

## Old Testament Survey #3 – Genesis 12-23

### Dial's Church, Bereans Bible Class

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#### I. Genesis 12-23 (Part 1) The Life of Abraham

##### A. Gen. 11:27-31 Abraham in his homeland, Ur (Kuwait)

1. Abraham married Sarah, but she was barren
2. at 70 yrs old, Abraham left his homeland and relatives to go to the "Promised Land," but stopped for a time in Haran.
3. Heb. 11:8-10 Abraham left in faith, not knowing where he was going.
4. Acts 7:1-4 Abraham left Haran when his father died.

##### B. Gen. 12:1-5 The beginning of the "Abrahamic Covenant"

1. The reason Abraham left Ur was God's initial promise:
  - a. I will make you a great nation, I will bless you and make your name great; (A multitude of offspring, despite Sarah being barren).
  - b. You shall be a blessing; I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you; In you all families of the earth will be blessed;
2. Abraham was 75 when he left Haran.

##### C. Gen. 12:6-8 The LAND Promise once Abraham arrived

1. God promised the LAND to Abraham's 'Seed'
  - a. the word translated "descendants" is literally "seed" (singular) in both Hebrew and LXX. The KJV correctly has "seed," & the ESV, NIV, NRSV correctly have "offspring" (singular).
    1. This singular term can refer to a single "seed" or to a class of "seed."
    2. Paul later quoted from the promise to Abraham's "Seed," stressing its singular number, and making a critical and extremely important claim concerning Christ and Christians.
2. Abraham built an altar for the LORD, and then called to himself the name of the LORD (Yahweh, Jehovah), as Seth did previously (Gen. 4:26).

##### D. Gen. 12:9-20 Abraham's stay in Egypt.

1. Abraham's half-truth concerning Sarah.

##### E. Gen. 13:1-18 Abraham back in the Promised Land

1. Vss. 1-13 Conflict between Abraham's servants and Lot's servants.
  - a. Abraham gives Lot the choice of land to settle
  - b. Lot chose the lush valley near Sodom.
2. Vss. 14-18 God expanded on the previous promises:
  - a. **That He would give the Land to Abraham AND to his 'seed.'**
  - b. That this inheritance would be forever
  - c. That his "seed" would become as the dust of the earth, innumerable
  - d. Walk through the Land, **"I give it to YOU."**
  - e. **Galatians 3:6-9,13-16,18,26-29** The "Seed" to inherit the Promised Land permanently is Jesus Christ and all joined to Him in baptism.

## F. Gen. 14

1. Vss. 1-12 Various kings of city-states conspire to overthrow Sodom, Gomorrah, and surrounding towns, pillaging and capturing Lot's family and goods.
2. Vss. 13-17 Abraham gathers a band, pursues those kings and recovers the goods from Sodom, etc., including Lot and his family and possessions.
3. Vss. 18-20 Abraham's encounter with 'Melchizedek' - Christ
  - a. Psalm 110:1-7 Christ, "priest according to Melchizedek Order"
  - b. Heb. 5:5-11 Paul interprets the above Psalm as applying to Christ
  - c. Heb. 7:1-25 Paul interprets Gen. 14:18-20
    1. Vs.1 Melchizedek was "King of Salem" (Jerusalem- Psalm 76:2) & "Priest of God Most High"
    2. "Melchizedek" in Hebrew means "King of Righteousness," and "King of Salem" also means "King of Peace."
    3. Moses recorded no genealogy for Melchizedek, without father or mother, having no beginning or end, but PORTRAYED by Moses like "the Son of God."
    4. Abraham tithed to Melchizedek, proving his superiority
    5. Even the Priesthood of Israel "tithed" to Melchizedek through Abraham's actions, showing Melchizedek is greater than the Law of Moses and its priesthood.
    - 6-7. Melchizedek "blessed" Abraham, proving His superiority to Abraham.
    8. "**Mortals**" of Israel's priesthood receive "tithes," yet in Gen. 14 Melchizedek received the "tithe," Moses testifying that He "lives" -- present tense. Lit. "is alive").
    - 9-10. Even Levi (the father of the entire priesthood of Israel) tithed to Melchizedek through Abraham's action.
    - 11-21. Paul uses this to show that Christ's priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood of the Law of Moses.
    - 22-28. Melchizedek/Jesus' priesthood is a continuation of His former priesthood prior to the Law of Moses.
4. Vss. 21-24 Abraham refuses to accept any reward from the king of Sodom.

## G. Gen. 15 God continues to expand upon His promises to Abraham.

1. Vss. 1-6 **The WORD of the Lord** visited Abraham in a vision (He saw Christ), who promised him **a son from his own body**, and descendants as the stars.
2. Vss. 7-12 The LAND promise reaffirmed, Abraham commanded to set up an animal sacrifice.
3. Vss. 13-17 the WORD tells Abraham that His descendants will be persecuted and become slaves in a foreign land and be "afflicted" 400 years (counting from Isaac to the Exodus from Egypt). But God will rescue them in the "fourth generation" (counting from Jacob and his 12 going down to Egypt).
4. Vss. 18-21 The scope of the forever Land Inheritance defined which includes:
  - a. From the Euphrates River (Iraq) to the Nile River (Egypt), 10 nations.

H. Gen. 16 Abram @ 86 yrs old (v. 16)

1. Vss. 1-6 Hagar becomes pregnant by Abram.
  - a. Sarai gave her maid to Abram because she wanted a child.
  - b. Abram heeded his wife instead of trusting God's promise.
    1. (Gen. 4:17) Adam heeded Eve instead of obeying God, the result being death upon all mankind, thus Adam is blamed as responsible for sin and death, not Eve, (Rom. 5:15,17,18-19).
  - c. Sarah rightly blamed Abram, "*My wrong is upon you.*" Abram was ultimately responsible for making the right choice as her head.
  - d. Abram created an intolerable situation which remains to this day:
    1. Who is the heir of the Land? Ishmael (Arabs) or Isaac (Israel)?
  - e. Hagar flees from Sarah.
2. Vss. 6-14 God's "Messenger" who uses God's name and speaks as God.
  - a. God's Son tells Hagar to return home.
  - b. The Son promised to multiply Hagar's descendants
  - c. Named "Ishmael" (God hears) because God heard her trouble
  - d. Ishmael will make war with everyone (still true today).
  - e. Ishmael's clan will live east of all his relatives (Arabian peninsula).
  - f. Hagar called the Son (the LORD who spoke to her), "*The God who sees*" because she said: "*I have now seen Him who sees me.*"
    1. John 1:18 "*No one has seen God at any time, the only-begotten Son ... has made Him known.*" (See also: Col. 1:15, 1 Tim. 1:17, 6:15-16; Heb. 11:27).

3. Vss. 15-16 Birth of Ishmael

I. Gen. 17 Abram @ 99 yrs old (Ishmael 13 yrs old)

1. Vss. 1-8 The LORD "**appeared**" visibly to Abraham (cf. vs. 22), reaffirmed and expanded the Covenant.
  - a. Multiply Abram exceedingly:
  - b. Promised Abram would be the father of "**many nations**," changing his name from "Abram" (father) to "Abraham" (father of a multitude).
  - c. v. 8 God promised to give the Land to both Abraham and His "*seed*" as an "*everlasting possession.*"
  - d. Apostle Paul's application of the Abrahamic Covenant to Christians includes the Land. Gal. 3:1-9, 13-16, 24-29. (v. 16. "*and to your seed*" a direct quote from Gen. 13:15; Gen. 17:8; Gen. 26:3; Gen. 28:4,13; Gen. 35:12 LXX).
2. Vss. 9-14 & 23-27 The seal of the covenant, circumcision for every male
  - a. Abram was uncircumcised when he fathered Ishmael.
  - b. Abraham was circumcised BEFORE he fathered Isaac.
3. Vss. 15-21 Sarah will have a child by a miracle from God.
  - a. Sarai (princess) name changed to Sarah (noble-woman).
  - b. God promised to give Abraham a son by Sarah "*this set time next year.*"
  - c. God promised that the Abrahamic Covenant would pass through Isaac.
4. Vss. 22-27 Abraham circumcised at 99, Ishmael 13.

a. Paul's interpretation of "circumcision"

1. Rom. 4:1-25 The Covenant given to Abraham while he was uncircumcised implies that gentiles are included.
2. Gal. 5:6 & Col. 2:9-14 Circumcision not required of Christians.

J. Gen. 18

1. Vss. 1-15 The "LORD" and two angels visit Abraham and Sarah
  - a. vss. 1-8 The three "men" ate the meal prepared.
    1. Jn. 8:51-58 Jesus literally visited Abraham.
  - b. vss. 9-15 Sarah will bear a son when God's Son would return to them.
2. Vss. 16-33 Abraham bargains with the Lord on Lot's behalf.

K. Gen. 19 The story of Lot, Sodom and Gomorrah

1. Jude 1:6-7 the story of Sodom & Gomorrah as precedent for Lake of Fire

L. Gen. 20 Abraham & Sarah temporarily stay with Abimelech in Gerar.

M. Gen. 21

1. Vss. 1-7 Sarah gives birth to Isaac
2. Vss. 8-14 Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael away.
  - a. God says *"In Isaac your seed will be called"* (excluding Ishmael)
  - b. Heb. 11:17-18 Isaac was called Abraham's *"only-begotten Son"* because of this quote.
3. Vss. 15-21 The Angel of God again speaks to Hagar.
4. Vss. 22-34 Abraham's covenant with Abimelech & origin of Beersheba (well of the oath of 7).

N. Gen. 22 God asked Abraham to offer His son as a sacrifice

1. Vs. 2 "Moriah" where Solomon later built the Temple (2 Chron. 3:1-2)
2. Vs. 5 Abraham said, *"the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and **WE** will come back to you."*
3. Vs.s 7-8 *"God will provide for Himself the lamb."*
4. Vss. 11-14 The Angel of the LORD prevents Abraham from killing Isaac.
  - a. Abraham calls Mt. Moriah *"The LORD will provide"*
  - b. The saying survived to Moses' day, *"In the Mount of the LORD it **shall be** provided."*
5. Vss. 15-18 The Angel of the LORD swears the oath:
  - a. Heb. 6:13-20 Two immutable things guarantee the Abrahamic promise to us: (1) the original covenant, (2) the oath.

O. Gen. 23 Death of Sarah, Abraham buys a plot of land to bury his dead.