

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

Walking With God

It was 25 years since Abram began his journey of faith with God and he had grown in his walk. In Genesis 12 God had made a covenant with Abram and now reconfirmed this with Abram. Abram, who's name was given to him in honor of the moon god that his father had worshiped was now changed by God himself.

Gen 17:2-8

(2) And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

(3) Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:

(4) "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

(5) No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

(6) I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

(7) And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

(8) Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

In the multi-colored highlights above, you can see five times that God reaffirms with Abraham, His promises and details His future

plans. It sure feels good to be able to refer to him as Abraham now. I have had to correct myself many time in our lessons to keep true to the timeline we were studying. So Abraham, never doubt Me, never worry about whether I will keep my word because (Gen. 17:1) I am El-Shaddai, God Almighty. I will do it.

Walking with God has two components. His walk and your walk. God's responsibility and yours. God has revealed His part and now the tone changes.

In Verse 9 we see the second of these two components for Abraham and his descendants. Circumcision did not give a boy salvation but rather reminded him that God gives grace to the undeserving. A wedding ring is no more than a symbol and if a spouse cheats then it is a lie. He could boast of circumcision but if he was sinful then his relationship with God was a lie. It did not make him a true Jew even though years later that was what was thought.

Paul said

Romans 2:29

but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

Jewish writers called this internal devotion "circumcision of the heart".

Deuteronomy 10:16

Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.

Duet. 30:6

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to

love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Sarai also had a part. Her name would be changed to Sarah which means princess. A fitting name for one who would bring forth nations and kings.

Genesis 17:15-16

(15) Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

(16) And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her."

In Verse 18 Abraham presents the idea that Ishmael could be the one God wants but God in verse 20 has chosen Sarah to give birth to Isaac. Remember Abraham laughing about He and Sarah to have children in their old age? God has a sense of humor too! He instructs them to name the child Isaac which means "laughter".

Genesis 17:19

Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

Let's pause for a moment. You may be old and have slowed down some. You have many years of experience to tell you what I am about to say. Abraham lived 1,750 years and he would tell you this to. Slow down. Getting ahead is not about money or a career and doing as much as you can.

Charles Swindoll says “Find a way to cut out the noise. Make time for meditation”. “It’s by slowing down and growing deeper that you begin to receive all that the Lord has in store for you”.

1. Your discernment will increase.
2. Your anxiety will decrease.
3. You will avoid unnecessary tragedy.

Deliberately devote yourself to walking with Him

***Next Week:
Raising Abraham Gen 18***