

THE STORY OF  
**ABRAHAM**

**Part 3 - Some Notable Events**



Journey through the Bible (14)

# The Life of Abraham - Reviewed

- We are continuing our “Journey through the Bible”
- We are studying the 4<sup>th</sup> period (of 17), the patriarchs
- We have been focusing on Abraham. We have addressed the promise YHWH made to him (**Genesis 12:1-7**), and in our last lesson we noted some tests of Abraham’s faith
- Today we examine 3 events in his life that are emphasized in the NT

# Abraham and Melchizedek

- **Genesis 14:18-24** - occurs as Abraham with his small “army” rescues Lot and Sodom.
- Returning home, he meets Melchizedek, “king of Salem” and “priest of the Most High God”. Abraham is blessed by him and pays him a tithe.

# Abraham and Melchizedek

- **Genesis 14:18-24** -
- Why is this mentioned?
  - He appears from nowhere and is recorded by Moses (~1500 BC).
  - Believed that Salem is the future location of Jerusalem

# Abraham and Melchizedek

- **Psalm 110:4** -
- The next mention of him in a psalm of David (~1000 BC).
  - Likely after the promise to David (**2 Samuel 7:12-17**)
  - A Messianic psalm
  - Announcing a new priesthood and reign.
  - Again, this is a random psalm and passage.

# Abraham and Melchizedek

- **Hebrews 5:6ff** -
- Finally, in the NT, Melchizedek is explained
  - Esp. Hebrews 7:1-7** - Christ is a priest after his order.
    - “King of Salem” - peace
    - “Without father, without mother...”
  - Likely not supernatural, but simply descriptive of what is recorded
    - Described as “greater” than Abraham and that Levi made “tithes” through him

# Abraham and Melchizedek

- Lessons to consider:
- This declares that God had a hand in fulfilling His purpose both in Christ and His church/kingdom.  
The “fingerprint of God”
- It establishes the nature of Jesus’ rule as High Priest and King (not possible under Levitical priesthood)

# Abraham believed God

- **Genesis 15:6**
- It had been a few years since the promise was made to Abram. Sarai being barren, he offers the offspring of his house. But YHWH tells him, the seed will come from his loins.
- **Vs. 6**, Abraham believes God and it is “accounted to him for righteousness.”



# Abraham believed God

- **Genesis 15:6**
- This is followed by a covenant and elaborating on fulfilling the promises
- NOTE: This text does NOT imply Abraham did not have a part in the covenant. He obeyed YHWH. He always trusted YHWH and submitted to Him.

# Abraham believed God

- **Genesis 15:6**
- Found 3 passages in the NT.
- **Romans 4:3-5** - Abraham's faith was "not of works".  
NOTE: The emphasis on "wages" - that would be meritorious works.  
Paul's point - they could not EARN salvation by keeping the LOM.

# Abraham believed God

- **Genesis 15:6**
- Found 3 passages in the NT.
- **Galatians 3:6** - Paul again is contrasting trust in the LOM with faith in Jesus. He is concerned that they are considering “a different gospel”  
He is also declaring how we are “sons of Abraham”.

# Abraham believed God

- **Genesis 15:6**
- Found 3 passages in the NT.
- **James 2:23** - James here addresses the living and working faith of Abraham. The expression is related to His sacrifice of Isaac.
- In this expression, we learn the type of faith God demands of us.

# Abraham offers Isaac

- **Genesis 22**
- We find here Abraham's ultimate test and the event that addresses the maturity of his faith.
- He is told to go to Mt. Moriah (in Jerusalem - **2 Chronicles 3:1**) offer Isaac as a burn offering. Abraham complies and goes immediately

# Abraham offers Isaac

- **Genesis 22**
- When he arrives he instructs his servants to wait and WE will return (**22:5**)
  - He tells Isaac, “God will provide” (**7-8**)
  - The LORD stops him before he slays Isaac (**12**)
  - A ram is offered in place of the lamb (**13**)
  - The promise is repeated with an oath

# Abraham offers Isaac

- **Genesis 22**
- Referenced in the New Testament
- **James 2:21-23** - our previous mentioned text. This is the event that is attributed to his faith and righteousness

# Abraham offers Isaac

- **Genesis 22**
- Referenced in the New Testament
- **Hebrews 11:17-19** - by faith he offers Isaac, concluding that God would raise him from the dead.  
AGAIN, we see the greatness of his faith!



# Abraham offers Isaac

- **Genesis 22**
- He offered a ram to the LORD
- **Genesis 22:13** - caught in the thicket.

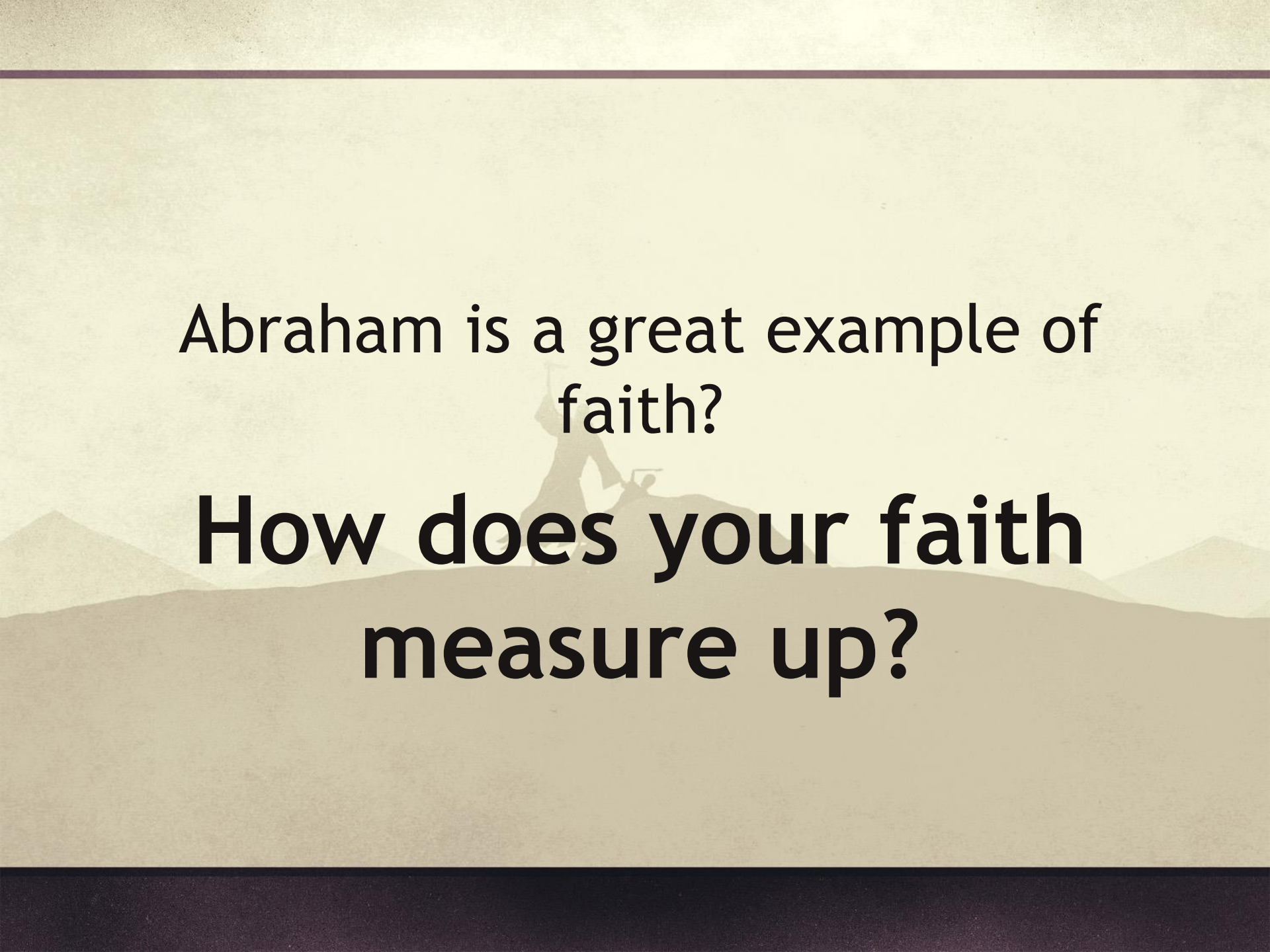
But Isaac asked, “where is the lamb?” (**22:7**), Abraham replies, “God will provide of Himself the lamb”

# Abraham offers Isaac

- **Genesis 22**
- He offered a ram to the LORD
- It is of interest that this takes place near where Jesus will be sacrificed. Jesus was described as “the Lamb of God...” **John 1:29**  
**1 Peter 1:18-19**, a lamb without blemish  
**Acts 8:32 (Isa. 53:7)** - as a lamb led to the slaughter...
- Again, we see God’s plan unfolding

# Abraham offers Isaac

- **Genesis 22**
- Consider Abraham's faith on this occasion (from Irvin Himmell)
- He took prompt action - did not delay
- He made thorough preparations
- He had complete confidence
- He had proper priority
- He obeyed
- He had a perfect faith - **James 2:21-22**

The background features a stylized, sepia-toned illustration of a person standing on a mountain peak, holding a staff or walking stick. The person is positioned centrally behind the text. The overall aesthetic is that of a textured, aged paper or parchment.

Abraham is a great example of  
faith?

**How does your faith  
measure up?**

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 could be a shadow or a large object. The background is a light, textured, yellowish-green color. The overall style is minimalist and symbolic.

Let us pray!