



Lesson 11 – The Call of Abraham

Based on Genesis 12

1) Where is God among the faithful?

Psalm 145:18 The LORD is _____ unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

God has ever preserved a remnant to serve Him. Adam, Seth, Enoch, Methuselah, Noah, Shem, in unbroken line, had preserved from age to age the precious revealings of His will. The son of Terah became the inheritor of this holy trust. Idolatry invited him on every side, but in vain. Faithful among the faithless, uncorrupted by the prevailing apostasy, he steadfastly adhered to the worship of the one true God.

2) What did God tell Abram?

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee _____ of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy _____ great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all _____ of the earth be blessed.

Before the call, his name was **Abram – Father**. Some time later he was called by God **Abraham – Father of Nations**. The same thing happened for **Sarai – princess**, was changed to **Sarah – Mother of Nations**.

In order that God might qualify him for his great work as the keeper of the sacred oracles, Abraham must be separated from the associations of his early life. The influence of kindred and friends would interfere with the training which the Lord purposed to give His servant. Now that Abraham was, in a special sense, connected with heaven, he must dwell among strangers. His character must be peculiar, differing from all the world.

3) What did Paul say about Abraham?

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not _____ whither he went.

Abraham's unquestioning obedience is one of the most striking evidences of faith to be found in all the Bible.

4) What did Abram have?

Hebrews 1:1 Now faith is the _____ of things hoped for, the _____ of things not seen.

Relying upon the divine promise, without the least outward assurance of its fulfillment, he abandoned home and kindred and native land, and went forth, he knew not whither, to follow where God should lead.

5) What was recorded about him?

Hebrews 11:9 By faith he _____ in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

It was no light test that was thus brought upon Abraham, no small sacrifice that was required of him. There were strong ties to bind him to his country, his kindred, and his home. But he did not hesitate to obey the call. He had no question to ask concerning the land of promise, whether the soil was fertile and the climate healthful; whether the country afforded agreeable surroundings and would afford opportunities for amassing wealth. God has spoken, and His servant must obey; **the happiest place on earth for him was the place where God would have him to be.**



6) What was said about those who work for the LORD?

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light _____, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be _____ in us.

Many are still tested as was Abraham. They do not hear the voice of God speaking directly from the heavens, but He calls them by the teachings of His word and the events of His providence. They may be required to abandon a career that promises wealth and honor, to leave congenial and profitable associations and separate from kindred, to enter upon what appears to be only a path of self-denial, hardship, and sacrifice. God has a work for them to do; but a life of ease and the influence of friends and kindred would hinder the development of the very traits essential for its accomplishment. He calls them away from human influences and aid and leads them to feel the need of His help, and to depend upon Him alone, that He may reveal Himself to them.

7) Where did the family originate from?

Genesis 11:31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto _____, and dwelt there.

Thus far his father's family accompanied him, for with their idolatry they united the worship of the true God. Here Abraham remained till the death of Terah. But from his father's grave the divine Voice bade him go forward. His brother Nahor with his household clung to their home and their idols. Besides Sarah, the wife of Abraham, only Lot, the son of Haran long since dead, chose to share the patriarch's, pilgrim life.

8) From Haran, where did they go?

Genesis 12:5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of _____; and into the land of Canaan they came.

It was a large company that set out from Mesopotamia. Abraham already possessed extensive flocks and herds, the riches of the East, and he was surrounded by a numerous body of servants and retainers. He was departing from the land of his fathers, never to return, and he took with him all that he had.

9) Where did they end up?

Genesis 12:6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of _____, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

10) What was Shechem like?

Deuteronomy 8:7-8 For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a _____ land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and _____;

Under the shade of the oaks of Moreh, in a wide, grassy valley, with its olive groves and gushing springs, between Mount Ebal on the one side and Mount Gerizim on the other, Abraham made his encampment. It was a fair and goodly country that the patriarch had entered.

Abraham had reached the goal of his hopes to find a country occupied by an alien race and overspread with idolatry. In the groves were set up the altars of false gods, and human sacrifices were offered upon the neighboring heights. While he clung to the divine promise, it was not without distressful forebodings that he pitched his tent.

11) God read Abraham's heart, what did he tell him?

Genesis 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this _____: and there builded he an _____ unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.



12) From Shechem, where did they go?

Genesis 12:8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of _____, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

Still a wayfarer, he soon removed to a spot near Bethel, and again erected an altar, and called upon the name of the Lord.

13) How was Abraham known?

Isaiah 41:8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my _____.

His was a life of prayer. Wherever he pitched his tent, close beside it was set up his altar, calling all within his encampment to the morning and evening sacrifice. When his tent was removed, the altar remained. In following years, there were those among the roving Canaanites who received instruction from Abraham; and whenever one of these came to that altar, he knew who had been there before him; and when he had pitched his tent, he repaired the altar, and there worshiped the living God.

14) Where did Abraham end up after Bethel?

Genesis 12:9-10 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south. And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into _____ to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

The heavens withheld their rain, the brooks ceased to flow in the valleys, and the grass withered on the plains. The flocks and herds found no pasture, and starvation threatened the whole encampment. Did not the patriarch now question the leadings of Providence? Did he not look back with longing to the plenty of the Chaldean plains? All were eagerly watching to see what Abraham would do, as trouble after trouble came upon him. So long as his confidence appeared unshaken, they felt that there was hope; they were assured that God was his Friend, and that He was still guiding him.

15) What promise did he cling to?

Genesis 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will _____ thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

With earnest prayer he considered how to preserve the life of his people and his flocks, but he would not allow circumstances to shake his faith in God's word. To escape the famine, he went down into Egypt. He did not forsake Canaan, or in his extremity turn back to the Chaldean land from which he came, where there was no scarcity of bread; but he sought a temporary refuge as near as possible to the Land of Promise, intending shortly to return where God had placed him.

16) Does God care about us?

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of _____, to give you an expected end.

The very trials that task our faith most severely and make it seem that God has forsaken us, are to lead us closer to Christ, that we may lay all our burdens at His feet and experience the peace which He will give us in exchange.

God has always tried His people in the furnace of affliction. It is in the heat of the furnace that the dross is separated from the true gold of the Christian character. Jesus watches the test; He knows what is needed to purify the precious metal, that it may reflect the radiance of His love. It is by close, testing trials that God disciplines His servants. He sees that some have powers which may be used in the advancement of His work, and He puts these persons upon trial; in His providence He brings them into positions that test their character and reveal defects and weaknesses that have been hidden from their own knowledge.



17) What happened in Egypt?

Genesis 12:11-13 And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a _____ to look upon: Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will _____ me, but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, thou art my _____: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

In concealing the fact that Sarah was his wife, he betrayed a distrust of the divine care, a lack of that lofty faith and courage so often and nobly exemplified in his life. He reasoned that he was not guilty of falsehood in representing Sarah as his sister, for she was the daughter of his father, though not of his mother. But this concealment of the real relation between them was deception. No deviation from strict integrity can meet God's approval. Through Abraham's lack of faith, Sarah was placed in great peril. The king of Egypt, being informed of her beauty, caused her to be taken to his palace, intending to make her his wife.

18) How'd that work out?

Genesis 12:17 And the LORD _____ Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.

19) How did Pharaoh react?

Genesis 12:18-20 And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast _____ unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and _____ thy way. And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

Abraham had been greatly favored by the king; even now Pharaoh would permit no harm to be done him or his company but ordered a guard to conduct them in safety out of his dominions. At this time laws were made prohibiting the Egyptians from intercourse with foreign shepherds in any such familiarity as eating or drinking with them. Pharaoh's dismissal of Abraham was kind and generous; but he bade him leave Egypt, for he dared not permit him to remain. He had ignorantly been about to do him a serious injury, but God had interposed and saved the monarch from committing so great a sin. Pharaoh saw in this stranger a man whom the God of heaven honored, and he feared to have in his kingdom one who was so evidently under divine favor.

it was seen that the God whom Abraham worshiped would protect His servant, and that any injury done him would be avenged. It is a dangerous thing to wrong one of the children of the King of heaven.

20) What happens if you mess with God's anointed?

Psalms 105:14-15 He _____ no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes; Saying, _____ not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

Can you see that God is a good provider?

Would you like to live a life worth living?

When is the time to step out in faith?