

LESSON 22: Abraham's Accomplishments

1.0 Text:

Romans 4:16

2.0 Preambles

Abraham is the great patriarch of Israel, and to believers, "He is the father of us all (Romans 4:16)." God visited Abraham on several unique occasions. The Lord spoke to him numerous times, once in a vision and once in the form of three visitors. Scholars believe that the mysterious "King of Peace" or "King of Righteousness," [Melchizedek](#), who blessed Abram and to whom Abram gave a [tithe](#), may have been a theophany of Christ (a manifestation of deity). This shows that God is there in our battles. Abraham carried out a brave rescue of Lot when his nephew was taken captive after the Battle of the Valley of Siddim.

Abraham's Strengths:

God tested Abraham severely in more than one instance, and Abraham demonstrated extraordinary faith, trust and obedience to the will of God. He was well-respected and successful in his occupation. He also had [courage](#) to face a powerful enemy coalition.

Abraham's Weaknesses:

Impatience, fear, and a tendency to lie under pressure were a few of Abraham's weaknesses revealed in the biblical account of his life.

Life Lessons:

One crucial lesson we learn from Abraham is that God *can* and *will* use us in spite of our weaknesses. God will even stand by us and rescue us from our foolish mistakes. The Lord is greatly pleased by our faith and willingness to obey him. Like most of us, Abraham came to the full realization of God's purpose and promise only over a long period of time and a process of revelation. Thus, we learn from him that [God's calling](#) will usually come to us in stages.

Ishmael (means God hears, because God heard Hagar prayers).

Key verses: Gen. 17:20, 25:17

Ishmael is a figure in the Qur'an and was Abraham's first son according to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Ishmael was born to Abraham's and Sarah's handmaiden Hagar. He was, 137yrs old

Born: 1911 BC, when Abraham was 86yrs old.

Hometown: Mamre, near Hebron, in Canaan.

Died: Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Children: Nebaioth, ,Dumah, Hadad, Adbeel, Naphish,Mishma, Massa, Tema, J etur, Kedar, Mibsam, Kedemah, Mahalath (F), Basemath(F).

Parents: Abraham, Hagar

Accomplishments: Grew to become a *skilled Hunter and Archer*. Father of the Nomadic Arabs

Sibling: Isaac

Nephews: Jacob, Esau

Ishmael was a child of favour, then like most of us his life took a downward turn. We can see the influence of pagan custom that encouraged Sarah to give Hagar to her husband. Though societally acceptable but it was against God's plan and way?

Mention those things Hagar and Ishmael did for his life to take a downward turn, Gen. 16: 4-5, 21:9.

Reflection: Gen. 37: 27 – 28. God used the Ishmaelites to save the Jewish nation.

Life Lessons:

Our circumstances in life can change quickly, and sometimes for the worse. That is when we should draw near to God and seek his [wisdom](#) and [strength](#). We may be [tempted](#) to become [bitter](#) when bad things happen, but that never helps. Only by following direction from God can we get through those valley experiences.

Think of those things that the society permits but run contrary to God's ways.

Isaac (Covenant, Promise)

Key verses: Gen. 17: 19, 21; 22: 9 -12

Isaac was a miracle child, born to [Abraham](#) and [Sarah](#) in their old age as the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham to make his descendants a great nation. A child of the promise, Gal. 4:28

Three [heavenly beings](#) visited Abraham and told him in a year he would have a son. It seemed impossible because Sarah was 90 years old and Abraham was 100. Sarah, who was eavesdropping, laughed at the prophecy, but God heard her. She denied laughing, Gen. 18: 13-14

Born: 1898 BC, when Abraham was 100yrs old.

Hometown: Mamre, near Hebron, in Canaan.

Wife: Rebecca

Died: Hebron aged 180 yrs, Gen. 35: 28

Children: Jacob and Esau

Parents: Abraham, Sarah

Accomplishments: Grew to become a *successful farmer, cattle and sheep owner*

Sibling: Ishmael

Nephews: Sons of Ishmael

Isaac favored Esau, a burly hunter and outdoorsman, while Rebekah favored Jacob, the more sensitive, thoughtful of the two. Isaac should have worked to love both boys equally.

Isaac's Accomplishments:

Isaac obeyed God and followed his commands. He was a loyal husband to Rebekah.

He became a patriarch of the Jewish nation, fathering Jacob and Esau. Jacob's 12 sons would go on to lead the [12 tribes of Israel](#).

Isaac's Strengths:

Isaac was faithful to God. He never forgot how God saved him from death and provided a ram to be sacrificed in his place. He watched and learned from his father Abraham, one of the most faithful men of the Bible.

In an era when polygamy was accepted, Isaac took only one wife, Rebekah. He loved her deeply all his life.

Isaac's Weaknesses:

To avoid death by the Philistines, Isaac lied and said Rebekah was his sister instead of his wife. His father had said the same thing about Sarah to the Egyptians, Gen. 26.

As a father, Isaac favored Esau over Jacob. This unfairness caused a serious split in their family.

Life Lessons:

God answers [prayers](#). He heard Isaac's prayer for Rebekah and allowed her to conceive. God hears our prayers too and gives us what is best for us. [Trusting God](#) is wiser than lying. We are often [tempted](#) to lie to protect ourselves, but it almost always results in bad consequences. God is worthy of our trust. Parents should not favor one child over another. The division and hurt this causes can result in irreparable harm. Every child has unique gifts that should be encouraged.

Isaac's near-sacrifice can be compared to God's sacrifice of his only son, [Jesus Christ](#), [for the sins of the world](#). Abraham believed that even if he sacrificed Isaac, God would raise his son from the dead: (Genesis 22:5)

Points of Interest from the Story of Abraham and Isaac

- God had earlier promised Abraham that he would make a great nation of him through Isaac, which forced Abraham to either trust God with what mattered most to him or to distrust God. Abraham chose to trust and obey.

- Abraham told his servants "we" will come back to you, meaning both he and Isaac. Abraham must have believed God would either provide a substitute sacrifice or would raise Isaac from the dead.
- This incident foreshadows God's sacrifice of his only son, [Jesus Christ](#), on the [cross at Calvary](#), for the [sin](#) of the world. [God's great love](#) required of himself what he did not require of Abraham.
- Mount Moriah, where this event took place, means "God will provide." [King Solomon](#) later built the first [Temple](#) there. Today, the Muslim shrine The Dome of the Rock, in Jerusalem, stands on the site of the sacrifice of Isaac.
- The author of the book of [Hebrews](#) cites Abraham in his "[Faith Hall of Fame](#)," and [James](#) says Abraham's obedience was credited to him as [righteousness](#).

3.0 Discussion / Interaction

4.0 Summary

5.0 Prayer

Courtesy:

Ilorin House Fellowship, Ilorin, NIGERIA.