

OT History for Juniors: Lesson 6, "ABRAHAM"

I. REVIEW

A. For whom is the Old Testament preparing? A: The Seed of the woman. Quote Genesis 3:15!

1. **Remember that God promised the Seed of the woman, who will be the Saviour, Jesus Christ, way back in the Garden of Eden.** Who heard the Promise? A: The devil, Adam and Eve. What was Adam & Eve's response to the Promise? They believed! What was the devil's response to the Promise? He hated God & wanted to stop the Seed coming.
2. **We saw that God's promise means that in the world there are always two kinds of people.** There are those who belong to Jesus and believe in God (the seed of the woman) and God's enemies (the seed of the serpent). God's people believe in the Promise and look for the Seed. God's enemies do not believe and because they are the seed of the serpent, they hate the Seed of the woman.

B. There have been attempts in the history we have seen so far by the devil to destroy the Seed.

1. The devil used evil Cain to kill Abel, but God gave Seth in Abel's place, and the Seed of the woman will come through the line of Seth
2. The devil used the family of Cain which grew mighty in the earth to destroy God's people, but God saved His people through Noah's Ark, and drowned the whole world of the ungodly in the Flood
3. Even after the Flood the devil tempted Noah to sin, and God cursed Canaan, the son of Ham, and promised salvation through the family of Shem.
4. And even after the Flood the devil tried to make a mighty world kingdom at Babel using Nimrod. But God destroyed the kingdom of the devil by confusing the languages.

II. GOD CALLS ABRAM (ABRAHAM)

A. Up to this point, God has promised that salvation will come through Seth, and then Shem. Now God shows that the promise will come through a man called Abraham (Abram)

1. **Abram lived in a great city called Ur of the Chaldees. There he had married a wife, Sarai. Because his brother had died, he looked after his nephew, Lot.**
 - a. God appeared to Abram in Ur and said to him that he must leave and go on a long journey to a place which he had never seen. God did not even tell him where the place was.
 - b. But He did give Abram a promise: (Read Gen. 12:1-3).
 - c. That was a very difficult commandment but Abram believed God and he obeyed God and he left his homeland with his wife (Sarai), his nephew Lot and his father Terah. But Terah died on the way in a place called Haran.
 - d. When Abram left Haran he was 75 years old, and his wife Sarai was not able to have children.
2. **When Abram arrived in the land he discovered that it was called Canaan.**
 - a. This was the land of Noah's grandson, Canaan, whom Noah had cursed. The Canaanites were the enemies of God, the seed of the serpent, but God told Abram to live in their land.
 - b. But Abram was not to build a house there or plant crops. He had to live in a tent, and be a stranger. He had to be different from the Canaanites.
 - c. And God appeared to Abram again and promised Abram that He would give him and his seed the land of Canaan (Gen. 12:7). Abram believed God's promise. (Canaan is a picture of heaven)

B. Abram's sinful stay in Egypt.

1. **After Abram arrived in Canaan, there was a terrible famine (What's a famine? No food).**
 - a. Abram was worried that he would starve so *he went to Egypt*. Was this a good idea? No. Abram did not trust God.
 - b. Abram should have thought: God told me to go to Canaan; God told me that the promised Seed would come through me; I should stay in Canaan and trust God will give me what I need.
2. **But Abram had a problem. His wife Sarai was very beautiful and he was afraid that the Egyptians would take her.**
 - a. He thought, if the Egyptians know that Sarai is my wife, they will kill me and take her.
 - b. So he had a plan, he said to Sarai, Let's tell everyone that you are my *sister*.
 - c. This was a lie, and lying is wrong. But Abram was afraid and so he did the wrong thing.
 - d. Abram should have thought this way: Lying is wrong; I must not lie. God promised to make me a great nation so God will not allow the Egyptians to kill me. Sarai is going to bring forth the promised Seed.
3. **Did Abram's plan work? No, when the king of Egypt, Pharaoh saw Sarai, he took her.**
 - a. When Pharaoh heard that she was Abram's sister, he gave all kinds of gifts to Abram, and Sarai was taken away from Abram and lived with Pharaoh.

- b. This was terrible because if Sarai is not with Abram, she cannot bring forth the promised Seed, and Christ will not come. The devil was trying again to destroy salvation.
- c. But God sent plagues on Pharaoh and on Pharaoh's house, and when Pharaoh found out that Sarai was Abram's wife he gave her back and sent Abram away. The Seed was safe.

C. When Abram returned to Canaan his nephew Lot left him

1. Lot quarreled because he wanted to have better land for his animals.

- a. Have you ever quarreled? Abram was sad that Lot was quarreling so he told him to pick for himself some land and Lot did, but Lot was greedy and he picked the best land, which was near some very wicked cities called Sodom and Gomorrah.
- b. This was very wrong of Lot because the blessing of God was with Abram. He chose to leave Abram because he was selfish, greedy and loved the things of the world.
- c. At first Lot lived in a tent near Sodom, but soon, Lot was living *inside* the city of Sodom

2. Lot did not have an easy life in Sodom. The place was very wicked but he stayed.

- a. When there was war between the kings of the land Lot was taken a prisoner from Sodom, and when Abram heard it he gathered an army together of his own household servants and rescued Lot, but even then Lot went back to live in Sodom.
- b. Sodom was so wicked that God sent angels to tell Abram that he would destroy it, and when Abram heard that he prayed to God. (describe prayer in Gen. 18 [numbers going down: 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10]). *God said that He would not destroy the city for 10 righteous.*
- c. But there were not ten righteous in Sodom. There was one righteous man, Lot. God sent two angels to Sodom, and [*describe the angels' visit, the men's attack, blindness, and then the angels taking Lot, his wife and 2 daughters out of the city*]. But Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, as God rained down fire and brimstone on the city. Lot lost everything: his home, his wife and he ended up living in a cave in the mountains.

III. GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAM

A. When Lot left Abram God make promises to Abram.

- 1. **The promises:** The first time, God said that Abram would be a great nation (Gen. 12:1); the second time, God said that Abram would have the land of Canaan, a picture of heaven (Gen. 12:7); the third time, God said that Abram's seed would be so many that they would be like the dust of the earth (Gen. 13:4); the fourth time, God said that Abram would have a son and his seed would be as many as the stars of heaven (Gen. 15:4)
- 2. **The problem.** Abram needed a son so that the promise could come true. But Abram had no children and his wife Sarai was not able to have children.
- 3. **So, Sarai, Abram's wife had a plan** (Hagar, Sarai's servant could be the mother of the promised son). Abram agreed to Sarai's plan (it was a sinful plan) and Ishmael was born, but he was not the promised son. After Ishmael was born, Hagar caused trouble in the house of Abram, and God did not appear to Abram for another 13 years! Look at what trouble man's foolish sinful plans cause. Better to trust God!

B. But God had not forgotten His promise. Abram had. He thought that Ishmael was the promised son.

- 1. God came to Abram and changed his name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah (explain); He told him that in a year's time, Sarah would have a son called Isaac. Abraham was 100 yrs and Sarah 90 yrs.
- 2. Three men came to visit Abraham a few months later. One was God Himself (God promised again, Sarah heard and laughed, but God rebuked her and she believed. And Isaac was born!
- 3. When Isaac was born Abraham and Sarah were happy. They had a son, and they knew that through their son Isaac the promised Seed would come!