

Meditation on Genesis 11-25

By Bev Kilts

A reading of these chapters in Genesis, takes us on the spiritual journey in the life of Abram (later to be renamed Abraham by God) and also on his physical journey into a land to which God had called him. In chapter 12, God calls Abram out of Ur of the Chaldeans – away from his family home, his relatives, his country – to a land “I will show you”. God promised Abram he would become “the father of a great nation”. God would “bless him and “make him a blessing to others”.

Whenever I read these chapters I am in wonder at Abram’s obedience. He had no concept of where God was taking him – no idea of what his future would possibly look like. Moving was not a simple action for Abram – he was a man of considerable wealth, hardly a wandering nomad. *Do you sometimes wonder where God is taking you? What your future is going to look like?*

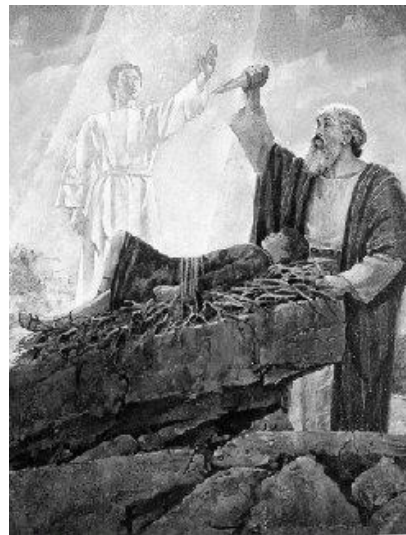
Verse 4 in chapter 11 tells us that Abram “departed as the Lord had instructed him” taking with him his wife Sarai (later named Sarah by God), his nephew Lot and his considerable wealth. Did he not question? Did he not wonder how, where, why? Of course he did. We find his doubts through his maneuverings and manipulations. *How familiar is that? How often do*

we try to influence the progress of events relying on ourselves instead on the God who has promised to guide our steps. It’s comforting to read that God continued to show faithfulness and compassion toward his travelers. God is not limited by our human tendencies to take things in our own hands. Pray for the faith that steps back and allows God to do as He Wills.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



After the 3 men ate they tell Abraham in 1 year Sarah will have a baby. Since Abe & Sarah were very old and these men were not doctors.. SARAH LAUGHED! **Ge 18:12** but hardly anyone noticed.



We read that, along the way, God’s covenant with Abram was expanded. He was promised land and descendants so numerous “they could not be counted”. In chapter 15, Abram questions the promise of descendants. How could this be?? Abram and Sarai were old and although he trusted God part of him was looking at the facts—so we read of more manipulations. We also read of God’s blessings upon Sarai—now renamed Sarah and promised her a son and that she became the mother of many nations.

There is so much to read and learn in these chapters—the obvious growth of Abraham’s relationship with God—growth that came through experiences. We read of Abraham’s interceding with God for Sodom—Abraham’s heart-wrenching obedience to God’s order to sacrifice his son Isaac and God’s provision of a sacrifice. “I will bless you” became a reality in the writing of Genesis. Abram was a blessing to those in his keep and In chapter 17, Abram’s name is changed to Abraham and the promise given to make him the “Father of many nations”. It would be an everlasting covenant between God and Abraham’s many descendants. Today Abraham is acknowledged as the father of the Israelites and of the Mohammedans and also as a great example of faith for Christian believers (Read Hebrews 11:11, 12).

Matthew opens his account of the life of Jesus Christ by stating he is the “son of Abraham” (Matt. 1:1). According to Paul, Abraham’s example of faith made him “the father of all who believe” (Romans 4:16).

The life of Abraham shows us a life led by faith in a living, loving, faithful God—a God who keeps his promises and rewards obedient faith. God calls us. Maybe not to leave family, home, friends to go into some unknown ministry. But, daily, we are called to be His servants—to show His Love to perhaps the unlovable—to tell His Story to a soul in need of hearing it. To serve. Proverbs 8:5&6 tells us to “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

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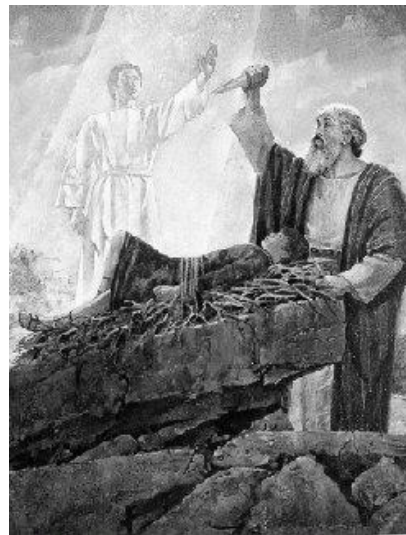
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