

THE STORY OF
ABRAHAM

Part 1 - Abraham Introduced



HEROES OF FAITH SERIES

Period 4 - The Patriarchs

- **Genesis 11:27-50:26**
- ~2000 - 1500 BC
- 4 main characters -
Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
- Others include: Melchizedek, Esau, Lot, Ishmael, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah, 12 sons of Israel, etc.
- A time when God communicated directly through the fathers
(**cf. Hebrews 1:1-2**)

Abraham introduced

- Originally named Abram - exalted father
- Changed to Abraham - father of many peoples - **Genesis 17:5**
- Known as the father of Israel - **John 8:39, 53, Luke 1:73, James 2:21, etc.**
- Life recorded - **Gen. 11:27-25:11**
- He dies at 175 years old - **25:7-8**

Abraham introduced

- He is called:
 - “The friend of God” **James 2:23**
 - A prophet - **Genesis 20:7**
 - Mighty prince - **Genesis 23:6**
 - A servant of God - **Psalms 105:6**
 - Father of us all - **Romans 4:16**,
i.e., “Father of the faithful”

Abraham introduced

- 2nd most mentioned OT character in the New Testament (Moses #1, David #3)
 - 75x in 70 verses
- Described as “the father of faith”
 - A point of emphasis in the NT
 - Righteous faith, not of works -
 - Romans 4:1-3 (cf. Genesis 15:6)**
 - Faith by his works - **James 2:21-24 (cf. Genesis 15:6)**
- NOT contradictory when we understand how grace, faith and obedient works complement each other

Abraham introduced

- Other NT references:
- Genealogies - **Matthew 1:1, Luke 3:34, 2 Corinthians 11:22**
- Sacrificing Isaac - **Hebrews 11:17-19**
- Relationship with God -
Matthew 22:32, Acts 7:32,
“I am the God of Abraham...”
Hebrews 6:13ff - God made promises and covenants with him

Abraham introduced

- Other NT references:
- Paying tithes to Melchizedek - **Hebrews 7:1-4**
- The seed promise - **Galatians 3 (8x)**
- Relationship with Sarah - **1 Peter 3:6, also Hebrews 11:11-12**
- **Luke 16:22ff (6x)** - Lazarus in “Abraham’s bosom”

Genealogy of Abraham

- **Genesis 11:10-32**
- **11:10-26** - from Noah, through Shem to Terah who had 3 sons.
- This genealogy is similar to **Genesis 5**, and a continuation of the lineage of the seed promise from Adam to Jesus.
Ages given for the birth of the next in lineage, then how long he lived after.

Genealogy of Abraham

- **Genesis 11:10-32**
- **11:10-26** - from Noah to Abram
- Terah (**11:26**) - had 3 sons, Abram, Nahor and Haran, beginning at age 75.
- Abram was likely not the oldest, but for sake of record, the most important.
See **Gen. 11:32, 12:4** - Terah had to be around 130 before Abraham was born
 $205 - 75 = 130$

Genealogy of Abraham

- **Genesis 11:27-32**
- Terah moves his family from Ur of the Chaldeans to Haran
- **Acts 7:2** - God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldeans (Mesopotamia)
- **11:28** - Haran died while still in Ur
- **11:29** - Abram and Nahor took wives (Sarai & Milcah) before leaving Ur.
- **11:30** - Sarai was barren (and 10 years younger than Abram)
- **11:31** - They left Ur and came to Haran
- **11:32** - Terah dies at 205 years of age

The promise to Abraham

- **Genesis 12:1-9**

- **12:1** - The LORD appears to Abraham, “Get out of your country...”

Acts 7:2-4 - from Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamia was an advanced society for that time. Likely, Abram lived a comfortable life, but he was willing to leave it all at God’s word - **Hebrews 11:8**.

A test of faith - he passed!

Hebrews 11:8-16 - great faith in this.

The promise to Abraham

- **Genesis 12:1-9**
- **NOTE: Genesis 12:1-3** - A KEY passage of the Old Testament.
- A 3-fold promise
Land, nation and seed.
(actually 6 elements in the promise)
This text sets the foundation for the rest of scripture - both Old and New Testaments.

The promise to Abraham

- **Genesis 12:1-9**

- A 3-fold promise

Land - the LORD intended for Abram to live in Canaan

Genesis 12:7 - promised the land he was in. See also **Genesis 13:14-15, 15:18, 17:8** - the promise repeated and with more details

Fulfilled - when Canaan conquered by Israel (400-500 years later) - **Joshua 21:43-45**

The promise to Abraham

- **Genesis 12:1-9**
- A 3-fold promise
Nation - Abraham started small - just a few people. Within 4 generations, Jacob goes to Egypt with 70 souls (**Genesis 46:27**)
When they exit Egypt (Exodus) numbers are estimated between 1 and 2.5 million.
Deuteronomy 4:7-8 called a great nation in the wilderness.
Again, **Joshua 21:43-45**
NOTE: This refutes premillennialism

The promise to Abraham

- **Genesis 12:1-9**
- A 3-fold promise
 - Seed - 12:3** - All families of the earth blessed.
 - Genesis 22:18** - his “seed” mentioned
 - Galatians 3:5-9, 15-18** - establishes its fulfillment with Jesus dying for our sins.

The promise to Abraham

- **Genesis 12:1-9**
 - Other elements of the promise
 - Abraham blessed materially and spiritually
 - His name would be great
 - He would be a blessing (or curse) to others depending on how they treated him
- Abraham's life shows these consistently present

The promise to Abraham

- **Genesis 12:4-9**
- **12:4** - Abraham departs as the LORD instructed him.
 - he is 75 years old when he leaves Haran
 - the seed promise would be answered 25 years later - Plenty of time to develop and strengthen his faith.
 - **12:6** - They come to Moreh

The promise to Abraham

- **Genesis 12:4-9**
- **12:7** - the LORD appears to him again, repeats the land promise
- Abraham builds an altar there to the LORD
- **12:8-9** - he moves to a mountain between Bethel and Ai. Again, he built an altar to the LORD.

The promise to Abraham

- **Genesis 12:4-9**
- **12:7, 8** - building an altar.
- THIS was consistent with Abraham. The **FIRST** thing he would do is worship God.
- How important is worship to us, as we make life changing decisions? If you move, do you ensure there is a faithful church there? If not, what are your plans?
- **NOTE:** Abraham built altars to God, but **NEVER** do we read of him building a house for himself!

Famine in the land

- **Genesis 12:10-20**
- Records a severe famine in the land. Abram takes his family to Egypt. There we find he lies to Pharaoh and the Egyptians because of his beautiful wife and fear.
He was treated well by Pharaoh because of Sarai.
- But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house. He summons Abram, rebukes him and asks him to leaven.

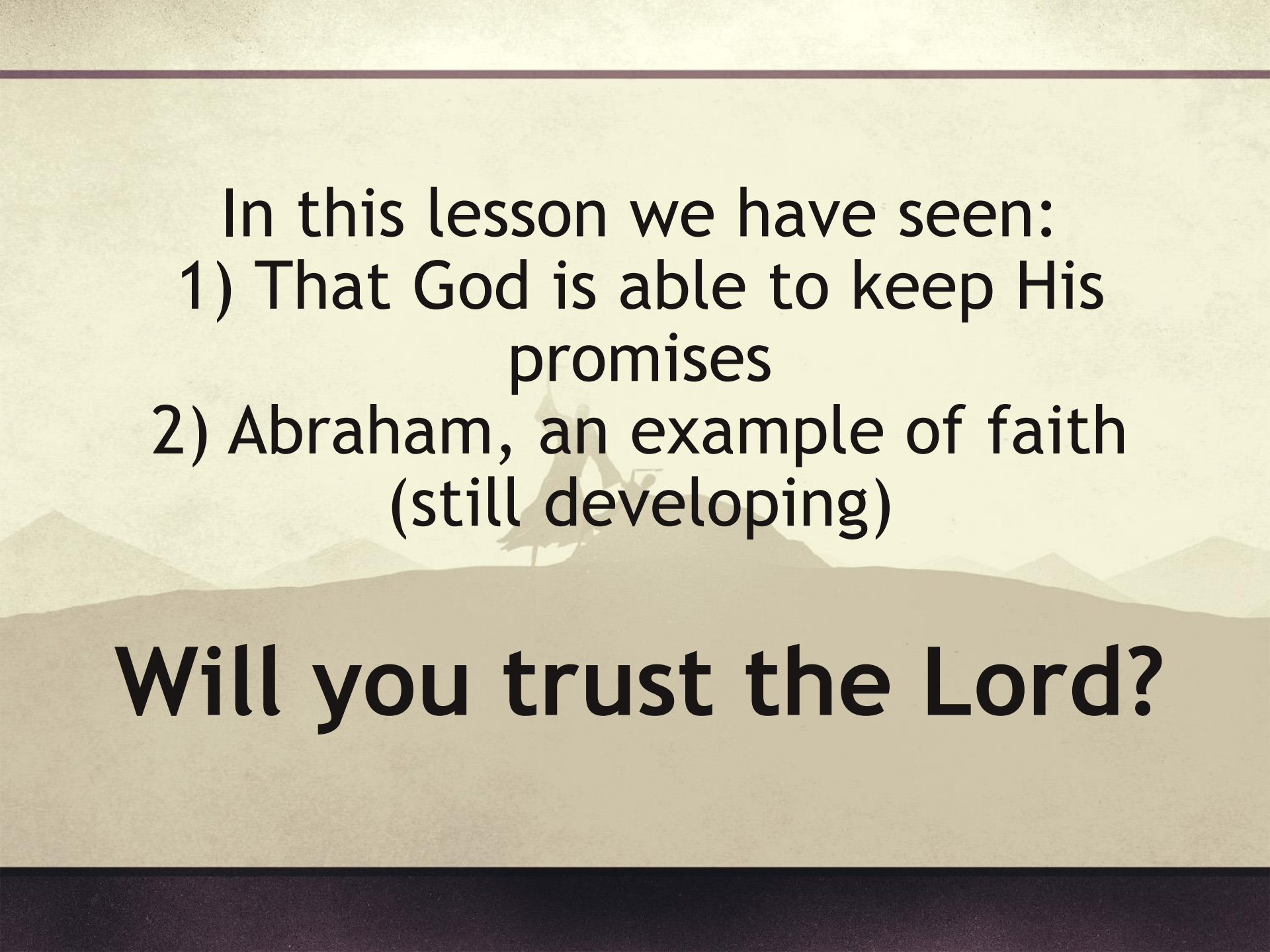
Famine in the land

- **Genesis 12:10-20**
- Concerning Abraham in Egypt, We find another test of Abraham's faith - would he trust God in a foreign land.

He FAILED this test!

But clearly it is not the end. The LORD was with him.

Do NOT interpret this as acceptable behavior before God. But God is patient, cf. **2 Peter 3:9**

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- In this lesson we have seen:
- 1) That God is able to keep His promises
 - 2) Abraham, an example of faith (still developing)

Will you trust the Lord?

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, holding a staff or scepter high in their right hand. The person is positioned in the center of the frame, with a large, dark, rounded shape behind them that suggests a hill or a large object. The background is a light, textured, yellowish-green color. The overall style is minimalist and symbolic.

Let us pray!