

# Abraham, God's Salvation Story



- The Salvation story really begins with Abraham
- *Abraham* is the father of the Christian faith
- Abraham's name is mentioned 76 times in the New Testament
- In the New Testament he is used many times as an example of faith



# I. God Makes Promises to Abram

## Genesis 12, 15



*God began to talk to him Gen. 12:1-3*

*God told Abram: Leave your country, your people and your family. Go to a place I will show you*



## *God promises Abram:*

- I will make you into a great nation
- I will bless you
- I will make your name great
- You will be a blessing
- Whoever curses you, I will curse
- ALL peoples on earth will be blessed through you!
- When he got there, God said, to your offspring,
- I will give this land

- Maybe you are like Abram,
- Why did I move to America?
- What did I get my family into?
- I don't know where you are on the journey of faith
- Maybe you are just beginning, you are like Abram
- Is this God real?
- Can I trust Him?



- Then God renews His promise to Abram Gen 15:1-6
- There is some doubt in Abram's question, but God said Abram's offspring would be like the stars of sky and so he believed God



- I don't know if he understood that these would be his spiritual children.
- That these would be his children by faith
- Faith in a descendant that would come from Abraham
- It was a promise that God made to him and God keeps his promises



# **II. The Salvation Story was put on Hold**

## **Genesis 16**



- Abram had no doubt shared the promises with his wife
- We are going to have a child in our old age!
- God made the promise, but 10 years later and 10 years older. And still no child



- Back then, if your wife didn't have a child, you could choose another woman to be a 2nd wife,
- Hagar a maidservant of Sarah
- Sarah blamed God for no children so she says this is what we are going to do, have a child through Hagar.



- I don't know what Abram was thinking about his wife and moving and God making all these promises
- *But I would be thinking, is this really worth it?*
- *Is God really going to keep his promises?*



# III. The Child Promise Fulfilled

## Genesis 17, 21



- Abram was 99 years old and God talked to him again
- “I will greatly increase your numbers”
- God changed his name to Abraham-father of many
- Sarah will have a son
- Abraham laughs, Sarah have a son at 90 years old!



- Isaac is born to a very old couple and we would think that this is a story with a happy ending
- Abraham, Sarah and Isaac living on the land the God had promised
- Isaac would one day marry and have children



# IV. Test of Faith Genesis 22



- God talks to Abraham one more time.
- Take your son, your only son and go to Mt. Moriah and sacrifice him on an altar
- This was a test of Abraham's relationship of faith with God



- But God said it and so the next morning he takes his donkey, some servants and Isaac and they go toward Mt. Moriah, a 3 day journey
- Abraham doesn't know how this will turn out



- And he did as God told him; Isaac is bound, put on the altar
- Abraham is just about to kill his son, when God says, Abraham! Do not lay a hand on the boy
- *“Now I know that you fear me, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”*



- *Why was Abraham known as the man of faith?*
- He trusted in the Lord, he believed that God would keep the promises made to Abraham.
- He trusted in the Lord even when it seemed impossible.



- *How was Abraham a blessing to the nations?*
- We find out 100s of years after Abraham
- Abraham-Isaac-Jacob-nation of Israel-King David, and God promised David that one of his descendants would be the Savior of the world and so a man named Jesus was born in Israel



## *Galatians 3:6-9*

Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

- This blessing has come to you today and you can receive it by faith
- If you put your faith in Jesus, Abraham's descendant then you are saved



Abram put his faith in the LORD, who attributed it to  
him as an act of righteousness

Abram creyó al SEÑOR, y el SEÑOR se lo reconoció  
como justicia

Akamwamini BWANA, naye akamhesabia jambo hili  
kuwa haki.

亚伯兰信耶和华，耶和华便算他为义人

Abramu sì gba Ọlórún gbọ́, a sì kà á sì òdodo fún un

Ыбырам Жаратқан Иеге сенді, сондықтан  
Жаратқан Ие оны Өзінің алдында ақтады

## Abraham, God's Salvation Story

Abraham is one of the key people in the Bible  
He is very important in the Salvation story  
The Salvation story really begins with Abraham  
**Abraham** is the father of the Christian faith  
Abraham's name is mentioned 76 times in the New Testament  
In the New Testament he is used many times as an example of faith  
Someone who trusted in God  
God started the relationship with Abraham  
**I. God Makes Promises to Abram Genesis 12, 15**  
Abram is 75 years old living in the Ur of the Chaldeans  
He was doing well, had a wife, had a home and no doubt wanted to live  
out his years there  
Then something strange happened in his life,  
*God began to talk to him* Gen. 12:1-3  
*God told Abram:* Leave your country, your people and your family  
Go to a place I will show you  
*God promises Abram:*  
I will make you into a great nation  
I will bless you  
I will make your name great  
You will be a blessing  
Whoever curses you, I will curse  
ALL peoples on earth will be blessed through you!  
Vs. 7 When he got there, God said, to your offspring, I will give this land  
Then in Gen. 13:14, 15 the land promise again and your offspring will be  
like the dust of the ground!  
So many promises!  
If I were Abram, I would be thinking, God made the promises  
God is going to give me these things shortly  
Especially the children promise, Abram wasn't getting any younger  
He was an old man and his wife wasn't young  
He trusted that God would keep his promises and he moved his life  
Maybe you are like Abram, Why did I move to America?  
What did I get my family into?

I don't know where you are on the journey of faith  
Maybe you are just beginning, you are like Abram  
Is this God real? Can I trust Him?  
Well Abram moved his wife and everything he owned to this new land  
And 1 year turned into 2, 3, 4 and 5 and still no child  
Then God renews His promise to Abram Gen 15:1-6  
There is some doubt in Abram's question, but God said Abram's  
offspring would be like the stars of sky and so he believed God  
I was outside the other night and looked up at the stars  
Millions of stars, I looked at all of the stars bright in the night sky  
And I imagined that Abraham did the same thing  
My offspring will be as numerous as all of these stars?  
I don't know if he understood that these would be his spiritual  
children. That these would be his children by faith  
Faith in a descendant that would come from Abraham  
It was a promise that God made to him and God keeps his promises  
But still Abram had received nothing from God  
Kind of like the boss who promises you a promotion  
I am working on it, trust me, it will take some time  
And one year turns into 2, 3 but you received nothing  
That's where Abram was and 5 years turned into 10 years  
And his wife has a great idea that will solve the childless problem.  
**II. The Salvation Story was put on Hold Genesis 16**  
Abram had no doubt shared the promises with his wife  
We are going to have a child in our old age!  
God made the promise, but 10 years later and 10 years older  
And still no child  
Back then, if your wife didn't have a child, you could choose another  
woman to be a 2nd wife, Hagar a maidservant of Sarah  
Sarah blamed God for no children so she says this is what we are  
going to do, have a child through Hagar.  
But when Hagar gets pregnant by Abram, Sarah is miserable 16:5  
She blames Abram for her idea!  
If you are married, you know what it is like to have an unhappy spouse  
There is a saying, "If Momma ain't happy ain't nobody happy"  
Sarah wasn't a mom yet, but she was unhappy

And she was making Abram's life unhappy also  
I don't know what Abram was thinking about his wife and moving  
and God making all these promises

*But I would be thinking, is this really worth it?*

*Is God really going to keep his promises?*

Well, Abram finally has a son born to Hagar, his name was Ishmael  
But he had an unhappy wife and he was 86 years old and God  
quit talking to him

### **III. The Child Promise Fulfilled Gen 17, 21**

Have you ever waited for something so long that you forgot about it?

Abram was 99 years old and God talked to him again

"I will greatly increase your numbers"

God changed his name to Abraham-father of many

Vss. 15, 16 Sarah will have a son

Vss. 17, 18 Abraham laughs, Sarah have a son at 90 yr old!

Sarah hears about it later and she laughs to herself

It was a laughter of unbelief, it had been 24 years since God made the  
promise and they thought it was impossible to have a child

God likes to work in what we consider impossible

Isaac is born to a very old couple and we would think that this is a story  
with a happy ending

Abraham, Sarah and Isaac living on the land the God had promised

Isaac would one day marry and have children

The end, no, not quite the end

### **IV. Test of Faith Gen 22**

Abraham has the son of the promise, Isaac

He is the son that would inherit everything, he would be the son that  
would have children and carry on Abraham's relationship with God

God talks to Abraham one more time. Take your son, your only son and  
go to Mt. Moriah and sacrifice him on an altar

This was a test of Abraham's relationship of faith with God

But Abraham is confused

God gave me this son, this son is my future, no son, no grandchildren

I can't be the father of many nations without Isaac!

But God said it and so the next morning he takes his donkey, some  
servants and Isaac and they go toward Mt. Moriah, a 3 day journey

Abraham doesn't know how this will turn out

He is no doubt hurting, wondering why God would tell him this

We have hints that he knows all will turn out OK.

Vss. 5, 8

And he did as God told him; Isaac is bound, put on the altar

Abraham is just about to kill his son, when God says, Abraham! Do not  
lay a hand on the boy

*"Now I know that you fear me, because you have not withheld from me  
your son, your only son."*

Isaac was Abraham's most precious possession

But he showed by his actions that obedience to God was more important

*Why was Abraham known as the man of faith?*

He trusted in the Lord, he believed that God would keep the promises  
made to Abraham. He trusted in the Lord even when it seemed  
impossible.

*How was Abraham a blessing to the nations?*

We find out 100s of years after Abraham

Abraham-Isaac-Jacob-nation of Israel-King David, and God promised  
David that one of his descendants would be the Savior of the world and  
so a man named Jesus was born in Israel

Mankind has a problem-sin

Because of this sin we die physically, spiritually, and we are  
separated from God

Jesus came to this earth to live the perfect life and then he was willing  
to die in our place, he went to the cross and died for your sins.

And then 3 days later he rose from the dead and offers us eternal life,  
a life in heaven with God forever

And we accept this gift of eternal life by faith

Just as Abraham put his faith in God

### **Galatians 3:6-9**

Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."  
Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture  
foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in  
advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who have  
faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

This blessing has come to you today and you can receive it by faith

If you put your faith in Jesus, Abraham's descendant then you are saved

If you have any questions about this faith in Christ, I invite you to talk to  
me or some of the other Christians here at ICC.