

Lessons from Abraham

Abraham father of the faithful...Romans 4 16 . Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Romans 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith 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:

Abraham also had a father Terah. 26 And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Was Terah called of God? Gen 11 v 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 Haran, and dwelt there. They walked the length of the river Uephratees to Hanran in modern day **Iraq**

Why did he not go to Canaan? Did he get distracted? Diverted? Deflected? Sidelined? Into some cul de sac???

Many Christians get diverted....

Many settle for the mediocre.. Some are happy with the status Quo.. Many level out onto some plateau....

Haran.. Abraham and the family must have been in Haran for some time as they had obviously prospered. They had “gotten goods”. 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 Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Gen 12 v 1 The Birth of the Church A sanctified people Called out to be a holy people A peculiar people. Set aside holy for God, to show forth his praise

“Now the Lord said”. This is God’s Sovereignty.. God’s plan for Abraham and for the building of his people. His church?

The church in the wilderness.. Acts 7:38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Its One church Jews and Gentiles Ephesians 2 v 13

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye (Gentiles) who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 ¶ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; (Jews and gentiles)

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. (Jews)

18 For through him we (Jews and Gentiles) both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ist step. Separation

Pilgrims and strangers seeking a city whose builder and maker is God

His Divine call.... Hebrews 11 v 8/10

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 knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned 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: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Get thee from

1/Thy Country

Ist duty of a new recruit in the army
Go to training centre.. (leave home)

2/ Thy Kindred.

Hindu cast out persecuted.

3/ Thy fathers house.

**God's Promise -His plan-
A land that I will show thee
We are going to a promised land!!!!**

Revelation.

When we obey-

1/ will bless thee

2/Make thy name great

3/Thou shalt be a blessing

4I will bless them that bless thee

5Curse them that curse thee

6/In thee- All the families of the earth shall be blessed

Obedience

Gen 12 v 4 Abraham departed..... Amazing

He was 75 years old.....

The First Altar

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

And the LORD appeared unto Abram,

Our first meeting with Jesus Christ Saul.. Trembling and astonished said, Who art thou???

Lord??? What wilt thou have me do ??? Acts 9 v 6

Our eyes are opened

Natural man. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Colossians 1 v 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

V 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

He moves up the mountain

8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, 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.

And calls upon God God moved upon his heart. Prayer then action Obedience.

Time to Change and move on.. No static Christianity! Fossilised. Set in stone

Moses on the mountain / Jesus on the mountain/ Tony in Bray

Famine in the land

He goes to Egypt. Parable of the man who went down from Jerusalem down to Jericho He fell among thieves. Luke 10:30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

Egypt

There was a famine in the land of Canaan...Gen 12 v 10 Why did Abraham go to Egypt It is usually a picture of the World. (In the world ye shall have tribulation) also of sin..

It led to Abraham's deception

His wife was attractive. He asked her to lie. To say she is my sister Gen 12 v 13

Pharaoh's house was plagued by God. Because the seed of Sari was to be pure uncontaminated. God had promised Abraham your seed..

But God has used Egypt a place of refuge..

He had plans for Joseph when imprisoned and captive in Egypt. His nation chosen by God were slaves for 400 years in Egypt. Yet God kept them and sent Moses to set them free.

Joseph Mary and the **Lord himself** were kept safe when Joseph was told to flee from King Herod's wrath and murder. Math 2 v 12 24

Jesus Himself went to lead them out of slavery. He was (and is) the pre-existent Christ. He ever lives to make intercession for us. Hebrews. He was in the rock. He was the living water that flowed. 1 Cor 10 v 1 to 11 ¶ Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
2 And were all baptised unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;
4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.
5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.
6 ¶ Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.
7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

10 Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Abraham was blessed of God and prospered..

God prospered Abraham in Egypt despite his lies he had told, regarding his wife.

When he left Egypt and returned to Bethel .

He was rich.

He had so much sheep and cattle and servant they he and lot could not be sustained together and had to go separate ways....

Riches are from God Deut 8 v 18

8 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

2 Corinthians 8:9 **For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor,** that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Christians are rich Romans 8:17 ¶ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Material riches are a gift of God Ecclesiastes 5 19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.

Some dangers of riches

Solomon was rich but sinned in his old age worshipping idols

Jesus said unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. Math 19 v 23/14

Deceitfulness of Riches 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Temptations of riches I Tim 6 v 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

More references to riches.

Riches are fleeting . Job 20 28 Matthew 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

Leave wealth to others. Psalm 49 v 10

Wealth is not forever Proverbs 27 v 24

They fly away Proverbs 23 v 5

We leave our riches for those after us Ecclesiastics 2 v 18

Jesus said Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust

Math 6 v 19

A witness against you James 5 v 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

The riches of glory. Ephes 1 v 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

The Unsearchable riches. Ephes 3 v 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

The reproach of Christ

Hebrews 11 v 26. 6 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.