

# THE ROOTS OF ABRAHAM

Lesson 6 for May 7, 2022



Abraham was called “the father of all those who believe” (Romans 4:11).

Faith was the leitmotif in his life. Always? Well, he also fell a few times. After all, he was not perfect.

Let’s study his first steps since exiting Chaldea until the war at Canaan. We’ll revisit the places where he built altars to worship God as his faith and trust in Him were gradually growing.



Thanking God

Rescuing Lot

Coming back to Canaan

Leaving for Canaan

Going down to Egypt

Ur





# LEAVING FOR CANAAN

"Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan." (Genesis 12:5)

God ordered Abraham to leave his land and go to Canaan. He also promised him blessings, honor, and protection (Gn. 12:2-3). Besides, Abraham would be a blessing to those around him, and to all the nations [in his Seed (Gn. 22:18; Gal. 3:16)].

First, Abraham had to leave the land of Chaldea [closely related to Babylon (Gn. 15:7; Is. 13:19a)] and reach Canaan (Gn. 12:5b).

We are also called to leave the false doctrines of "Babylon," and to obey God's orders by accepting the salvation God offers (Is. 48:20; Jer. 50:8; Rev. 18:2, 4).



# GOING DOWN TO EGYPT

“Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.” (Genesis 12:10)

When Abram arrived at Canaan, he established between Bethel and Ai and built an altar to God (Gn. 12:8). Everything went well! But “there was a famine in the land.” How did Abram change?



## Walking by faith

- Leaving Ur for Canaan (Gn. 15:7)
- Trusting God (Gn. 12:4)
- Being a blessing (Gn. 12:2)



## Walking without faith

- Leaving Canaan for Egypt (Gn. 12:10)
- Trusting himself (Gn. 12:13)
- Being a curse (Gn. 12:17)



God never left Abram despite his lack of faith. Abram deserved punishment, but God showed him grace. The same grace is available for us today.



# COMING BACK TO CANAAN

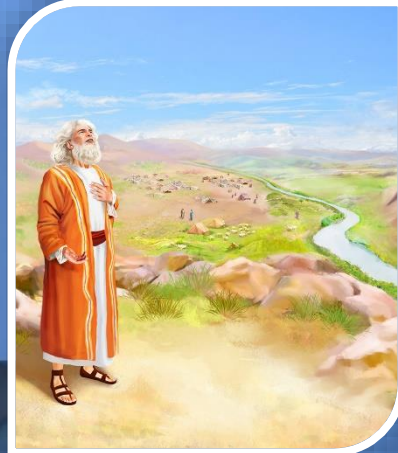
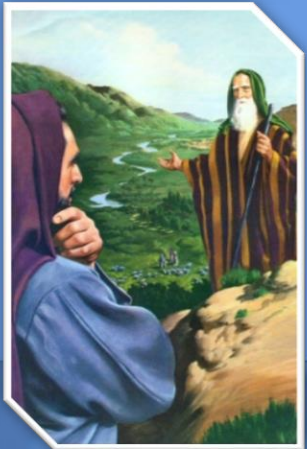
**"And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai." (Genesis 13:3)**

**God never left Abram but took his hand and brought him back to the starting point. He gave Abram the chance to begin his journey again, this time with a new lesson learnt.**

**Abram no longer feared the famine or trusted himself. He had understood that God would always be with him no matter what. Therefore, he let Lot choose first when conflict arose (Gn. 13:5-11).**

**Paradoxically, Lot chose freely but became a slave (Gn. 14:11-12) while Abram was free in the promised land (Gn. 13:14-17).**

**That land was a gift from God. Abram took it by faith. God promises, and God fulfills (2Co. 1:20).**



# RESCUING LOT

**“So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.”** (Genesis 14:16)

After serving Chedorlaomer and his allies for 12 years, the king of Sodom and his allies rebelled against him (Gn. 14:1-4).

The main powers of the time were fighting for land. Abram remained neutral. After all, he knew the land actually belonged to him because God had given it to him.

Only when he found out that his nephew Lot had been capture, “Seeking, first of all, divine counsel, Abraham prepared for war.” (E.G.W. “Patriarchs and Prophets,” p. 135).



Thanks to God’s support, only 318 men were enough to rescue Lot and to make the army flee to Damascus. God was exalted.





# THANKING GOD

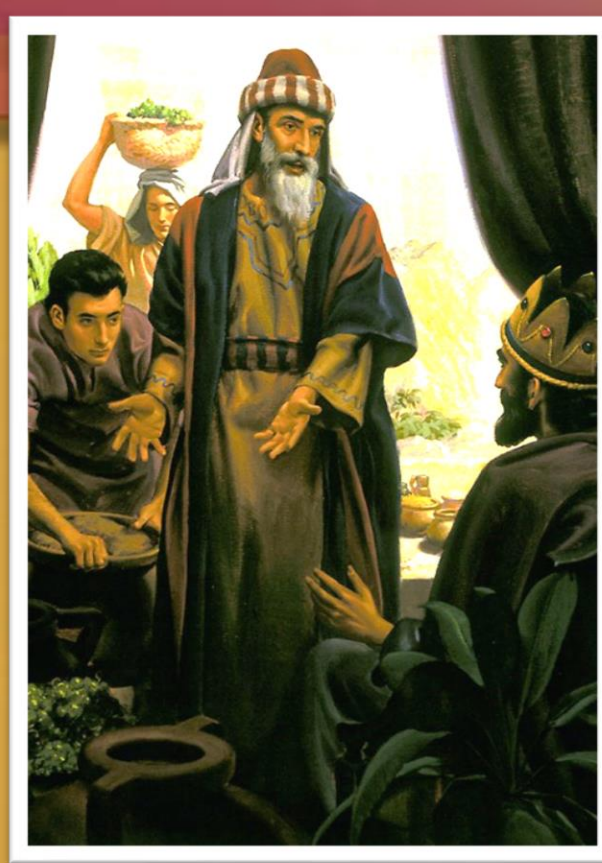
**“And he gave him a tithe of all.”** (Genesis 14:20b)

There’s a significant contrast between the names of the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah [*Bera* = “in evil”; *Birsha* = “in wickedness”], and the name of God’s priest [*Melchizedek* = “King of righteousness” (Heb. 7:2)].



Melchizedek is a type of Christ (Heb. 5:10; 7:3). Jesus is the “King of peace” (Is. 9:6). He will soon return to bring peace to Earth, and to receive all who have trusted God and reached victory (1Co. 15:57; 1Jn. 5:4; Rev. 15:2).

Abram showed his gratitude towards God by returning the tithe of everything He had given to him. He was an example to others, becoming a witness of God in his time.



**“The patriarch obeyed. He forsook his country, his home, his relatives, and all pleasant associations connected with his early life, to become a pilgrim and a stranger. Abraham might have reasoned and questioned the purposes of God in this. But he showed that he had perfect confidence that God was leading him; he did not question whether it was a fertile, pleasant country or whether or not he should have ease. He went at God's bidding. This is a lesson to every one of us.”**