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He is happily married to Evang. (Mrs) Elizabeth Akinbo and the Lord blessed them with wonderful and glorious sons and daughter.



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# Systematic & Expository TEACHING



*On*

## THE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS

PASTOR S. OLU AKINBO

# SYSTEMATIC AND EXPOSITORY

*Teaching on the*

## THE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS

### Part One

*On*

**ABRAHAM: THE FRIEND OF GOD**

**Pastor S. Olu. Akinbo**

**Systematic and Expository Teaching  
on the Old Testament Saints - Part One**

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## DEDICATION & APPRECIATION

This book is dedicated to God Almighty through Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our Faith and to my beloved wife and partner in the Ministry, Evang. (Mrs) Elizabeth Oluwasola Akinbo.

My appreciation also goes to the General Overseer of His Coming Evangelical Church Int'l Inc. Pastor Dr. F. T. Amogbonjaye, and also my beloved Pastor Mathew Olatunya, for his assistance in prayer. Their prayer support make this book a reality. My appreciation also goes to Pastor Dr Festus Alabi.

May God bless you all richly in Christ (Amen).

## PREFACE

By the Grace of God, I intend present to Systematic and Expository Books on THE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS, starting with *Abraham: The Friend of God* (Part One).

The books will examine the Old Testament Saints. A close study of their lives, successes and failures, in their walk with God, definitely have a lot to offer New Testament Saints.

The series start with Abraham from his call in Chapter Twelve of Genesis to his death and burial in Chapter Twenty-Five (Genesis 12 - 25: 1-11).

Later, in other books we hope to look at Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David and others, God willing.

May God bless you as you prayerfully study this.

The E-book is equally available.

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## FOREWORD

This book is the first part of the Systematic and Expository Teachings on the Old Testament Saints beginning from Abraham, the Father of Faith, and God's Friend.

It is always a good confession to sing-Abraham's blessings are mine/2xe. I am blessed in the morning, in the noon and in the evening, Abraham blessings are mine - without actually knowing what it means. Many people did not know how Abraham got into that level of Friendship and Covenant with God.

However, in this book, the write x-rayed the life pattern of Abraham to a very logical conclusion. Reading through this book will inspire you on the need to Obey God's call, even in the face of challenges- as discovered in the First Chapter: The unselfish lifestyle of Abraham in allowing his younger close relative and mentee to take the upper hand in a decisive selected-noted in Chapter Two: His Courage and Covenant, his obedient lifestyle.

The booklet also cautions us to work on our weaknesses as could be discovered in Abraham's/Sarah's life. Yet, no matter the delay, God's promises are Yeah an Amen. God is not a man that He should lie nor the sons of man that He should repent (Numbers 23:17-19). God Abraham. Abraham is a reference-point today, because he obeyed God.

Please go through the lessons and theologies that abound for you to tap from.

Finally, I want to appreciate an elderly man of God o over forty years of ministerial experiences passing across some of his contemporizes. This is a good way to keep the flag flying for the purpose of Gospel expansion. Be eager to enjoy this spiritual nourishment.

Remain ever blessed.

**Pastor Adegbola Oluwadaisi Davies,  
M.Th.**

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## ***Chapter 1***

### **ABRAHAM THE FRIEND OF GOD**

#### **The Call of Abram**

***Genesis 12: 1-21; Acts 7:3.***

#### ***Introduction***

By God's Grace, we are undertaking systematic and expository teaching on the Old Testament Saints, beginning with Abraham, the Friend of God and Father of Faith. Abraham was from Chaldea, a gentle nation, a nation full of idolatry. God called him to leave his family, his people and his culture for where HE would show him. The place God Almighty told him to go was unknown to Abram, yet he obeyed God without complaining. In this study, we shall learn many things from Abram which will help our faith and obedience to God as well as help us to receive God's promises through faith and obedience to His instructions. As Abram was

called out from his kindred to a promised land, so also is God calling people today out of the sinful, corrupt and idolatrous world today to Christ and a journey to heaven the Kingdom of God (I Peter 2.9). Have you responded to the call for you to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour? If you have not done so, do it today, before it is too late. If you have received Christ into your life, after your conversion, God does not want you to be idle. He is calling you to Service in doing something for the expansion of God's kingdom. We shall start this Teaching with the The Call of Abraham.

#### **The Call of Abram**

***Genesis 12: 1-9; 17: 2, 4; Hebrews 11.8; Genesis 18:18.***

Abram was the name of Abraham before God changed the name. Abram was a native of Chaldea a gentle nation. His name father's was Terah. Terah was seventy years old when he begat Abram, Nahor and Haran. Nahor and Haran were Abram's brothers. Abram obeyed the call of God to leave his country, kindred and father house to where he was leading him to, that is, Canaan, the Promised Land. Abram did not

hesitate to follow God's instruction. He obeyed and left for where GOD was leading him to. He built an Altar to worship the Living God. God entered into a covenant with Abram to make him great and bless the whole world through him. (Genesis 12:2, 3: 17:2; Deuteronomy 28:5; Galatians 3:8).

**Lessons to Learn.** Believers must learn to obey God, even when it is not convenient. We must not have anything in common with the world. Obedience to God's instruction is paramount. Then we receive the blessings that follow obedience. (Isaiah 1:9). Failure to obey God's command hinders the fulfillment of God's promises and blessings.

Altars are very, very important. Abram made an Altar a place of worship and communion with God, a place of prayer and also to offer sacrifice to the Living God. Do you have an Altar in your family? Do you maintain a family dedicated to communicate with God and receive instructions from God through meditation on God's word? You must always have the understanding that your heart is the temple of God. The place where God dwells must, therefore, be pure.

### **Famine in the Land: Genesis 12:10-18**

There was a famine in the land where Abram lived. So, he decided to go to Egypt for greener pasture, a gentile nation where God did not direct him to go.

**Lesson to Learn.** As believers in Christ, we should stay where God instructs us to stay, irrespective of the challenges we may be facing, we should not run away to where God has not led us to find solution to our challenges.

Abram on his way to Egypt, compromised with his wife, Sarai, to lie because he feared the Egyptians might smash his wife from him and also kill him. He told his wife to lie that she was her sister, not her husband, which is half truth and half lie. What about you? Are you afraid of the unbelievers, forcing you to compromise your faith? Are you afraid of the future, is the situation in your country leading you to unnecessary anxieties that do not give you rest of mind? Put your total trust in Christ Jesus, the Great Shepherd. He will never lead you to where you will suffer or regret at last.

The king of the land, Pharaoh, took Abram's wife. It was through God's mercy and intervention that prevented



Abraham's wife from to be raped, if not God divine intervention Abram wife Sarai would have been deviled by the gentle king and this would have jeopardized the plan of God concerning the promise of God about the seed of the woman through Abram. Thanks be unto God for that quick intervention; Praise the Lord.

It is not a sin to go outside your nation for green pasture but make sure God is leading you to do so and ready and fully determine not to compromise your faith wherever God is leading you to so that you will not regret at last or brought generation problem or curse to your coming generation behind you.

a) Christian should be aware of lying; and leaving where God place them.

Abram left where God placed him because of famine and went to a green pasture on the way because of fear of the people of Egypt this led him to asked his wife to compromise with him through half truth half lie she told her to say when they reached Egypt.

**Lesson to Learn:** We must not allow fear to lead us into sin.

What Abram predicted happened to him and his wife Sarai in Egypt, when the people of Egypt saw how beautiful Abram wife was they took her to their king "Pharaoh" who wanted to make her his wife, he blessed Abram with Gold, Sheep, Camels, Menservants, Maid servants. Abram became great in Egypt. God in his infinite power hindered Pharaoh not to touch Sarai the wife of Abram so that she will not be defiled because the promise of God must be fulfilled in her life to have child for Abram. Pharaoh was plagued with his household because of Abram's wife. When Pharaoh discovered the truth about Sarai that she was Abram wife not his sister he called Abram and challenged him for the lied and then sent him and his wife Sarai with all things he gave them out of Egypt land. That was how God saved Abram and his wife Sarai but there was one of the gifts Pharaoh gave Abram that later became prey into his life and his descendants, we will learn about that later in our study.

**Lesson to Learn:** There is no hidden secret that will not be exposed you better maintain truth and did what is right in secret and openly, those that belong to God both males and

females are handsome and beautiful because of God's honour on them as testified to by Sarai's beauty. We see (in The Bible) how Potiphar's wife cast her eyes on Joseph to lure him into sexual immorality. Joseph was a handsome lad (Genesis 39:7-12).

It is not necessary for Christians to love attachments and having designs to beautify themselves with artificial materials so as to look attractive like the people of the world. Christians, beware of ungodly attachments that initiated from the pit of hell. Not all these materials you use to beautify yourselves without glorifying God with how God created you. But must you recreate yourself with worldly materials? Be contented with God's beauty on you. (1 John 3:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 John 2:15-17).

Are you preserving the beauty of God in your life? The Glory, with the beauty of God, is in the life of all believers in Christ that keep their body, spirit and soul pure.

What are the things you possess or the gifts you received that can become a prey for your life and your descendants tomorrow? "Be careful as a Christian".

God set Abram and his wife, Sarai, free from the captivity they had entered. Even though they were prosperous there, the captivity of the lie which Sarai had entered into hunted them in Pharaoh's house.

God always preserves His own people from evil, I pray that all our ladies (virgins) and women of Faith will be protected from evil people that defile families through rape in Jesus' Name. Both male and female Christians, believers in Christ, must protect God's beauty in their life by living a honourable life, pure, holy, dedicated in the fear of God. (1 Peter 1:13-19; Hebrews 12:14, 52:11).



## *Chapter 2*

### **ABRAM AND LOT SEPARATED (GENESIS 13:1-12)**

Abram, as usual, on his arrival at Bethel, worshiped God there. It should be our own habit to always worship God and have an altar (separated) to pray, meditate on God's word and hear from God. This pattern of life is what Christians should cultivate from Abram since God called him out of his native land. Consequently, anywhere we find ourselves there must be an altar erected there. There is a religious sect in Nigeria. Every place they find themselves, they erect their worship place beside their house, place of work, even in Government premises. We as Christians do we have that trait?

Abram and Lot separated because of incessant quarrels between Lot's servants and Abram's servants. The cause of the quarrel was that their wealth in Cattle and Sheep was much. Abram, a man of peace, employed wisdom and love to settle the matter amicably. He told Lot that they should not allow for quarrels; instead, they should separate. Lot chose a better place for himself, Sodom and Gomorrah, instead of him to allow Abram, the elder to choose first. He picked where he

thought was a green pasture for his sheep and cattles, not knowing that the dwellers of the land were enemies of God through their lifestyles. They were later destroyed by fire. Abram agreed with Lot to go the other side, Canaan Land. After the separation of Lot and Abram, God re-enacted His promises to Abraham.

God reminded Abram of His Covenant (Genesis 13:13-18) and also reminded Him of His covenant that He would give him and his descendants the land – East, West, North and South – of Canaan to him and his descendants that would become many like the said of the shore of the sea. God told him to walk round the land both right and left, and that the land would be the possession of Abrams' descendants. Abram built a tent and dwelt at Moreh of Hebron and he built an altar there for the Lord.

### **Lessons to Learn:**

- Peace is very essential among the Brethren, so we must do our best to be at peace with one another (Hebrews 14:12; Ephesians 4:4-6) Abram found peace with Lot. He did not allow the servants of both himself and those of Lot to

cause disunity and enmity between him and Lot. What about you? Are you at peace with your spouse? Are you at peace with your parents? Are you at peace with your neighbours? Are you at peace with the Brethren? Let us make sure we never allow rifts among ourselves that will hinder God's purpose and work. Wealth, position, and gifts should not be instruments of quarrel among us as believers in Christ. Instead, any element that wants to cause quarrels should be dealt with. We must allow love, wisdom and fear of God to help us settle or even disallow rifts among us.

**Another lesson to Learn** is that we should respect elders. When we want to choose things, we should not behave like Lot who was supposed to have allowed Abram, the elder, to choose first. Give honour to whom it is due. Do you have respect for your parents, husband, leaders in Church and even in the your place of work? We must also learn lessons on humility from Abram.

## *Chapter 3*

### **ABRAM'S COURAGE (GENESIS 14:1-16)**

Enemy-nations fought against Sodom and Gomorrah the city in which Lot lived and they took the people captives, with their wives, and property looted. Lot's wife and property were among what they took away. But Abram, because of his love for Lot, took the warriors trained by him, to fight those Lot, his wife, his servants and the people that had been captured were rescued with their property. Abram was a great warrior this is the first challenge Lot met in the land he chose by sight.

#### **Lessons to Learn:**

- We must be careful whenever we want to choose, we must pray and seek God's face before we take steps.

Lot chose a green pasture, not foreseeing the danger ahead. Abram demonstrated his love to his brother, Lot, despite the fact that they had separated. Nothing should hinder our relationship with one another, despite our individual differences. We also must be our brother's keeper. Abram raised an army to fight the enemies; we, too, must raise soldiers for Christ to fight in God's Kingdom not with

physical weapons but through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ to liberate sinners from the captivity of sin and Satan. (Ephesians 6:10-13,14-18).

#### **Abram Paid Tithe to Melchizedek (Genesis 14: 17-20)**

Abram, on his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the King that was with him at the valley of slavery, which is the kings dale, was met by the king of Salem Melchizedek. He brought forth bread and wine which he gave Abram. The king was the Priest of the Most High God, to whom Abram paid his tithe. He blessed Abram, Melchizedek blessed the Name of the Most High God who had helped Abram to secure victory over his enemies. This is a lesson for us that tithe-payment did not start during the Law, the fifth dispensation of law, but started before the time of Law, because Abram was not under Law, but under the dispensation of "Promise." Abram paid his tithe Jacob also paid tithe and both of them were under the dispensation of promise. So, it is an erroneous doctrine to continue emphasizing that Christians should not paid tithe today, because tithe was paid under the dispensation of the law.

#### **The Godless and Perverted King of Sodom: Genesis 14:21-24**

Abram did not allow the gentile king and the godless king to glory over him through gifts.

Abram who believed God's promises of God and his descendants did not want the gentile kings to glory over them, bragging that through him they had been blessed.

**Lesson To Learn:** As true believers who understand the principle of blessing and the covenant that follows faithfulness in tithe-paying, we must shun anti-biblical teaching that tithe is not necessary for Christians today that it was under the Mosaic Law not for the Dispensation of Grace. Tithing started before the Mosaic Law because Abram, Isaac and Jacob were not under Mosaic Law, but under the Dispensation of Promise when they paid tithe. If you are a regular tithe payer you will always receive the blessing which is not only in terms of money. Are you a tithe payer in your denomination or assembly? If not, start today.

Abram believed God's promises, that he would be blessed with silver and gold, even with spiritual blessings. That was

why he did not accept the king of Sodom's gift after the recovery of the possessions from the enemy. As believers in Christ, it is not all gifts that we must accept from unbelievers. Allow the Holy Spirit to direct you regarding what to accept, time to accept and when not to receive it, especially from unbelievers. Do not just be quoting the Scripture that says we are going to be blessed with the gentiles' blessings. Not all possessions of the gentiles can we receive.

## ***Chapter 4***

### **THE COVENANT WITH ABRAM: GENESIS 15:1-3**

#### ***A. Abram's faulty assumption – Genesis 15:1-3***

God Almighty, who had called Abram out of his father's kindred and promised a land to possess for him and his descendant appeared to him saying *"I am thy shield and thy great exceeding great reward."* What a great assurance! Abram had his own weakness and fear. He challenged God if it was his servant, Eliezer, that would succeed him, because he had no son then He said, *"Lord God, what will thou give, me seeing that I go childless."* Abram already old, thought he would die childless. God's delay is not denial. God is always faithful to His covenant and promises. We only need to believe Him, walk in His statutes and wait patiently to receive the fulfillment of His promises in our lives, family and church. God responded that it was not his servant, Eliezer, that would inherit his vast possessions, but his son, born in his own house. The promise was later fulfilled (Genesis 21: 1-8).

### **God's Faithful Assurance- Genesis 15:4-21**

a) God's word came to Abram that Eliezer would not be his heir but the one that came from his bowels. God took Abram outside to look at the stars in the sky, asking if he could count them. He assured him that just as stars are uncountable, his descendants would be numerous. Abram believed the Lord and the Lord declared him righteous, because of his faith. What about you? Do you have faith in God? Do you still have faith in the efficacy of prayer and power in the Name of Jesus and His Blood? Can God see you righteous as he saw Abram?

### **b) The Ratification - Genesis 15:7-17**

God ratified his promise to Abram with a covenant sealed with blood (b) **The dream** – (Genesis 15: 7-12). At sunset, Abram fell into a deep sleep and saw a troubling vision. Before the deep sleep, God had told him to sacrifice a heifer, goat, ram, turtledove and pigeon, which he did. But later, he drove away the fowls that came down to consume the

carcasses. After that, he had the vision of how his descendants would be strangers in a strange land for four hundred years, after which they would come back to the Promised Land. Hear this: whenever we offer our sacrifice to God, we should not be like Abram that stayed where he offered the sacrifice to God to see what would happen to the sacrifice the money you spent on God's work, your time, your gift for God's work and other things you do for the glory of God should be alone for God to use it as He likes' never join those that want to know the details of what happens to what they give and sacrifice for God's work. God is the rewarder. He will reward individuals according to what they do (Galatians 6:7-10; 1Corinthians 15:58). Please do not misquote me. There has to be accountability in the money we spend on God's work, either tithe, offering and promises, because we all are stewards to God's blessing. But we should not always pokenose to what does not concern us.

In Genesis 15: 14-21, God spoke about Egypt, the land in which the descendants of Abram would be strangers and where they would enslave them. But after the time scheduled to release them expired, they would be set free, because God

Himself would judge the land and set them free as He had promised. Then they would be back in the promised Land, Canaan, after four generations, which God fulfilled. God had a covenant with Abram that He would give the seed of Abram the Seven great Nations to possess the Keniten, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and the Jebusites. We, too, will possess our possessions fully in Jesus Name.

**Lesson to Learn:**

As believers in Christ we should not allow fear and doubt to have dominion over us whenever we have delay in the fulfillment of God's promises for our lives.

God's delay is not denial. When it is God's appointed time, He will remember you and fulfill His promises to you.

Whatever God's instruction given to you, do it and leave the rest for Him. Do not like Abram that offered sacrifice according to God's instructions and stayed there to see what would become of the sacrifice. God reminded Abram about His covenant God is faithful to His covenant to us as His people. Let us hold firm to our faith in Him and His word.

God who promised Abram that his descendants would possess the Land given to them will help us all to inherit and possess our possessions in Jesus' Name.

## *Chapter 5*

### **ABRAM'S COMPROMISE: GENESIS 16: 1-16**

In this passage we see Abram's compromise. Despite his faith in the LORD, the flesh still manifests in his life through obedience to the advice his wife, Sarai, gave him, contrary to God's promise. His wife advised him to go in to her maid, which was one of gifts Pharaoh had given him in Egypt, with other goods. Haggai was Sarai's maid she gave to Abram as wife. Abram, without seeking God's counsel, accepted the offer and had intercourse with Haggai. She conceived. After giving birth to a son, she an object of unwholesome mockery.

This led her mistress to victimize her and she ran away. As believers, we should not allow our challenges to make us forget God's covenant and promises for us family, ministry and nation. We should be careful in the acceptance of any counsel from our spouse or friends, because not all counsel is godly. It may suit our purpose like that of Abram whom God had already told that through Sarai, his wife, he would have the promised son. But he failed to wait on God. The result of

the compromise led to a problem in his home which, at last, resulted in Sarai's mistreatment of Haggai. She was frustrated, which led her to flee.

### **Hagar's Meeting with the Lord: Genesis 16: 7-14**

Genesis 16:7-9 records Hagar's flee. The angel of the Lord met her by the fountain of water and advised her to go back to her mistress. That was restitution. She went back.

### **The Lord Assures Hagar: Genesis 16: 10-14**

The angel of the Lord said to Hagar, "I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that is shall not be numbered for multitude and she shall bear a son called Ishmael." This is where the Arabs, his descendants, came from. They are numerous and powerful and also aggressive. They are from Abram's son, born from Hagar, the son of the slave, not the son of Promise.



### **Genesis 16:15-18**

Abram was eighty six years when Hagar gave birth to Ismael who would a wild man, that his hand would be against every man and every man's hand would be against him.

**Lesson to Learn:** We must always ask God for direction in any important decision we want to make. We should learn a lesson from Abram's mistake of in hearkening to her wife's advice, without seeking God's guidance.

Our wife is our partner, companion and counsellor but not every given must be taken hook, line and sinker. Rather, we must scrutinize it before swallowing it. Sarai's advice to Abram later caused havoc in the family. Another lesson people, particularly unbelievers is that we should be careful of gifts we receive from gentiles, Hagar, one of the house maids Abram received, became problem to their family and the son he bore became a thorn in the flesh of the whole world today. His descendants are a threat to Christianity.

You must be careful if you are blessed in a unique way, Because Hagar she was pregnant ahead of her mistress, she

became arrogant and began to ridicule her mistress; thank God, later, Sarah gave birth to Isaac, the Son of Promise.” What do you have, that is not from God, that others do not have? It will be given to them tomorrow. It is a only matter of time, with patience. Finally what pieces of advice do you give your spouse: godly or ungodly?

Husbands, be careful as leaders in the home. You will be responsible for any wrong decision or steps taken in your family before God Adam was blamed first after his wife, Eve, gave him the forbidden fruit to eat.

## *Chapter 6*

### **ABRAM'S CIRCUMCISION: GENESIS 17 : 1-27**

#### **A. God and Abram - (Genesis 17: 1-14)**

God changes Abram's name from Abram (“Exalted Father”) to Abraham (“Father of Many”) Genesis 17 : 1-8.

God appeared to Abram when he was Ninety-nine (99) years old, God introduced Himself as Almighty God, He challenged Abram to walk before Him and be perfect. God also confirmed that He would make His covenant with him that he would multiply him exceedingly. Abram fell on his face. That was reverence before God Almighty, If you see God's manifestation you would fear Him. God must be revered in our daily life. The Old Testament Saints, whenever they witnessed God's presence they revered and worshiped Him. God told Abram after he had left his father's land and kindred for “Twenty Four years,” that he must walk before Him and be perfect. God's covenant was sure with Abram. He told Him that He would be a father of many Nations, which God fulfilled. Abram's name was changed from Abram to Abraham. These are seven divine blessings God

promises Abram and fulfilled.

1. Confirmation of covenant between God and heir – vs 2
2. God promised to greatly increase him in number – vs 2
3. God promised to make him extraordinarily fruitful – vs 6
4. God promised to make nations of him
5. God made an everlasting covenant with him – vs 7
6. Canaan land was promised him as an inheritance – vs 8
7. God promised to be their God – vs 8<sup>b</sup>.

#### **Abraham's New Task: Genesis 17:9-14**

God gave Abraham a new task to circumcise himself and all sons and male maids of his household as an establishment of God's covenant with Him and his descendants. The circumcision of the flesh of males' foreskin. This must be observed from generation to generation of Abrahams' male children, either born in his house or bought with money of any strangers which is not of his seed.

Now, God is expecting all believers in Jesus Christ to have a circumcised heart, both male and female. Circumcision of heart means a change of heart, a heart that can receive God's

word and do it, a heart that is free from corruption and evil thoughts, a heart that is pure.

### **B. God and Sarai: Genesis 17:15-19.**

Sarai's name was also changed from Sarai to Sarah, the mother of many nations, which implies many Kings will come forth from her. This word from God seemed unbelievable to Abraham, because of his old age and that age of his wife, Sarah, Abraham was Ninety-Nine years old (99 years) while Sarah was Eighty Nine years. They were well stricken in age. Age was not a barrier for God to fulfill His covenant and promises in the life of Abraham. Abraham pleaded for Ismael to be alive but God confirmed that Isaac who Sarah would bear for Abraham, would be the “Son of promise,” not Ismael.

This is a lesson for us, that if God promises us something, He is able to do it at the appointed time. Age or circumstances can not hinder the fulfillment of God's promises and covenant. We only need to believe and walk in His statutes.

### **C. God and Ismael: Genesis 17: 20-22**

**God revealed Ismael future - Genesis 17: 20-22.** God promised Abraham that Ismael would be blessed, fruitful and multiply exceedingly that twelve princes would come from Ismael. God told Abraham that, however, through Isaac He would establish His covenant, not Ismael. Sarah would bear the “son of covenant.”

### **Abraham obeyed fully God's instruction: Genesis 17:23-27**

Abraham circumcised himself, Ismail his son he bear from Haggai his slave maid when he was age Ninety Nine while Ishmael was thirteen years old with all male servants he bought that was in his house. Let us learn full obedience to God's word from Abraham the father of faith.

**Lesson to Learn:** Christians are commanded to live righteous and holy life whatever the age of our conversion. Abraham was Ninety-Nine years old and Twenty four years of walking with God. God still challenged him to walk perfectly before him. We, too, must walk in Christ till the end of our journey on Earth. God's covenant is sure with His

people. Ours is to fulfill our own part and He will fulfill His.

Time and circumstance around cannot hinder the fulfillment of God's promises. Abraham and Sarah, his wife, were indeed old, God still promised to fulfill His promise of a son for them, which He fulfilled at last. Let us continue to have faith in God's word and promises. He will surely fulfill them at the appointed time.

God told Abraham to circumcise himself and his son as a mark or token of covenant between Him and Abraham and his descendants. Christians are marked with the Blood of Jesus; we are commanded to enjoy a circumcised heart today.

We that are to be free from iniquities and all sort of worldliness. How about you, have you experienced the circumcision of heart? Isaac was the "Son of Promise" through whom the Messiah of the world came, not Ismael. Any one that wants to make heaven must come through Jesus Christ, the Saviour, that came through Isaac's descendants (Matthew 1: 1-16; Galatians 3:15-18; Galatians 4:22-31).

## *Chapter 7*

### **ABRAHAM'S COMPASSION: GENESIS 18:1-19**

#### **A. The Tremendous News – Genesis 18:1-15**

Abraham received Heavenly Visitors (Genesis 18:1-3). Here, Abraham received visitors, two of who were angels and also the Lord Himself in the form of an Angel. Abraham entertained them and fed them. After they had eaten, they prophesied about the birth of Abraham's promised son, through his wife (Sarah) in a year's time. Sarah laughed in disbelief that it was impossible because of her age and that of her husband. Surely, they were well stricken in years. She laughed! But with God, there is no impossibility. Are you, too, not in the same shoes as Sarah in disbelief regarding God's promises and prophecy concerning your life? Have faith in God. He is able to fulfill His promises to you, family and ministry (Luke 1:37; Jeremiah 32:17, 32).

#### **B. The Tragic News – Genesis 18: 16-32**

God sent His angels to Sodom and Gomorrah to witness the evil deeds in Sodom and Gomorrah, before God's judgment

upon them. God revealed it to Abraham and Abraham interceded for the land that if Fifty, Forty-Five, Thirty, Ten righteous people could be found in Sodom and Gomorrah would God not spare the cities. But it is a pity that ten righteous people could not be found in the land. We, too, must always intercede for our people and our nation, so that they can be converted so as to escape God's judgment coming upon un-repentant sinners (Psalm 9:17).

The life of sin that will make people face the wrath of God is rampant in the world today; gay; incests pornography and all sort of immorality. Let us all beware of all these immoral acts that have become mere fun today.

**Lesson to Learn:** It is good to entertain strangers even though the world we are living in is full of evil people that can disguise as friends or strangers, yet this must not stop us from extending hospitality to people. We only need the Holy Spirit to guide us as to who and who to accommodate.

Abraham entertained strangers, not knowing they were Heavenly Beings and this brought blessings to his family. Another lesson to learn here is how God testified to how Abraham would teach his children and his household the

knowledge of God and that they would keep God's Commandments. Can God testify that you are teaching your children the Way of God, and that you are personally keeping God's Statutes. It is our primary duty to lead our children in God's Way by our word and deeds. We cannot afford to fail God our children, who are gifts from God, in the Way of righteousness.

Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah not to be destroyed. But God could not find ten righteous people there. But Lot was spared, with his two daughters, from being destroyed with fire in Sodom. Do you intercede for your relatives. Do you intercede for your nation so that they will repent and turn from their iniquities before God's judgment comes?

## *Chapter 8*

### **ABRAHAM'S CARNALITY: GENESIS 20:1-18**

#### **Abraham and Abimelech's Deceit, Round One – (Genesis 20:1-8).**

Abraham did not learn any lesson from his past mistake. He did the same thing when he came and sojourned in Gerar . Abraham told the people of Gerar that Sarah was his sister and the King of Gerar, Abimelech, sent for Sarah and took her. But for divine intervention, King Abimelech would have touched Sarah and defiled her. That would have hindered God's plan for Sarah to become the mother of the Seed that God had promised Abraham to come from his wife, Sarah.

#### **Abraham and Abimelech, Round Two-Defence (Genesis 20:9-13).**

Abimelech questioned Abraham why he had lied to him that Sarah was his sister and brought affliction to him and his people, even though he and his people were yet to touch Sarah. Abraham confessed that it was because of fear; nevertheless Sarah was his half-sister before she became his wife. Let us learn a lesson here: fear of men brings snare into a

person's life. Beware of fear that causes one to lie.

#### **Abraham and Abimelech, Round Three: Deliverance (Genesis 20:14-18).**

King Abimelech returned Sarah to Abraham with goods, both men servants and women servants with sheep and oxen. Abraham, a Prophet of God, prayed for Abimelech and his people to be healed of ailment of infertility that had been inflicted on them by God, because of Sarah Abimelech had taken for himself. They were healed and their closed wombs were opened to bear children.

**Lesson to Learn:** Old Testament Saints (Abraham inclusive) had their own weaknesses which we must not fall into. As seen in this passage, Abraham, out of fear, allowed Abimelech to take his wife. But for divine intervention, through Abimelech's dream, Sarah would have been defiled. We must not allow fear of men or death to cause us to sin. Abimelech, a gentle king, hearkened to God's instruction. This saved him and his people. Let us go out and preach repentance through believing the Gospel to sinners. Many of them, like

Abimelech, will fear God and accept Jesus to escape God's judgment that is coming over the wicked.

Abraham was a priest of God, He prayed for Abimelech and his people to be healed. We must see ourselves as priests of God in this generation. (1 Peter 2:9).

## *Chapter 9*

### **THE CELEBRATION OF ABRAHAM: GENESIS 21:1-21**

#### **The Fulfillment of God's Promise - (Genesis 21: 1-21)**

God fulfilled His promise in the life of Abraham and his wife. Sarah gave birth to a son called Isaac at old age. Abraham was 100 years, while Sarah was 90 years when they had Isaac. God fulfilled the prophecy concerning Isaac at the appointed time. This opens our eyes to the fact that God's delay is not God's denial. When it is time, He will fulfill His promises to you, your family and ministry. Never be discouraged those that are still expecting the "fruit of the womb," the Lord who did that of Sarah will do yours. What you need is just to keep on trusting God and be optimistic that God will remember you and you will testify to the goodness of God as Sarah did. She confessed that God made her laugh. You, too, will laugh in the end. Abraham, in obedience to God's instruction about circumcision, circumcised Isaac on the eighth day of his birth.



**Hagar Mocking Sarah her Mistress after the Birth of Isaac.** Sarah asked Abraham to cast out the “bond woman (slave) and her son, so that the son of the bond woman would not be heir with her son. That is woman for you!

She was the one who advised Abraham to take Haggai as wife to bear children for him in her stead.

She is the same woman now commanding her husband to send her away with her son, Ismael. This is a lesson to all men that not every grain of advice can be swallowed raw. God had promised to give Abraham a son from Sarah that would be heir. But Sarah and Abraham failed to wait on the promise, which later came to pass. The bond-woman now became a threat to the family. Suppose Abraham had not taken to Sarah’s advice, there would have been no mess to clear. Abraham grieved about what his wife, Sarah, said. God told him not to be grieve at all. Instead, he should send Ismael and his mother away. This is a great lesson to us all. We must seek God's mind in everything we want to do, especially in crucial situations, so that we will not regret our actions later. What decision do you want to take? Which counsel are you

listening to and taking action on. Take a cue from father Abraham. God promised to bless Ismael and even make him a great nation but the fulfillment as heir is for Isaac, the “Son of Promise. You are a counsellor to your husband, but what advice are you giving him? Is it the one that can help or the advice that will cause problems in future? Husbands be wise and always seek God's guidance on any counsel you receive.

### **The Contract By Abraham: Genesis 21:22-35**

Abimelech and his commander, Phisel came to make a treaty with Abraham that they would not harm each other Abraham was bold enough to challenge Abimelech, because of the well which his servants had violently taken away. Abimelech proved innocent and apologized. That is the fulfilment of what Scriptures say that if our ways please God, He will make our enemies be at peace with us. Believers must not fear enemies. Instead make sure your way pleases God and He will fight our battles for us. Abraham and Abimelech made a covenant of peace with each other. We must always be at peace with all people [Hebrews.12:14].

**Lesson to Learn:** Our God is promised fulfilled God what he promise He will do it, our own is to be faithful and always obey His command and fear Him. We must be patient with faith till he fulfilled his promises in our lives. Sarah rejoiced in the Lord and Laugh and confessed that God make her to laugh in fulfillment of His promised at the appointed time God will cause you to laugh concerning the need in your life, family and Ministry because He will fulfilled His promises and covenant over your life be optimistic. The bondwoman caused problem in Abraham home, let us beware of step that we take and at the end result to regret and problem. Not all gifts must be accepted. Hagar was among the gifts Abraham received from King Pharaoh when he went to Egypt and was sent out through the intervention of God because of his wife, supposing Abraham did not went to Egypt because of famine in the land. Sarah will not found woman maid to give him a wife who then caused problem in their home. In time of famine let's wait on God (Psalm 37:19).

Another lesson in this passage is that enemy can not overcome people of God they will always bow when they see

the glory of God in our lives, ours is to always do what pleases God.

Who do you need to make peace with? Do it without hesitation. Our God is God of Peace.

## *Chapter 10*

### **THE COMMAND TO ABRAHAM: GENESIS 22:1-24**

#### **God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, as a burnt offering – Genesis 22:1-3**

Abraham was commanded to sacrifice his only son Isaac as a test of faith from God. Abraham obeyed this instruction. He took a step of faith and went to where God commanded him after the sacrifice. Abraham always responded to God's instruction, even when extremely demanding.

**The Ordeal [Genesis 22:4-8]** Abraham faced challenges and test of faith even from his own son, Isaac. On the third day, Abraham lifted his eyes and saw where God wanted him to sacrifice Isaac, the "Son of Promise." He then told the young men that accompanied him to stay behind that he and Isaac would go and sacrifice to God and come back to them. Yet, he knew he was going to sacrifice Isaac. But he professed faith. When faced with critical situations, how do we behave? What are the words most likely to come out of our mouths, words of faith? Isaac questioned his father about the lamb for the sacrifice. Abraham, a man of faith, was not discouraged. His

response demonstrated faith and confidence in God, that God Himself could provide the lamb for the sacrifice. The word of God says Abraham so believed God that even if he sacrificed Isaac as a burnt offering to God, God would fulfill His promises by raising Isaac up from death. What a strong faith! That is why *The Bible* called Abraham a man of faith. We, too, must maintain our faith in God when facing test of faith. We must not disappoint God in our trials.

#### **Isaac's Submission [Genesis 22 :9-10]**

Isaac was not a kid at the time he went with his father to the place of sacrifice. When he realized that he was the lamb for the sacrifice, he yielded himself in submission to God's will. He did not struggle to run away or overpower his aged father. What Isaac did is typical of what Christ did to His Father. Christ is the sacrificial Lamb that came to the world to reconcile us to God through his crucifixion, death, resurrection and ascension to heaven( Isaiah 53; 2Corinthians 5:18-21; John 1:29).

**God's Substitute (Genesis 22:11-24)**

Instead of Isaac to be offered as a sacrifice, God, in His infinite power, provided a ram to replace Isaac. This is God's supernatural provision. Abraham named the place of provision "Jehovah Jireh, The Lord Will Provide." The same God that provided a lamb in a miraculous way will provide for your needs in Jesus Name. God renewed His promises for Abraham, that his descendants would become numerous as stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. That is the reward for obedience and faith in God. "One good turn deserves another." After this Abraham heard good news that his brother, Nahor, had been blessed with sons. One of them was Bethel, who later became the father of Rebecca, Isaac's wife.

**Lesson to Learn:** God tested Abraham's obedience and loyalty to Him. Abraham passed the test. If we are tested today, shall we pass the test?

Believers must learn to always speak faith, act faith and exercise total obedience to God's instructions God is the great provider. He is able to and will surely provide for all your needs (Psalm 23:1; Philipians 4:19; Psalm 37:19).

## *Chapter 11*

### **THE CAFÉ OF ABRAHAM: GENESIS 23:1-20**

#### **Abraham's Tears - Genesis 23:1-2**

Abraham's wife died at the age of One Hundred and Twenty-Seven Years, (127 years). She died at old age, even though she died before her husband Abraham showed his deep sorrow to Sarah's death. He wept. Separation through death between loved ones (spouses) is not palatable. It caused sorrow, unlike today. When people died, either young or old, people, including their relatives in some places and tribes will make merry. They commercialize funerals even though they cannot tell where the deceased are headed after death, either Heaven or hell. In the Old Testament, mourning was what they normally did whenever their beloved died. Do not misquote me Believers in Christ who stay in Christ till the end enter eternal rest with Christ and will be raptured with the saints after being raised from the dead at the Second Coming of Christ (1Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 11: 25-26). But we must not waste money on burials. Every ceremony must be in moderation.

#### **Abraham's Testimony - Genesis 23:3-13**

Abraham described himself as a stranger and sojourner in Canaan, the land that his descendants would later possess. We, too, are sojourners in this world. Our citizenship is in heaven, where we are going to live all through eternity. Therefore, as pilgrims, we must not allow the evil of this world or the enjoyment of this temporary world to make us forget where God has prepared for us. (Colossians 3: 1-4; John 14:1-3).

Abraham did not want any free gifts which would become snares to descendants in future. He persuaded Ephron, the Hittite to sell a piece of land to him to bury his wife, Sarah. It would equally become a burial ground for him and his descendants. He did not agree to get it free; he paid for it and it became his own property.

We must learn a lesson here. Not everything offered us free must be accepted. We must cultivate the habit of paying for what we must pay for and reject gifts that need to be rejected. What you pay for is what belongs to you legally. Receiving gifts is not a sin, but it needs wisdom and God's direction, at times.

**Lesson to Learn:** Abraham demonstrated his sorrow at Sarah's loss, Jesus, the Lord, did the same towards Lazarus (John 11:35). We, too, must be sorrowful, when we lose our loved ones, not to be rejoicing on the death of those younger than we are. For us genuine believers in Christ, death is entrance to eternity with Christ Jesus, but we must always pray that we should live long to fulfill our destiny on Earth before death comes. Christians must also be moderate in spending during burial ceremonies. Spreading the Gospel is there to promote with our money and other resources.

## *Chapter 12*

### **THE COMMISSION BY ABRAHAM: GENESIS 24:1-67**

**The Plan** (Genesis 24:1-4) Abraham instructed, his servant, Eliezer, to find wife for Isaac from his (Abraham's) native land of Mesopotamia. The servant did. Before his departure, Eliezer prayed to the God of Abraham, his master, for divine direction. This is an evidence of what Abraham had taught his menservants and maidservants. He had taught them how to put God Almighty first and to always seek for His divine direction. This was the confirmation of God's testimony concerning Abraham in ( Genesis 18:17-19), that he would teach his children and all his household the God's statutes. Another thing we learn from Abraham is that he did not want his son to marry from among the unbelievers he lived with. God Almighty, the God of Abraham, Eliezer's Master, directed the steps of Eliezer to the right place and also to the right person for Isaac, Abraham's son, to marry. If we trust God and commit our ways to Him, He will order our steps aright.(Psalm 37:5-7).

**Lessons to Learn:** Abraham did not forget God's promises for his life and his descendants to inherit the land of Canaan. He warned his servants not to take his son back to their idolatrous land and people that God had called him from to inherit the land of Canaan. (Genesis 12:1-4).

Moreover, it is inherent here that we should not marry unbeliever as wives or husbands (Amos 3:3). Two cannot walk together except they are in agreement. A warning to all Christian Parents. Do not allow your sons or daughters to marry unbelievers. It is very risky. Even though you cannot choose for them, you must educate them and make sure they, too, accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Guide them; counsel them; pray for them and warn them not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers in marriage. This is because it will cause disaster for them (2 Corinthians 6: 14-18). Many who entered into marriage with unbelievers and are now paying for it dearly and bitterly. When Rebecca, Isaac's wife, met her husband, her husband, Isaac, came from where he went to meditate. This is another lesson that Isaac knew the God of his father, Abraham personally. He had personal fellowship with Him. Do you know God personally?

Do you have fellowship with God personally?

Do you train your sons and daughters to have personal encounters with God, through Christ?



### *Chapter 13*

#### **ABRAHAM'S CLOSING YEARS: GENESIS 25:1-11**

##### **Abraham's Family (Genesis 25:1-4)**

After the death of Abraham's wife, Sarah, Abraham took a wife and her name was Keturah. She bore him Zemrah, Jokshan, Medan, Midian and Ishbak and Shuah. All these sons (of Abraham) also had many sons, who were Abraham's grand sons from Keturah.

**Abraham's Fortune** - (Genesis 25:5-6). Abraham passed on his wealth to his sons, giving the greatest part to Isaac, the Son of Promise.

**Abraham's Farewell** - Genesis 25:7-11. Abraham died in old age. He was full of years. He died at the age of One Hundred and Seventy-Five Years (175 years). Both Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron, which he had bought to bury his wife Sarah. Both Isaac and Ishmael were blessed with sons in fulfillment of God's promise and covenants with Abraham to be no longer an exalted father, but father of many nations.

#### **Summary of Abraham's Life**

- \* Abraham was born in Ur, Babylon, to Terah and his wife.
- \* God called Abraham to leave his family and homeland, promising to make him a great nation.
- \* Abraham obeyed, traveling to Haran and then to Canaan.

#### **Faith and Obedience (Genesis 12:10-12, 13:1-8; 15:1-21)**

- \* Abraham demonstrated faith by trusting God's promise, despite uncertainties.
- \* He showed obedience by following God's instructions, even when it was difficult.
- \* God reaffirmed His promise to Abraham, establishing a covenant with him.

#### **Challenges and Tests (Genesis 16:1-16, 17:1-27, 20:1-18)**

- \* Abraham faced challenges, including a barren wife and a rival to the Promised Land.
- \* He was tested by God, who asked him to circumcise himself and his household.

- \* Abraham's faith was strengthened through these trials.

### **The Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22:1-24)**

- \* God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, as a test of faith.
- \* Abraham obeyed, trusting God to provide a substitute.
- \* God provided a ram, and Abraham's faith was rewarded.

### **Latter Life and Legacy (Genesis 23:1-20, 24:1-67, 25:1-11)**

- \* Abraham purchased a burial site for his wife, Sarah.
- \* He arranged for his servant to find a wife for Isaac.
- \* Abraham remarried and had more children, but his legacy was established through Isaac.

### **Key Characteristics and Lessons**

**Faith:** Abraham's faith was exemplary, trusting God despite uncertainties.

**Obedience:** Abraham demonstrated obedience, following God's instructions even when it was harrowing.

**Perseverance:** Abraham faced challenges and tests, but persevered, trusting God's promises.

**Humility:** Abraham recognized his limitations and relied on God's Sovereignty.

**Legacy:** Abraham's legacy was established through his faith, obedience, and perseverance.

Abraham's life serves as a powerful example of faith, obedience, and perseverance. His legacy continues to inspire believers today.