

“By faith he made his home in the promised land” (HEBREWS 11:9, NIV).

Bible Study 3

Abraham: A Man Committed to the Plan

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Read Genesis 11:27-16:16 and 21:1-7.

God made a covenant or series of promises with Abram that became the basis for his relationship with God as well as for the relationship between God and His Chosen People. This covenant is found in Genesis 12:1-3 and is repeated throughout Abram’s journey in Genesis 13:14-17; 15:1-7 and 12-16; 17:3-8 and 18:17-19.

In this covenant, what did God promise Abram related to...

his safety and protection? _____

his children and descendants? _____

the land of Canaan? _____

his effect on the rest of the people of the world? _____

What was Abram’s responsibility in the covenant?

Genesis 12:1 _____

Genesis 15:6 _____

Genesis 17:1 _____

Genesis 18:10 _____

Genesis 18:19 _____

Abraham is a principal character of the Bible and of world history. Members of three major world religions now revere him as their great patriarch or father. Read the story of how he made a major move, had a name change, and literally became the father of many nations in Genesis 12-21. As you read, consider the role that Abraham played as God carried out His mission in the world.

In Genesis 11:27-32, we learn that Abram had grown up with his father and three brothers in their hometown of Ur in southern Babylonia. He was married but had no children yet when, for some reason, his father decided to move the family to the land of Canaan, more than 1,000 miles on the other side of the Arabian Desert. The family migrated north about 700 miles up the Mesopotamian Valley and settled in Haran where Abram’s father died. The family of immigrants was about halfway to Canaan when God issued a personal call to Abram.

God was clearly at work in Abram’s life, arranging circumstances in his family so that he was already moving toward the place where God wanted him. However, God wanted Abram to *know* and to *commit* himself to the plan. It was time for God to reveal Himself personally to Abram and to challenge him to know Him, to follow Him and to trust Him for everything.

Why do you think God chose Abram (rather than someone else)? _____

Why did God change Abram's and Sarai's names in Genesis 17?

How did God intend to “bless all the nations” through Abraham and his descendents?

One of the most difficult lessons for Abraham and his Jewish descendents to learn was that they were blessed by God so that He could use them as a channel of blessing to all the nations. They were to be a nation of priests and a light to all the nations.

As Christians, we have the same problem. It is so easy to think that we are His Chosen People as if we are somehow members of an exclusive club or clique when in reality we are chosen to be His partners commissioned to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Why God chose Abram—or you or me—to join Him in His mission is a mystery too difficult for any of us to understand. One thing is clear: We must each respond to His invitation and answer His call. And as we receive the blessings of knowing Him, we must still remember that Jesus is actually not our “personal savior.” He is the Savior of the whole world.

In what way(s) is God's call to Abram similar to Jesus' call to His disciples in the New Testament? (*Matthew 4:19, Luke 9:23*)

In what ways do you see God working in your family history and situation to put you in a position to follow God's plan for your life?

What changes has He brought to your life?

What covenant or promises has God made to you?

In what specific ways do you think God intends to bless other people through you?

Pray that God will make your life an eternal kind of blessing to other people as you follow Him.

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