



Lesson 13 – Abraham in Canaan – Part II

Based on Genesis 17 and 18

In our previous lesson Abraham returned from Egypt, settled in and after a bit Lot and his family were taken captive. Abraham rose up a fighting force and routed the enemy. He gave thanks to God and returned to his humble life but sought some confirmation from the LORD on the promises God had made.

The patriarch begged for some visible token as a confirmation of his faith and as an evidence to after-generations that God's gracious purposes toward them would be accomplished. The Lord condescended to enter into a covenant with His servant, employing such forms as were customary among men for the ratification of a solemn engagement.

1) What did God tell Abraham to do?

Genesis 15:9-11 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. And he took unto him all these, and _____ them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. And when the _____ came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

2) Abraham was ready to make a covenant with God, where was He?

Genesis 15:12 And when the sun was going down, a deep _____ fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.

3) In a dream what did God say to Abraham?

Genesis 15:13-16 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a _____ in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great _____. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet _____.

4) What happened next?

Genesis 15:17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a _____ furnace, and a burning _____ that passed between those pieces. In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

As a pledge of this covenant of God with men, a smoking furnace and a burning lamp, symbols of the divine presence, passed between the severed victims, totally consuming them.

God walked the covenant ALONE. He knew that mankind would fail in their attempts to hold up their end of the covenant, so HE committed Himself to be the Author and Finisher of our faith, He would hold Himself and Himself alone accountable for the fulfilment of the contract to save fallen humanity.

5) What did God do for Abram when he was 99 years old?

Genesis 17:1-2 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD _____ to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my _____ between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.



Genesis 17:4-5 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many _____. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be _____; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

Genesis 17:15-16 And God said unto Abraham, As for _____ thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but _____ shall her name be. And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of _____; kings of people shall be of her.

6) What was instituted for the Descendants of Abraham?

Romans 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the _____ which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that _____ might be imputed unto them also:

It was to be observed by the patriarch and his descendants as a token that they were devoted to the service of God and thus separated from idolaters, and that God accepted them as His peculiar treasure. By this rite they were pledged to fulfill, on their part, the conditions of the covenant made with Abraham. They were not to contract marriages with the heathen; for by so doing, they would lose their reverence for God and His holy law; they would be tempted to engage in the sinful practices of other nations and would be seduced into idolatry.

7) Who came near to Abraham's encampment in the plains?

Genesis 18:1-2 And the LORD _____ unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three _____ stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

8) What was Abraham unknowingly doing?

Hebrews 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained _____ unawares.

9) What will God do for those who fear Him?

Psalms 25:14 The _____ of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

10) What did God say?

Genesis 18:16-18 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward _____: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. And the LORD said, Shall I _____ from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be _____ in him?

Genesis 18:20-21 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very _____; I will go down now, and _____ whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

God knew well the measure of Sodom's guilt; but He expressed Himself after the manner of men, that the justice of His dealings might be understood. Before bringing judgment upon the transgressors, He would go Himself, to institute an examination of their course; if they had not passed the limits of divine mercy, He would still grant them space for repentance.



11) What happened next?

Genesis 18:22-23 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward _____: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also _____ the righteous with the wicked?

12) Was Abraham respectful when he asked?

Genesis 18:27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but _____ and _____:

Abraham manifested the confidence of a child pleading with a loved father. He came close to the heavenly Messenger and fervently urged his petition. Though Lot had become a dweller in Sodom, he did not partake in the iniquity of its inhabitants. Abraham thought that in that populous city there must be other worshipers of the true God.

Love for perishing souls inspired Abraham's prayer. While he loathed the sins of that corrupt city, he desired that the sinners might be saved. His deep interest for Sodom shows the anxiety that we should feel for the impenitent. We should cherish hatred of sin, but pity and love for the sinner. All around us are souls going down to ruin as hopeless, as terrible, as that which befell Sodom. Every day the probation of some is closing. Every hour some are passing beyond the reach of mercy. And where are the voices of warning and entreaty to bid the sinner flee from this fearful doom? Where are the hands stretched out to draw him back from death? Where are those who with humility and persevering faith are pleading with God for him?

Abraham asked not once merely, but many times. Waxing bolder as his requests were granted.

13) What was Abraham's final plea to the LORD?

Genesis 18:32 And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure _____ shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

14) What similar thing did Christ say on the cross?

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, _____ them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

The spirit of Abraham was the spirit of Christ. The Son of God is Himself the great Intercessor in the sinner's behalf. He who has paid the price for its redemption knows the worth of the human soul. With an antagonism to evil such as can exist only in a nature spotlessly pure, Christ manifested toward the sinner a love which infinite goodness alone could conceive. In the agonies of the crucifixion, Himself burdened with the awful weight of the sins of the whole world, He prayed for His revilers and murderers.

15) How was Abraham remembered in the Bible?

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham _____ God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Romans 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the _____ which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:



It was a high honor to which Abraham was called, that of being the father of the people who for centuries were the guardians and preservers of the truth of God for the world, of that people through whom all the nations of the earth should be blessed in the advent of the promised Messiah. But He who called the patriarch, judged him worthy.

In early times the father was the ruler and priest of his own family, and he exercised authority over his children, even after they had families of their own. His descendants were taught to look up to him as their head, in both religious and secular matters. This patriarchal system of government Abraham endeavored to perpetuate, as it tended to preserve the knowledge of God. It was necessary to bind the members of the household together, in order to build up a barrier against the idolatry that had become so widespread and so deep-seated. Abraham sought by every means in his power to guard the inmates of his encampment against mingling with the heathen and witnessing their idolatrous practices, for he knew that familiarity with evil would insensibly corrupt the principles.

16) What did God say about his servant Abraham?

Genesis 18:19 For I _____ him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the _____ of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

From every Christian home a holy light should shine forth. Love should be revealed in action. It should flow out in all home relationships, showing itself in thoughtful kindness, in gentle, unselfish courtesy. There are homes where this principle is carried out, homes where God is worshiped and truest love reigns. From these homes morning and evening prayer ascends to God as sweet incense, and His mercies and blessings descend upon the suppliants like the morning dew.

**Can you see that Abraham, while not perfect,
was an amazing example?**

Would you like God to say such things about you?

When is the time to step out in faith?