

## Abraham, the Friend of God

### Introduction:

1. "Friend" has been defined as "a person whom one knows, and with whom he has a bond of mutual affection."
2. There are several qualities of a true friend. Such a person is:
  - a. Honest with you.
  - b. Trustworthy.
  - c. Respects you.
  - d. Is Supportive of you
  - e. One who listens to you.
  - f. One who loves you for what you are.
  - g. Sticks with you during good times and bad.
3. In view of what a "friend" is, it is quite a compliment to a person when someone else says of that person, "He is my friend."
4. It is an even greater compliment when **God** calls a person my "friend!"
5. Abraham was such a person. Three times he was described as "*the friend of God.*"
  - a. James 2:21-23.
  - b. James was quoting Isaiah 41:8, in which God described Israel as "*the seed of Abraham my friend.*"
  - c. 2 Chronicles 20:8, in which Jehoshaphat addressed God as having given the land of Canaan "*to the seed of Abraham thy friend forever.*"
6. Lesson Title: "Abraham, the Friend of God."

### Discussion:

#### I. Facts About Abraham, the first 75 years of his life.

- A. The Son of Terah, an idol worshipper, Joshua 24:1-2.
  1. Terah was a descendant of Shem, Gen. 11:10-27, a son of Noah, Gen. 10:1.
- B. His original home was Mesopotamia, Acts 7:2, also called "*Ur of the Chaldees,*" Genesis 11:28
  1. Located in what we call Iraq today. In the southeast corner of Iraq, some 75 miles north of the Kuwaiti border, in the middle of the area where the Gulf War was fought in 1991.
  2. The place where the Euphrates River emptied into the Persian Gulf.
  3. A city of intellectual activity, an area suitable for raising flocks and herds.
  4. But also a center for various forms of idolatry.
- C. While Terah was alive, they went from Ur of the Chaldees to Haran, Gen. 11:31.
- D. God called Abraham to leave his country and his kindred, Gen. 12:1, and go to a land to which He would show them.
  1. They went to the land of Canaan, Gen. 12:4-5.
  2. God promised this land (Canaan) to the "*seed*" of Abraham, Gen. 12:7.
  3. Abraham never returned to his native land.

#### II. God's Promise to Abraham.

- A. Basically, a three-fold promise, Gen. 12:1-3.
  1. "*I will make of thee a great nation,*" Gen. 12:2.
    - a. The nation of Israel which descended from his loins.
  2. "*Unto thy seed will I give this land,*" Gen. 12:7.
    - a. It did not happen overnight, but ultimately his descendants inherited the land of Canaan, Joshua 21:43-45.
    - b. Their receiving the land was based upon the promise of God; their being able to retain the land was based upon their continued obedience, I Kings 9:4-9.
  3. "*In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed,*" Gen. 12:3.
    - a. A spiritual promise. Note Matt. 1:1; Gal. 3:16, 29.
      - (1) **Note:** These verses contain a brief outline of the rest of the Bible!
- B. Observe:
  1. In His Own time, and according to His Own schedule, God honored his promise to Abraham.
  2. This was to be expected, for:
    - a. God's understanding is "*infinite,*" Psalm 147:5.
    - b. God is all-powerful, Gen. 17:1,
    - c. God is "*faithful,*" I Cor. 1:9.
    - d. God "*cannot lie,*" Titus 1:2.

#### III. But Why Was Abraham Called "*the friend of God?*"

**Note:** It was not because he was perfect! Rom. 3:23. On two occasions we read of his lying, Gen. 12:18; 20:2. Each time, fearful for his own life, he said Sarah was his sister.

- A. He was a man of great faith!
  - 1. Heb. 11:8,9,17.
  - 2. Consider the promise, “*I will make of thee a great nation,*” Gen. 12:2.
  - 3. But Sarah was barren, Gen. 11:30, and Abraham was 75 years old, Gen. 12:4.
  - 4. But he took God at His word, Gen. 15:5-6; Rom. 4:19-21.
  - 5. He did not question the word of God, even when God’s command may not have made sense. Note Gen. 22:2-3; Heb. 11:17-19.
- B. He was a man of Great promptness.
  - 1. Gen. 12:1,4.
  - 2. Genesis 22:2-3.
- C. He was consistently obedient to God.
  - 1. Heb. 11:8.
  - 2. Even to the point of being willing to sacrifice his own son as an offering to God, Gen. 22:2,9-10.
    - a. He would have completed the act were it not for an angel of God intervening, Gen. 22:11-12.
  - 3. Obedience is a test of friendship, John 15:14.
- D. He was a family man, Genesis 18:19.
  - 1. **Note:** It would be difficult to pay a greater compliment on a person than that which God paid to Abraham in these words.
  - 2. We need family men today, men who will:
    - a. Honor their marriage vows, Matt. 19:6.
    - b. Be the heads of their families, Eph. 5:23.
    - c. Who will rear their children for God, Eph. 6:4.
- E. He was a peaceable man.
  - 1. Genesis 13:1-9.
  - 2. Abraham had every right to choose the best land for himself, but he wanted “*no strife*” between himself and Lot, and gave Lot the privilege of choosing the best for himself. Had Abraham asserted his “rights” there would have been strife.
- F. He was characterized by unselfishness, Gen. 14:17-23.
  - 1. He gave to Melchizedek “*tithes of all,*” Gen. 14:20.
  - 2. He refused to take anything of the spoils of Sodom for himself, Gen. 14:23.
- G. He was given to hospitality, Rom. 12:13; I Peter 4:9.
  - 1. Genesis 18:1-8.
  - 2. In so doing, he “*entertained angels unawares,*” Heb. 13:2.
- H. He was a pilgrim and a so-journer.
  - 1. Hebrews 11:9-10,13.
  - 2. He never personally owned the land to which God directed him; that land was given to his descendants.
  - 3. He was able to “*sojourn in the land of promise,*” to dwell in a “*strange country,*” in “*tents,*” because he “*looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God,*” Heb. 11:10.

#### **IV. Application:**

- A. The Old Testament was written for our “*learning,*” Rom. 15:4.
- B. With regards to Abraham and this lesson, we note two things:
  - 1. God was Abraham’s friend (evidenced by all that God did for him).
  - 2. Abraham was God’s “*friend,*” evidenced by the preceding points.
- C. As it relates to us:
  - 1. God is our friend, Gen. 1:1; Matt. 5:45; Acts 17:28; John 3:16.
  - 2. Can God call you (and me) “*my friend?*”

#### **Conclusion:**

- 1. Abraham on earth lived as a friend to God. Physically, Abraham has been dead for close to 2,000 years; yet he now lives in paradise! Luke 16:23-31.
- 2. God shows no partiality! Acts 10:34-35. We can enjoy the same blessings – provided we follow Abraham’s example and demonstrate the qualities of Abraham, beginning with prompt obedience to God’s command!

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