

6-2-19
ABRAHAM'S EXAMPLE AS A FATHER

TEXT:

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 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Romans 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Romans 4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

Romans 4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

Romans 4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Romans 4:22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

Probably apart from God our heavenly Father, or Adam, there is no other man in the Bible that is referred in the Bible as the Father of us all like Abraham of old.

In fact we even sing a little children's chorus song entitled "Father Abraham".

I would like to take the next few weeks leading up to Father's day to talk to you about the biblical teaching about the importance of fatherhood and the Biblical teachings concerning fatherhood.

The Bible gives this prediction concerning the plight of fatherhood as we entered the end times:

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Malachi 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Apparently the Lord is going to send Elijah to earth to preach against the abomination that is taking place in our nation today with fatherhood in general.

Over half of the children in this country are not living with their biological father. Because of the rise of dysfunctional homes children are growing up with a great disdain for their biological fathers. Children that have bad feelings about their earthly fathers I believe will be spiritually crippled for life.

What I would like to do the next few weeks is to do the work of Elijah and seek to turn the hearts of Fathers to their children!

This morning out of all the great men in the Bible there is no other as great an example of Fatherhood as ABRAHAM. We will start with looking at his good example of being a father.

Abraham An Example To Every Father:

It All started when:

I. He Went Where God Told Him To Go:

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Genesis 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: **and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.**

Every Father Needs To Learn To get Direction From God.

Need to learn to walk with God.

Need to learn to go when He says go.

Need to learn to come when He says come.

Shudder to think how some men make decisions, to move family, to relocate for a job, to leave a Church for whimsical reasons to take a job or go somewhere where they think they will be more comfortable more prosperous.

We should never forget the story of Ruth, where a man by the name of Elimelech thinks to protect his family and moves them to moab, away from God and where God wanted him. If you read the book of Ruth you'll find that he dies and his sons die and it does not go well for him. All good intentions not based on faith and walking with God will lead to ruin.

To make a major decision without ever seeking counsel, without ever trying to get the mind of God is foolish. How many marriages have been destroyed and families ruined all because men do not know how to walk with God.

So Sad.

Many years ago a godly deacon in a church I attended by the name of Carl Shanosk shared this verse which changed my life. In fact I would not be pastor of this church if it were not for this passage.

I remember him reading to me this passage:

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Genesis 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

Brother Carl said to me, Brother Bissol, God spoke to my heart about you the other day. I was reading this passage and you came to my mind. I believe God wants you to get out of the area and go to a Bible college away from your home town. It is too much of a temptation for you to stay in this area.

Now, it was more advantageous for my wife and I to stay in the Philly area. Carl knew that my Dad offered me an apartment for free and a new vehicle for free if I would just stay in the Philly area and go to a local college.

We had job opportunities, family to help us, but I believe it was God's will for us to trust God by faith and go to seek a better country. In my case I needed to be like Abraham.

The easiest problem for God to solve is finances.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

So sad how so many people decide where to go, where to move their family solely on the basis of finances.

When I decided to accept the call to this church as Pastor, I Never asked what the salary would be. We did not even discuss finances, I said, if it's the Lord's will I'll come and God will provide.

I moved, sold my trailer in Clarks Summit, moved my wife and child here never being aware of the fact that the Church could not afford to support me.

After I got here I asked for financial statement from treasurer, then I realized the church could not afford to pay me much. I had Left my Job at National Music. I Called my boss ask for a part time job back. So those first 5 years or so I worked a sales job one day a week and Pastored the rest of the week. And God provided. Truth is you'd be amazed how many Pastors have left country churches in our area because of lack of finances, while I have stayed here these 36 years.

Safest place for you to be is where God tells you to Go.

Abraham was 75 yet God said move. He could have said:

What kind of Job opportunities?

What will be the fringe benefits?

Where will I live?

Lord I am 75 years old.

He didn't say:

Will there be greener pastures there???

Two ways to know God's will back then:

OT either, you are a prophet, or you go to a prophet and ask him. This is how David enquired of the Lord.

Now in this case Abraham was a prophet and God spoke directly to him.

David consistently sought counsel of the prophets.

Here are some verses that illustrate this truth about David:

I Samuel 23:9 And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod.

I Samuel 30:6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

I Samuel 30:7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Archimedes's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

I Samuel 30:8 And David inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

I Samuel 30:9 So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.

I Samuel 30:18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

In the NT. Either you know prophecy well enough to discern principles for yourself, or you need to go to someone that knows them.

David was a great spiritual man, yet he always asked his spiritual leader to enquire of the Lord for him.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Look I am just a man who God has called to serve Him as a Pastor. However, God says He will use His man to help others. If I don't know something I will tell you. I will not make things up!

But I don't know how many people have left this church for unbiblical reasons and have destroyed their families in the process.

Do you realize that Christ's church is his bride. If you dishonor His bride, what do you think He will do with your relationship of your bride. Do you realize that God told one of his prophets (Hosea) to marry a women who would play the harlot on him, and cheat on him, and suffer heartache in the area of his marriage just to illustrate to the nation how bad it is to disobey Him and play the harlot spiritually with Him! Do you really think that God could not do the same to you and your marriage if you committed spiritual harlotry against Christ?

READ IT FOR YOURSELF:

HOS 1:1 The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beer, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

HOS 1:2 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, **Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.**

Do you realize that the Divorce rate is as high amongst so called professing Christians as it is in the world. WHY.. I believe it is because of spiritual whoredoms. What you do to the Bride of Christ may just be what God does to your bride and marriage.

If you want to be like Abraham, obey God, go where he tells you to go and do what he tells you to do, and obey and follow the Lord! It is the safest things for you and your family. Be careful of playing footsies with the world, Flirting with the world, putting the things of this world above Christ!

II. ABRAHAM: He Was A Man Of Immense Faith.

1. He was a man of faith in war.

Genesis 14:14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.

Genesis 14:15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.

Genesis 14:16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

Our protection is only of God. I do not believe we could have ever gotten our independence from England if it were not for Christian patriots. Baptists made the best patriots.

2. He was a man of faith in the area of Finances.

A. HE TITHED.

Genesis 14:17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.

Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

Genesis 14:19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

Genesis 14:20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Why did he tithe? The law was not written yet. Where did he get the idea to tithe?

There are many things written in the law that God had impressed into the hearts and lives of his people way before Moses wrote them down. God said in the law thou shalt not kill, but almost every nation had a similar law. The law is written in the hearts of people by the Holy Spirit of God.

How sad it is that when you teach the commandments of God people today call you a legalist. Jesus said this:

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

B. Abraham was a man of faith in finances, in that he knew some money was not worth making.

Many a man has been corrupted by taking money from the wrong people.

The old expression is so true, when you accept money from people you sometimes are indebted to them.

Abraham did not want to be indebted to the wrong kind of people.

Genesis 14:21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.

Genesis 14:22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,

Genesis 14:23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I made Abram rich..

Genesis 14:24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

In the area of his family, Abraham was a great father, but he knew that he could only be a great Father if he was faithful to his God. He wisely knew how to not entangle himself with ungodly men. You would think his nephew Lot would have learned a lesson from this. Instead he became more entangled with the men of Sodom to the destruction of his family. I am sure Lot thought he was doing a good thing for his family, but instead he destroyed all his children with the immoral ways of Sodom! A great contrast we see between Abraham and Lot!

III. HE WAS A MAN WHO PUT GOD BEFORE HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN. THEREFORE HE GAINED THE EMINENT POSITION OF BEING CALLED THE SPIRITUAL FATHER TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN OF FAITH.

God actually tested him to see if he would put himself before his own son Isaac.

Romans 4:16 says, that because of Abraham's faith he is call the father of us all,

Romans 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Abraham, according to the Bible, was willing to offer up his son because he believed in the resurrection of the dead.

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

Hebrews 11:18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

Hebrews 11:19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

He received him in a figure. This incident was a figure, what is a figure but a picture. Abraham offering his son, was a picture of what would happen to Jesus Christ some 2000 years later. God the Father would offer up His son for our sins. Jesus was God's only Son. He was beloved of the Father. Abraham would have obeyed God, but God stopped him short of offering his son on that Altar. He stopped him but God the Father did not stop the crucifixion and offering up of His son on the cross.

The ungodly are ignorant of the Bible and twist what happened here.

God expects us to put Him first, yet most people don't!

Matthew 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Matthew 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Do we put God first? Most people do not. Abraham was tested to see if he did, and he passed the test.

When I first heard the gospel, and understood that according to the gospel, unless you personally give your heart to the Lord you are non of His. I remember talking to Peter Accardi and Carl Shanosk that night many years ago. I understood that according to the Bible everyone is lost and needs to be saved. There are no exceptions. We all are as sheep who have gone astray.

There is no one that is good enough to make it to heaven unless they receive Christ. Suddenly I realized of all my friends and all my family members, there were none who were saved. I also knew that if I got saved they probably would get a bit upset at me. You see when Peter got saved, my mother said stay away from Peter. She was from Italy and often people who got too religious in her country usually had mental problems. She said stay away from him "his mind is a illuminated..."

I knew that getting saved would probably get my family upset. In fact that kept me from getting saved for over a year after I heard the gospel. I was afraid of rejection by my friends and family.

Yet, God showed me that I needed to love the Lord more than Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, or friends or carrer. I don't have time to tell you how God worked in my heart to show me that I needed to put God first. All I can say, is that God opened my mind and heart to this truth many years ago and to this day I do not regret putting God first in my life.

I had many family members get upset at me.
I had friends get upset at me.
I had had business associates get upset at me.

I say to you, like Jim Elliot of old: "NO MAN IS A FOOL TO GIVE UP THAT WHICH CANNOT KEEP FOR THAT WHICH HE CANNOT LOOSE."

This verse is so true.

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

In 1974 I lost my earthly life and gained eternal life.

When Abraham was willing to take his beloved son to mount Moriah and offer him up as a sacrifice he illustrated this biblical truth. He was willing to put God first.

And for this reason God said he would be the Father of us all. It was because he put God first by faith. He was willing to sacrifice his own son, to the Lord.

According to Romans, Paul said Abraham is an example of faith to all who believe. And in this regard he has become the father of many nations. We are a foolish nation in Christ. So in this regard Abraham is our Father also. He foresaw Christ. Jesus even said it!

John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

John 8:57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Abraham through the eyes of Prophecy foresaw the coming of Christ!

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 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Romans 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Romans 4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

Romans 4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

Romans 4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Romans 4:22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

Romans 4:23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;
Romans 4:24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;
Romans 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Genesis 22:3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Genesis 22:10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

Genesis 22:11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

Genesis 22:12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

Genesis 22:16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

Genesis 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Genesis 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

I recall in secular college my professor calling into question whether it was right in the Bible that God would ask such a thing of Abraham.

In fact the professor actually took time out of her class and let us split up into discussion groups to discuss whether we thought it was right for God to ask Abraham to kill his son, even if he believed God would resurrect him.

This was not education it was behavioral modification! The goal was to tear down the students faith in God, not to educate. I wasn't saved at the time and thought the whole class was silly. But to this day I remember what the professor was trying to do and today I have disdain for her motives.

HOW WICKED ARE THE MINDS OF OUR HUMANISTIC EDUCATORS.

These same people say it is ok, to murder millions of babies.
These same people say it is ok, for men to marry men, women to marry women.
These same people would rather people die than animals die.

They set themselves up as the custodians, and moral guide of our nation?

Mark it down, what God says is right is right, what God says is wrong, is wrong!

Today we can still give up a child as a burnt offering by letting them surrender to the ministry or to the mission field.

Our children are lent to us from God.

The blasphemy of abortion is that a person really thinks that that baby in the womb is theirs to do as they will.

Irony is we think nothing to kill helpless babies in the womb.

But are forbidden to spank a rebellious toddler out of the womb?

Just because we can't ask that unborn child if they feel pain does it mean they feel it any less?

Things have gotten so bad in church circles, that the government has to tell churches what they need to do to keep children safe from pedophiles.

What wickedness! No wonder our nation is so rotten, the churches are rotten!

What made Abraham so great?

He was willing to put God and His will above the love for his own son.

We need to put God first above mother, father, wife, children even self.
Abraham knew what the Lord Jesus taught before he even before he came to earth.

Matthew 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Matthew 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Abraham is called the Father of us all. Men if you want to be a great Father follow Abraham's example of Obedience and Faith.

Conclusion:

Think about this, to this very day, there are people who claim Abraham as their father. There is a biological people and there are a spiritual people. Even us Christians claim him as our spiritual Father of faith.

The Jews are descendants of Abraham, biologically.
The Christians are descendants of Abraham, spiritually.

What kind of impressions will we leave on our children. Most fathers are forgotten as soon as they are dead. Some may be remembered for one generation after their death. But here is a man who has been remembered, for thousands of years. Here is a man whose children still claim his name now for thousands of years. All because he put God first.

He was willing to offer up his only son to God. For this God said your name will be remembered forever.

The biggest problem Fathers have and have had, is trusting God by faith.

The story of Abraham is an example to us all, how that a man of Faith, a Father of faith is a true hero and a man whose legacy will live long after he is gone.

PART II ABRAHAM'S VISION OF CALVARY

John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

John 8:57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

John 8:59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

John 10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

John 10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

John 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

This morning I told you the story of the professor who had all the class split up into discussion groups to discuss whether it was right of God to ask Abraham to sacrifice his own son.

Those years I was a music Major in a secular college. What I didn't tell you this morning is that this same professor did the same thing multiple times. I had to take this class it was Philosophy 101. I remember in those days sitting in class thinking that this is a bunch of nonsense. I recall breaking up into discussion groups to discuss another question assigned to us from the teacher. One of the topics of discussion was.

1. *If God said thou shalt not kill than why did God tell Abraham to take his son Issac and offer him up as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah?*

I thought to myself what a stupid question.. So when the discussion groups came back I just sat there and listened to a bunch of people that knew nothing..

It was obvious then that our teacher was an atheist and didn't believe in God, and her agenda was to show us all the contradictions she found in the Bible.

When I first signed up for the class I thought I was going to learn something in that class but apparently the agenda was not learning but unlearning. The goal was to strip away any semblance of Christianity in our minds.

Later on when I went to Bible College I learned that this form of teaching is not teaching at all but what is called SOCIAL or BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATION. The goal is to tear down the Judeo-Christian foundations of the student and replace it with Humanism. It has worked well, just look at our media and political climate of the day. They are the A students of the system.

In other words the whole agenda is to tear down the moral foundation that we had been taught in Church and in our Christian Family backgrounds and our nations foundation and leaders!

So I endured the class.. got by with B's and C's on my tests. Then in the Mid term I received a notice that I was failing the class. I went to see the teacher and there was another student there that apparently was flunking the class and he was arguing with her from the Bible. I wasn't a born again Christian then and so I wasn't there to argue the Bible with her. I didn't even know the Bible. All I wanted to know is how it is I was flunking a class where I was getting all C's and B's on my tests.

When the other student left I asked the teacher why I was a flunking a class that I received all B's and C's on my exams. She said, "The reason is because 1/2 of your grade is participation and you have not participated at all in class." I said, "Oh ok," so I left there and said to myself, "I guess I will have to figure out something to say next class.."

Then the next class came and the discussion question was:

2. *If God is good why does he allow evil in the world???*

So not knowing the Bible, I just gave some lame answers and tried to defend God. But everything I said was wrong, because the only right answer, to her, was there is no God. However, my feeble attempt to participate in class pulled my grade up a C. Needless to say, I didn't take Philosophy 102, and graduated from that college a few years latter.

Now this question that my Philosophy teacher posed to her students about Abraham and Isaac has plagued Bible critics for years.

Also the question about "why there is evil in this world" has plagued people throughout history. In fact many an atheist has been converted to skepticism because they were not able to find an answer to that question. This very mystery was what led famous atheists like Charles Darwin into skepticism.

Now the part of the problem with the discussion and the questions asked about how God could ask Abraham to offer up his son, is that the critics do not understand that:

I. Abraham was a Prophet who God spoke to directly.

Humanism rejects prophecy, miracles, and Biblical revelation and inspiration. A prophet is someone special who God would and could speak to directly.

I am not a prophet
You are not a prophet.
And the people criticizing the Bible are not prophets.

The only prophecy I know is that which is written down in the Bible.

Therefore God did not ask you or me to do what Abraham did because we are not prophets. This is a special command given to a special person, ABRAHAM.

Prophets prophesied in many different ways.

Sometimes God asked them to act out their prophecies:

Ezekiel was asked to lie on his side in the middle of the streets of Jerusalem as an object lesson. He became an illustration or a figure to all the people to see:

Ezekiel 4:4 Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity.

Ezekiel 4:5 For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.

Ezekiel 4:6 And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.

Ezekiel 4:7 Therefore thou shalt set thy face toward the siege of Jerusalem, and thine arm shall be uncovered, and thou shalt prophesy against it.

Ezekiel was commanded to lay on his side for 390 days to symbolize how many years God put up with their idolatry. He was to take a tile and put a picture of the city in front of him and put a pan of iron before his face.

God's prophets not only prophesied in words but also in real life through being an object lesson to all.

In Ezek. 24:18 Ezekiel was told that his wife was going to die and he was not to mourn or even go to the funeral, to be an illustration to the nation.

Hosea's marriage was a figure, or picture to the backslidden nation.

When a prophet broke the pictures God had for him to portray he was severely punished. Moses was told to speak to a rock instead he smote the rock, for this he was punished. Another young prophet was told not to return to Judah the same way he came he disobeyed and was punished.

SO WHEN ABRAHAM OFFERED HIS SON.. HE WAS PROPHECYING! He was a picture of a future event when Jesus would be offered up.

Most Bible scholars believe that Mount Moriah is the same place as Araunah's threshing floor that David bought and where Solomon built the temple.

II. ABRAHAM UNDERSTOOD THE PROMISES OF GOD.

1. God cannot lie, he learned this with the incident of Hagar:

We do not need to help God out to fulfill his promises.

When Abraham doubted God's promise about he and Sarah having a son he made a grave mistake and till this day the Arabs, Palestinians are an issue. It is a direct result of Abraham not trusting God's word to fulfill His promise to him and Sarah to have a child..

Often God does not have to fulfill His promises in our time, but He will fulfill His promises in His time and in His way.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2. Abraham therefore concluded that if he offered up Isaac God would resurrect him.

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

Hebrews 11:18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

Hebrews 11:19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

III. Jesus Clearly Said that God gave Abraham a Vision of the fact that some day God would send his son to be a sacrifice for sins. John 8:56

John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

This was the promise given to Abraham.

Through thy seed all nations shall be blessed and in Jesus Christ the world is blessed because He is the savior of the world.

And someday He will come back to earth and set up His Kingdom and things will be different in that day..

He died and arose from the grave.

So He promises all those who receive Him as Lord and Savior will also receive a resurrected body and live and reign with Him on planet earth.

THIS IS THE PROMISE OF ABRAHAM.

And Jesus is the Son of Abraham that has fulfilled this promise. Abraham, was the Father of our Savior.

All who receive Him and acknowledge Him as their Lord and Savior and King can now be a spiritual son of Abraham and through our faith he becomes the father of us all.

The greatest Miracle of all is when the Lord enters into the heart of a sinner and we are set free from the bondage of sin.

This is as much a miracle as when Sarah at age of 90 had a son. We who for all intents and purposes have been blinded by the philosophies of this humanistic world: We who have rejected the word of God, suddenly have our eyes and hearts opened to the Word of God. We realize that:

We have been running from God and now by His grace He opens our eyes to the truth of His word. **THIS IS THE GREATEST MIRACLE OF ALL. AND IT CAN TAKE PLACE IN YOUR HEART IF YOU INVITE OUR LORD INTO YOUR LIFE.**