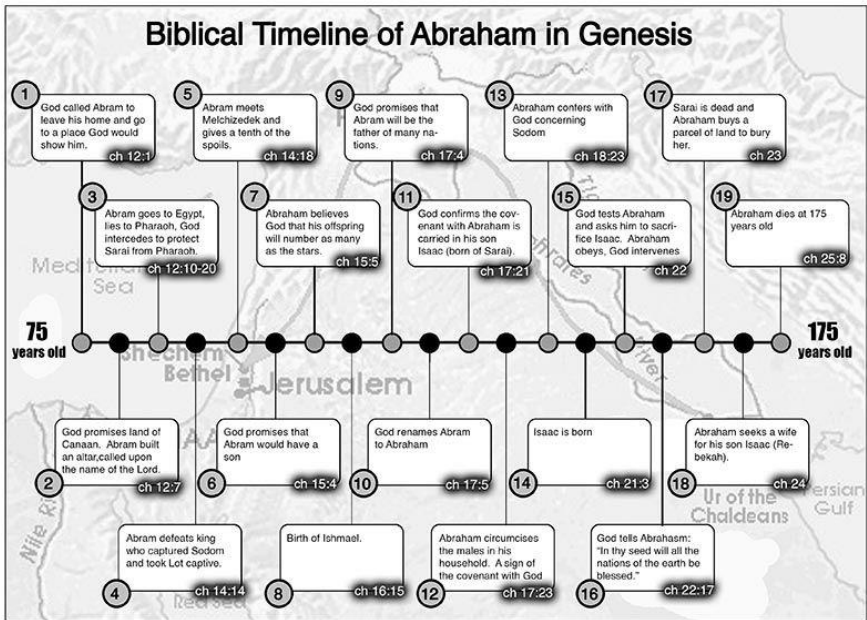


Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – 2024
Saturday, 2/3 at 4:00 | Sunday, 2/4 at 9:00

The Incredible Faith of Abraham!



Text: NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This sermon is an **overview of Abraham**. Even though he lived about 4,000 years ago, he is looked upon with *GREAT SIGNIFICANCE* by the religions of **Christianity**, **Judaism**, and **Islam**. See the timeline in the image above to see some significant events in his life (read it if you can or [click here](#) to see it online).

The Bible has 15 chapters on the life of Abraham ([Genesis 11-25](#)), so he should be known by us and significant to us. In this sermon I will ➡ give you some highlights of his life and ➡ try to entice you to find out more – *beginning next week*.

1. **Abram Grew Up with False Gods:** “Joshua said to all the people [of Israel]..., ‘From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, *namely*, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, **and they served other gods**” (Jos. 24:2). Abram had a *poor spiritual upbringing*, but – by *God’s grace* – he did not continue to worship false gods. Today, many are worshiping the false gods of sleep, sports, food, sex, and money, *but salvation is available through Jesus – to all who repent and believe!*

2. **The LORD Called Abram** (Genesis 12:1-3): The LORD called him to ➡leave his gods, ➡leave his family, and ➡leave his home; **HUGE and DIFFICULT THINGS!** To encourage Abram, the LORD promised him **land**, **descendants**, and **blessings** – *even to bless all people through him!*

3. **Abram and Lot Separated** (Genesis 13): Since their people and livestock became SO NUMEROUS, they agreed to go their separate ways.
 - a. Unfortunately, Lot chose the area of Sodom – the ground: *lush, like the garden of Eden*; the people: *exceedingly evil*.
 - b. Sometimes ♦we, ♦our children, ♦our grandchildren make **horrible** choices. If we haven’t done so already, **let us repent** ➡ 😊*be sorry*, 😊*turn from our sins*, and 😊*trust in Jesus for forgiveness!*

4. **Abram Defeated Four Kings** (Genesis 14): Four kings defeated five kings. Among the five was the king of Sodom. The four kings took many captives and spoils – *including Lot, his family, and his possessions*. When Lot’s uncle, Abram heard the news, he gathered the shepherds

in his large family and – ***with the powerful blessing of God*** – defeated those kings and rescued Lot and his family!

5. **Abram Displayed Great Faith** (Genesis 12, 15, 16, 18): Try to imagine Abram's *long and difficult situation*: When he was 75 years old, *the LORD promised him descendants*. 24 years later, at the age of 99 years old, *he and Sarai were still waiting to have their first child!*
- Do you believe **all** of God's promises?
 - Right now, are you waiting for a particular promise to be fulfilled? Are you waiting patiently – *confident that God will fulfill His promise at the best time!*

As Abraham waited with trust and patience, *let us do the same!*

6. **Abram Saw the Area of Sodom Burning Like a Furnace:** **Genesis 19:27-28** Now Abraham arose early in the morning *and went* to the place where he had stood before the LORD; and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the valley, and he saw, and behold, **the smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace.**
- Why did the LORD bring *such intense destruction* to those **GREAT** cities and that **FERTILE** land? **Because of the sin of HOMOSEXUALITY!** The LORD wanted his radical action to stand as a testimony against homosexuality for all time.
 - However, today, most 😞 **HAVE FORGOTTEN THE LESSON** and 😞 are calling for the LORD's wrath to be poured out upon them.

7. **The Sacrifice of Isaac** ([Genesis 22](#)): Abraham waited 25 years for Isaac to be born, then – *when Isaac was about 15 years old*, the LORD commanded Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.
- What did he do?
 - What would you do?

Conclusion: Starting next weekend I'm beginning a special study, ***WHICH WILL BRING ABRAHAM TO LIFE*** to help us understand:

- ✓ His life!
- ✓ His trust in the LORD!
- ✓ The agony he endured as he followed the LORD's command to offer the long-awaited-Isaac as a sacrifice!

Please join us on Saturday at 3:00 or Sunday at 10:30.

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, we thank You for saving Abraham, then blessing him **and** countless people through him – *as You brought Your Son into this world through his descendants!* Help us to model his incredible faith in Your promises **and** in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ!

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