

The Freeman Road Church of Christ
1006 Freeman Road, Neosho, MO

Old Testament Examples Series
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Abraham

When it comes to discussing Old Testament heroes, it is impossible to stay away from the story of Abraham. Abraham stands among the elite of Bible characters, and serves as an example to all believers of what it means to be fully dedicated to God. In fact, Abraham was the beginning of something incredible. He was not only the patriarch whose grandson would become the nation of Israel, but it was Abraham who received the promise that through his lineage all the world would be blessed.

While Abraham became a very faithful and righteous man, his beginning does not seem to be quite so perfect. The Bible doesn't even introduce us to Abraham until he is 75 years old. At that time, Abraham was living with his father's family in Ur of the Chaldeans (Gen. 11:31). According to Joshua, Abraham's forefathers actually partook in pagan worship (Jos. 24:2) and we can assume that is how Abraham was raised. Abraham's father died after the family moved to northern Mesopotamia however, and at that point God called to Abraham, and told him to move to the land of Canaan. This was a risky move for Abraham, leaving behind his family and all the stability he had and venture to a new land he had never known. God promised Abraham though that He would make him a great nation. So great in fact, God said Abraham's descendants would be as innumerable as the stars!

The one problem with God's promise was that Abraham didn't even have a son. Abraham didn't allow this to cause him doubt though, and he believed God and continued to follow the Lord's instruction.

Abraham's life was full of different trials and tests. Sometimes Abraham made mistakes, such as when he lied about his wife to try and save his own life (Gen. 12), or when he and Sarah tried to make God's plan happen on their time schedule by him laying with Hagar, Sarah's maid, and having a child through her. Abraham was human, and thus made mistakes, but he also learned from his mistakes as he grew closer to God. Most importantly, the more Abraham came to know God, the more he trusted Him.

Twenty-five years after God's initial promise, Abraham finally had a son with his wife Sarah. By this time Abraham was 100 years old! God proved to keep his promise however, and Abraham continued to be faithful to God. One final test was required of Abraham, and in Genesis 22, God commanded Abraham to offer his only son Isaac up as a sacrifice to God. Without hesitation or delay, Abraham set out on the journey to Mt. Moriah as God commanded, trusting enough in God to follow His commandments, even in such a grievous task. Later, as Abraham was about to slay his son, God's angel called out and staid his hand, as Abraham had proven his loyalty to God, as well as his faith in Him. As a result, God promised the covenant would be kept, and that through Abraham all the world would be blessed. This prophecy of course was referring to the fact that Jesus Christ would one day be born among the lineage of Abraham.

Many lessons can be learned from the life of Abraham, but for the purpose of this brief article let us consider two major themes: faith and obedience.

Abraham's faith should be emulated by all Christians. In fact, his faith was so impressive he was spoken of in impressive detail by the Hebrew writer in Hebrews 11; a chapter dedicated to faithful men and women of the Old

Testament. Abraham proved early on that he believed in and trusted his God. He had faith to move to a foreign country, faith to leave his father's family, faith to give his nephew the better portion of land, faith that God would see him through war and famine, faith that God would give him a son, and faith that God would keep His promise, even if he had to offer his son as a sacrifice. Today, people want to place their trust in everything but God. Instead, we should be like Abraham, and place our trust in nothing but God. Abraham had riches, family, possessions, land, you name it. But Abraham didn't have faith in those things. He placed his faith in God.

Secondly, Abraham's faith led to obedience. When God commanded something, Abraham obeyed. Whether it was moving hundreds of miles or sacrificing his only son, Abraham was always ready to follow God's instruction. In today's religious climate when so many claim salvation by faith alone, it is good for us to recall that Abraham never *only* believed in God, but his faith brought about action through obedience. It is in fact his obedience that makes him such a great candidate for example in James 2:21-23 in that great passage on works and faith. We, like Abraham, should not only believe in God, but we should always be ready to act upon that belief, and obey God in every way according to His word.

Although Abraham lived thousands of years ago, his legacy and example are timeless. The man's faith and obedience serve as reminders even today, of what it means to truly be a child of God. All Christians would do well to study the life of this great man, and apply his attributes to their daily lives, so that they too can one day inherit the wonderful promises of God.

Article By: Nate Bibens

February Teaching Schedule

Sunday, Feb. 6th

10:00 Randy Blankenship
4:00 Cancelled

Sunday, Feb. 13th

10:00 Lee Owens
4:00 Nate Bibens:
Intro to the
Books of Prophecy

Sunday, Feb. 20th

10:00 Nate Bibens
4:00 Nate Bibens:
Isaiah Part 1

Sunday, Feb. 27th

10:00 Roger Owens
4:00 Nate Bibens
Isaiah Part 2

Wednesday, Feb. 2nd

7:00 Cancelled

Wednesday, Feb. 9th

7:00 Cancelled

Wednesday, Feb. 16th

7:00 Nate Bibens
Intro to
2 Corinthians

Wednesday, Feb. 23rd

7:00 Roger Owens
2 Cor. 1:12-23

Contact Information:

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