

THE STORY OF  
**ABRAHAM**

**Part 2 - Abraham is Tested**



Journey through the Bible (13)

# The Life of Abraham - Reviewed

- **Genesis 12-25**
- We are continuing our “Journey through the Bible”
- We are studying the 4<sup>th</sup> period (of 17), the patriarchs.
- In our last lesson, we were introduced to Abraham - His leaving Ur & Haran, and the promise YHWH made to him (**Genesis 12:1-7**)
- Today we will review the events of his life

# The life of Abraham Reviewed

- Because of His significance, we will begin with a review of the recorded events in Abraham's life  
In future lessons (3-4), we want to focus on events in relation to redemption (e.g. "Abraham believed God", Melchizedek, offering Isaac by faith, etc.)
- Today, we will look at some of the "tests" Abraham faced

# The life of Abraham Reviewed

- **Genesis 12:1-7** - the 3-fold promise (previous lesson)
  - **Genesis 12:8-20** - Abram goes to Egypt and deceives Pharaoh
  - **Genesis 13:1-18** - Abram & Lot in Bethel, dividing the land
  - **Genesis 14:1-17** - Lot is captured
  - **Genesis 14:18-24** - Melchizedek



# The life of Abraham Reviewed

- **Genesis 15:1-21** - The LORD makes a covenant with Abram, esp. **Vs. 6**  
Also 4 generations before it would happen  
(**13-14**)
  - **Genesis 16** - Ishmael is born to Hagar. Abram is 86 years old.
  - **Genesis 17** - Abram is 99 y/o and the LORD appears to him announcing his son. Circumcision a sign of the covenant
  - **Genesis 18:1-15** - Sarah, 89, laughs at the thought of a son. What was the difference between her and Abram?  
(**17:17-18**)

# The life of Abraham Reviewed

- **Genesis 18:16-33** - Destruction of Sodom announced to Abram
  - **Genesis 19:1-29** - Sodom destroyed, Lot is delivered
  - **Genesis 19:30-38** - Lot's descendants via incest (Moabites and Ammonites)
  - **Genesis 20:1-18** - Abram travels to Gerar where Abimelech is deceived like Pharaoh.

# The life of Abraham Reviewed

- **Genesis 21:1-21** - Isaac is born, Hagar and Ismael depart
  - **Genesis 21:22-34** - Covenant between Abraham and Abimelech
  - **Genesis 22** - Abraham is willing to offer his son Isaac by faith
  - **Genesis 23:1ff** - Sarah dies (127 y/o) and is buried in a purchased cave (Machpelah)
  - **Genesis 25:1-11** - Abraham's later life (inc. Keturah) and death at 175 y/o.

# Abraham is Tested

- For the remainder of this lesson, we will again notice several events in Abraham's life, but from the viewpoint of being tested
- **Genesis 22:1** says that God tested Abraham. This comes later in his life as he has been tested continually and his faith proven and strengthened.



# Abraham is Tested

- Scripture addresses testing
  - God often tests man to see his faithfulness - **Deuteronomy 8:1-2, 13:1-3**
  - He tests the hearts of men - **Psalm 7:9, 11:5, 1 Thessalonians 2:4**
- Consider also **James 1:12-13** - He does NOT tempt man to sin or do evil.
- What does your testing prove?  
**James 1:3, 1 Peter 1:7**

# Abraham is Tested

- To leave UR and Haran and go to Canaan
  - **Genesis 12:1-7** - he **passes** this test

# Abraham is Tested

- **Famine**
  - **Genesis 12:10-20** - Abram goes to Egypt because of severe famine. He has Sarai say she is his sister instead of his wife (deceit)  
Abram is treated well as Pharaoh takes Sarai to be a wife.  
But YHWH plagues his house.  
Pharaoh confronts Abram and makes him leave Egypt
- He **failed** this test
- How will we fare in difficult times? Will we put material advantage before spiritual?

# Abraham is Tested

- **Contention with Lot**
  - **Genesis 13** - Records both Abram and Lot's great prosperity. There is strife between their herdsmen. Abraham speaks to Lot and gives him the choice of which way to go. He chooses "greener pastures" See **vs. 12-13**
- The LORD then appears to Abram and repeats His promise while giving greater detail (**vs. 14-18**)
- NOTE vs. 18, Abram built an altar



# Abraham is Tested

- **Contention with Lot**
  - When we face contentions between one another as brethren, how do we handle it?  
Are we willing to yield? **James 3:17, cf. 1 Corinthians 6:7**  
Where is our treasure - **Matthew 6:19-20**
- Abraham **passed** this test.

# Abraham is Tested

- **Delivering Lot**
    - **Genesis 14** - where Lot settles there is war between kings. Lot and his family are taken captive. When reported to Abram, he gather 318 “trained servants” and is victorious.
  - Abraham is concerned about his “brother” and willing to take risks for him
    - 2) Likely there is some faith due to the size of Abram’s forces.
- Cf. Romans 8:31**
- He **passed** this test

# Abraham is Tested

- **Waiting**

- **Genesis 15-16** - years have passed since the LORD made his “seed” promise.

Abram offers to “help God” through his servant, Eleazar.

When told his seed would come from his body, Sarai gives him Hagar and Ishmael is conceived and born. Abraham is now 86 years old (**16:16**)

# Abraham is Tested

- **Waiting**

- **Genesis 15-16** -

- Understand that in matters of God's will, He does NOT need our help!

- When man "helps" by changing His plans, it almost always ends badly. Ishmael's descendants will become Israel's enemies

- When he trusted God he **passed**, but later he goes beyond God's desires by failing to wait! He **failed**.



# Abraham is Tested

- **Circumcision**

- **Genesis 17** -

Abram is now 99 and the LORD appears to him. He changes his name to Abraham and repeats His covenant. Circumcision is given as a sign of the covenant. He also notes that Sarah will have a son (in about a year), he laughs and is willing to accept God's word through Ishmael.

Immediately, he circumcises all the males of his household.

- Abraham **passed** this test.

# Abraham is Tested

- **Circumcision**

- **Genesis 17** -

Circumcision is a painful process, especially when older. But it was God's will. Are we willing to endure whatever is required to faithfully serve God, even if it means pain or sacrifice or difficulty?

It is easy to serve God when it is convenient.

# Abraham is Tested

- **Concerning Sodom**

- **Genesis 18** -

Again, the LORD with angels appears to Abraham and now they declare it is time for the promised child.

He is then told about the LORD's plan for Sodom. This is where Abraham "negotiates" with the LORD.

# Abraham is Tested

- Concerning Sodom

- **Genesis 18** -

- Abraham is concerned about others, even the lost. Hence, he wants Sodom spared.

- He accepts the Lord's decision.

- Abraham **passed** this test.



# Abraham is Tested

- **Abimelech**
  - **Genesis 20** -

Abraham travels south and stays in Gerar. We find a repeating of what happened to Pharaoh. He fears and has Sarah lie. Ultimately, he intercedes for Abimelech.
- Abraham **failed** this test.

# Abraham is Tested

- **Abimelech**

- **Genesis 20** -

- Even one with a mature faith can waiver from time to time. We must always be vigilant -

- 1 Corinthians 10:12**

- Hebrews 10:23**

- Satan will exploit your wavering -

- 1 Peter 5:8-9**

# Abraham is Tested

- Isaac is born

- **Genesis 21** -

Sarah is 90, conceives and gives birth to Isaac. God has kept his promise.

Ishmael scoffs (now 13) and at Sarah's demand, Hagar and Ishmael are sent away. The LORD tells him to listen to Sarah but promises to take care of Isaac.

- Abraham **passed** this test.

# Abraham is Tested

- **Abimelech**

- **Genesis 20** -

- In time we will face “tests” that do not have a good solution. We have to make unpleasant decisions, even with family.

- All we can do is use our best judgment and trust God.

- Abraham did on this occasion.

# Abraham is Tested

- **Offering Isaac**

- **Genesis 22** -

- In time, the LORD asks Abraham to offer his son Isaac at a specified place. Abraham goes and by faith is willing to sacrifice his son. He **COMPLETELY** trusts God here.

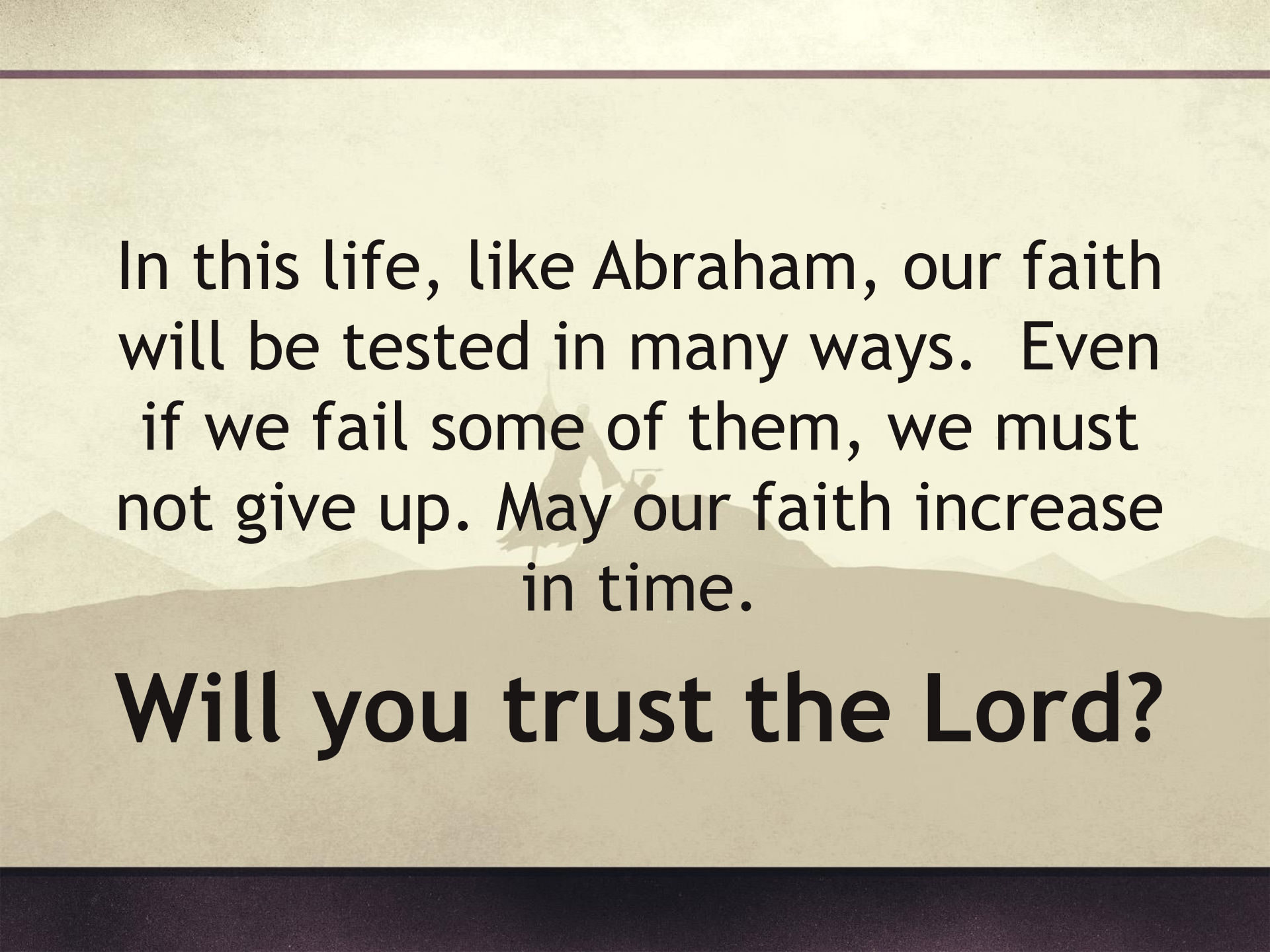
- Abraham **passed** this test.

- This is where our faith **OUGHT** to be headed!



# Abraham is Tested

- Sarah dies
  - **Genesis 23** -
  - At 127 years of age, Sarah dies. Abraham purchase a field and cave for burial (Machpelah). This is a clear act of faith because he knows he will die with promises yet to be fulfilled. (**Hebrews 11:13-16**)
- Abraham **passed** this test

The background of the slide features a silhouette of a person and a child walking across a range of mountains. The person is in the foreground, carrying a child on their back. The mountains are layered in the background, creating a sense of depth. The overall color palette is muted, with shades of beige, tan, and brown.

In this life, like Abraham, our faith will be tested in many ways. Even if we fail some of them, we must not give up. May our faith increase in time.

**Will you trust the Lord?**

A minimalist, monochromatic illustration in shades of beige and brown. The scene depicts a person in silhouette, standing on a rounded hill and raising their arms in a gesture of prayer or praise. The background features a light, hazy sky and several distant, layered mountain peaks. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Let us pray!