

Our Spiritual Patriarchs

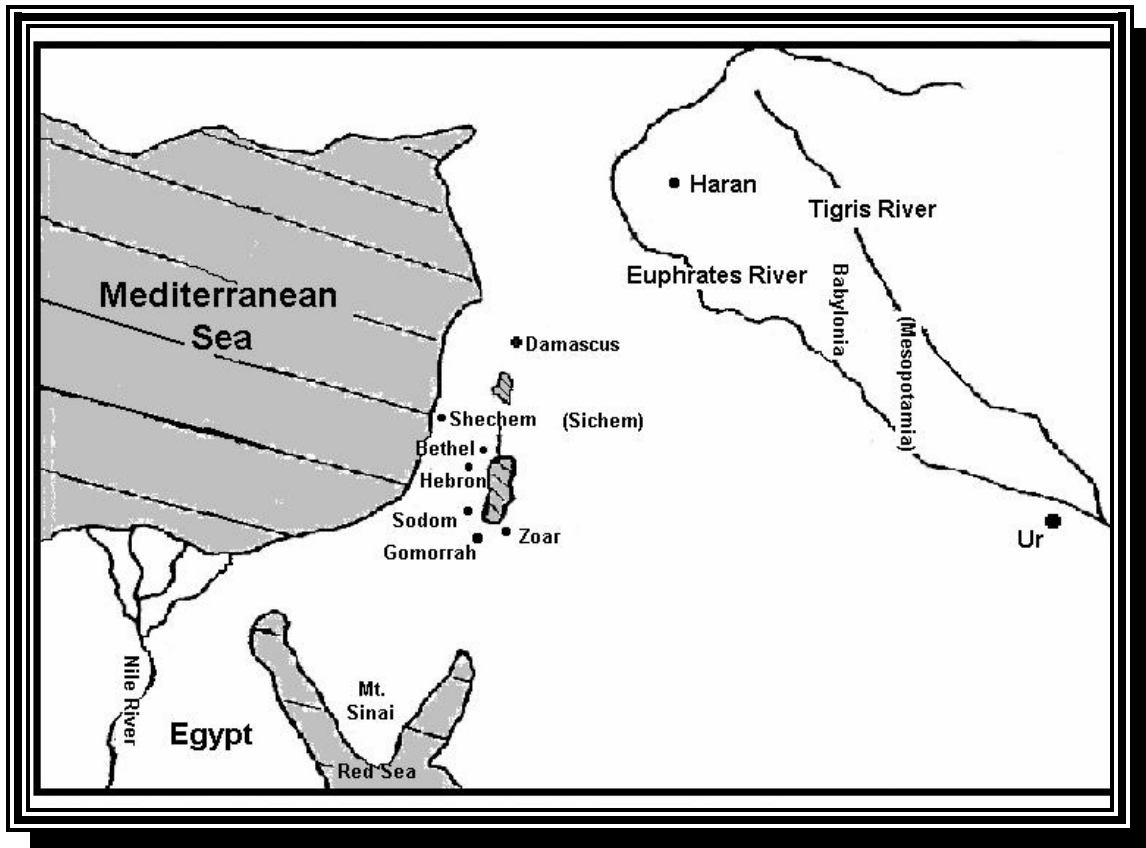
Lesson Three

Genesis 12-27

The next three lessons deal with the Old Testament patriarchs. These are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. A study of Job is also included in this section.

Lesson three will cover the lives of Abraham and his son Isaac. The last lesson set the background for the next major event in history. God is ready now to establish the nation for his chosen people. Abraham is called to be the father of this nation. Through Abraham and his descendants, God's plan of sending a Savior into the world will be accomplished. The time frame for the events of the next three lessons is from roughly 2000-1500 B.C. Five hundred years of action-packed history is waiting for us. We will begin with Abraham.

Refer to the map below as we follow the story of Abraham.



THE CALL OF ABRAM

Genesis 12-14

Terah, a descendant of Shem, with his sons Abram, Nahor, and Haran lived at Ur of the Chaldees, where Haran also died. And Terah took his family and removed to Haran in Mesopotamia and dwelt there. But Terah served other gods. And the Lord said unto Abram, "Get out of your country and from your kindred, and from your father's house, unto a land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed." So Abram, seventy-five years old, departed with Sarai, his wife, and Lot, his brother Haran's son. And when they came into the land of Canaan, to Sichem, to the plain of Moreh, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "Unto your seed will I give this land." And there he built an altar unto the Lord who appeared to him.



On the map, draw the route of Abram's travels.

Look up Genesis 12:3b.

How have all people on earth been blessed through Abraham? _____

Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. And Lot also had flocks and herds. And the land was not able to bear them that they might dwell together; therefore there was always strife between their herdsmen.

Read Genesis 13:7-18.

How was the strife settled? _____

Which land did Lot choose? _____

Which city was near where Lot settled? _____

What was that city known for? _____

What two things did the Lord tell Abram? 1. _____

2. _____

And it came to pass that four kings made war upon the king of Sodom, and put him to flight, and took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food, and Lot also, and went their way. When Abram heard this, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants, and pursued and smote the enemy, and brought back all the goods and people, and also Lot.

ABRAHAM'S FAITH

Genesis 15-18

Read Genesis 15:1-6.

In this section we learn that Abraham has been given a promise by God that he shall have many offspring. What problem does Abraham relate to the Lord?

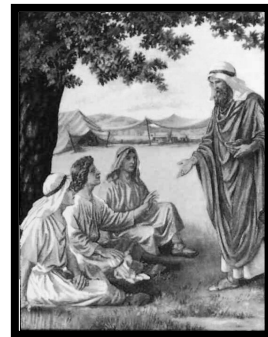
What is the Lord's reply? _____

What did Abraham do that was credited "to him as righteousness"? _____

And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared unto him and said, "I am the almighty God; walk before Me and be perfect. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." And Abram fell on his face. And God talked with him, saying, "My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham. This is my covenant that you shall keep: Every man child among you that is eight days old shall be circumcised. And the man child whose flesh is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant. As for Sarai, your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. And I will bless her, and give you a son of her; and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her."

The name changes had special significance. Abraham means "father of many." Sarah means "princess" as does Sarai, but the renaming stresses her role as the mother of nations and of kings.

Read Genesis 18:1-15. Please note that two of the men were angels and the third man was the Lord himself. This becomes clear in the reading of the rest of this chapter and the beginning of the next chapter.



How many men did Abraham see? _____

What did Abraham quickly do? _____

About whom did they ask? _____

What did the Lord say concerning Sarah? _____

How did Sarah react when she heard him say this? _____

Why did she react like this? _____

SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Genesis 18-19

And the three men arose and looked toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them. And the Lord said, "The cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and their sin is very grievous." And the men went toward Sodom; but Abraham stood yet before the Lord and said, "Will You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Perhaps there are fifty righteous in the city: will You spare the place for the fifty righteous that are there?" And the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous, then I will spare all the place for their sakes." Abraham answered and said, "Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes; perhaps there shall lack five; wilt You destroy all the city for the lack of five?" And He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it." And he spake unto Him again and said, "Perhaps there shall be forty found there." And He said, "I will not do it for forty's sake." Abraham said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Perhaps there shall be thirty found there." And He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." And he said, "Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, Perhaps there will be twenty found there." And He said, "I will not destroy it for the twenty's sake." And Abraham said, "Oh, let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Perhaps ten shall be found there." And He said, "I will not destroy it for ten's sake."

Now **read Genesis 19:1-11** to find out how truly wicked the people of Sodom had become.

Who greets the two angels? _____

What does he ask them to do? _____

Did they accept his invitation at first? _____

Why do you think Lot insisted they come with him? _____

These verses indicate one of the sins the people of Sodom were engaged in. What sin is it? _____

What happened to the men outside the door? _____

And the men said to Lot, "Have you here any besides? Son-in-laws, sons and daughters, bring them out of this place, for the Lord has sent us to destroy it." And Lot went out, and spoke to his sons-in-law, and said, "Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city." But he seemed to them as one that mocked. And when the morning came, the angels hastened Lot. And while he lingered, they laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife and his two daughters, and brought them forth out of the city, and said, "Escape for your life; look not behind you; escape to the mountain, lest you be consumed." And Lot said, "Oh, not so, my Lord! I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die. This city is near; let me escape there." And he said, "Haste you, escape there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar, that is, Little.

Read Genesis 19:23-29.

What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah? _____

What did Lot's wife do? _____

What happened to her? _____

THE OFFERING OF ISAAC

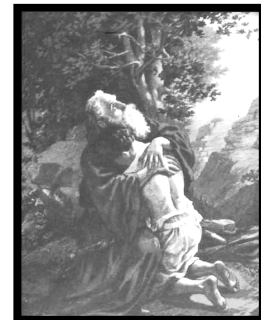
Genesis 21-23

When Abraham was a hundred years old, his wife Sarah bore him a son at the set time of which the Lord had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son Isaac, and circumcised him being eight days old, as God had commanded him.

After these things God did test Abraham and said unto him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Take now your only son Isaac, whom thou love, and go into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell you of."

Why would it be so very difficult to trust and obey God in this matter? _____

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his donkey and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac, his son, and cut the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And he said unto his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac, his son; and he took the fire in his hand and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac said, "My



father." And Abraham said, "Here am I, my son." And he said, "Behold the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering." And they came to the place that God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac, his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And he stretched forth his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

Note that Isaac was at least in his teens at this time and possibly in his twenties.

Now **read Genesis 22:10-19** to find out what happened.

How did God stop Abraham from killing Isaac? _____

What did God provide for the sacrifice? _____

What other "Lamb" (pure and holy without sin) did God later provide as a sacrifice for the sins of all people? _____

What did Abraham call the place? _____

What promise of God to Abraham was restated at this time? _____

When Sarah was a hundred and twenty-seven years old, she died, and Abraham buried Sarah, his wife, in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Hebron.

ISAAC'S MARRIAGE

Genesis 24

And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the Lord had blessed him in all things. And Abraham said to his eldest servant, Eliezer, "I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and of the earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; but you shall go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son, Isaac. And if the woman will not be willing to follow you to this land, then you shall be clear from this my oath. And Eliezer swore to him and he took ten camels, and departed, and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. And he made his camels to kneel down outside the city by a well of water, at the time of the evening that women go out to draw water. And he said, "O Lord God, show kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of the water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water. And let it come to pass that the damsel to whom I shall say, 'Let down your pitcher, I pray you, that I may drink,' and she shall say, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also'-- let the same be she that You have appointed for Your servant Isaac."

What is the problem Abraham has concerning Isaac? _____

Read Genesis 24:15-28.

Do any of the girls respond the way Eliezer prayed they would? _____

How is the girl related to Abraham? _____

And when Laban, Rebekah's brother, saw the earring and bracelets, and heard the words of Rebekah, he ran to Eliezer and said, "Come in, blessed of the Lord; why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and room for the camels." And the man came into the house. And Laban ungirded his camels, and gave straw and fodder for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and set meat before him to eat. But he said, "I will not eat until I have told my errand." And he said, "Speak on." And Eliezer told them all that had taken place, and said, "Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me." Then Laban and Bethuel answered, "The thing proceeds from the Lord. Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife." And in the morning he rose up and said, "Send me away to my master." And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with the man?" And she said, "I will go." And they blessed Rebekah and sent her away. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at eventide. And Eliezer came and told Isaac all the things that he had done. And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah's tent, and she became his wife; and he loved her. And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac, and died at a hundred and seventy-five years old. And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah at Hebron.

ISAAC BLESSES HIS CHILDREN

Genesis 25-27

Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. The first was red all over like a hairy garment. And when the boys grew, Esau was a hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. And Jacob cooked some stew; and Esau came from the field, and he was faint, and said to Jacob, "Feed me, I pray you, with that red stew: for I am faint." And Jacob said, "Sell me this day your birthright." And Esau said, "Behold, I am at the point to die; and what profit shall this birthright do to me?" And Jacob said, "Swear to me this day." And he swore to him; and he sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright. And when Esau was forty years old, he took two wives of the Hittites, which were a grief of mind to Isaac and to Rebekah.

A birthright included the inheritance rights of the firstborn. These inheritance rights were considerable. The firstborn son received most of the wealth of the father.

It is not known exactly why the wives of Esau were a cause of grief for Esau's parents; however, it has been suggested that the reason could have been their worship of idols.

Read Genesis 27:1-29 to find out how Isaac's blessing came to be given to Jacob.



What is Isaac's physical condition? _____

What request does Isaac make of Esau? _____

Who overhears this request? _____

Who comes up with the plan to trick Isaac? _____

Is Isaac suspicious? _____

Does Jacob answer Isaac's questions truthfully? _____

Does Isaac give the blessing to Jacob? _____

And as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob and Jacob was yet scarce gone out, Esau, his brother, came in from his hunting. And he also made savory meat, and brought it to his father, and said, "Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that your soul may bless me." And Isaac, his father, said unto him, "Who are you?" And he said, "I am your son, your first-born, Esau." And Isaac trembled very exceedingly and said, "Who? Where is he that has taken venison, and brought it to me, and I have eaten of all before you came, and have blessed him? Yea, and he shall be blessed." And when Esau heard these words, he cried with a great and exceedingly bitter cry, and said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, my father?" And he lifted up his voice and wept. And Isaac answered, "Behold, your dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; and by your sword shall you live, and shall serve your brother. And it shall come to pass when you shall have the dominion, that you shall break his yoke from off your neck."

REVIEW

1. To what country did God send Abram? _____
2. What problem arose between Abram and Lot? _____
3. What was God's promise to Abraham? _____
4. Why did God change Abram's and Sarai's names? _____
5. Who visited Abraham and Sarah with news of the coming birth of their son? _____
6. Abraham asks the Lord to spare Sodom if He can find how many (lowest number) righteous people? _____
7. Does the Lord agree to this? _____
8. With whom do the angels stay in Sodom? _____
9. Did all of Lot's relatives leave the city? _____
10. Was Lot eager to leave Sodom? _____
11. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? _____
12. What did God ask Abraham to do with Isaac? _____
13. What did God provide for the sacrifice? _____
14. Whom did Abraham send to find a wife for Isaac? _____
15. Is he successful? _____
16. How old was Abraham when he died? _____
17. For what did Esau sell his birthright? _____
18. Who grieved Isaac and Rebekah? _____
19. Who made the plans to procure the blessing for Jacob? _____
20. How many legitimate blessings could Isaac give? _____

