should imitate-especially his faith, which was reckoned to him to be righteousness (Gen. 15:6).
- D. Without faith it is impossible to please God and come to X.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.