

Genesis 11.10-32

Our Father's Fathers

SPIRITUAL Genealogy – where did our faith come from? God! But influences?

GOD CHOOSES ONE MAN / calling in Context of Whole World / All Nations
GOD CREATES ONE NEW NATION TO SAVE ALL THE NATIONS

PATTERN OF GENESIS – big picture / greater details

Ch 1 – Creation of All Universe // Ch 2 – Details / Garden of Eden, planet Earth

Chs 4 & 5 – Many Descendents of Adam & Eve // Ch 6 – Noah and family

Chs 10 & 11 Table of Nations, peoples of the earth // Ch 12 Call of Abraham

GOD WAS FIRST TO – Think Globally and Act Locally / SO SHOULD WE

STRUCTURE of Chs 10 & 11 / Descendents of Noah's 3 sons / 2 Stories

Descendents of Shem, Ham, and Japheth

10.32 “These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their lines of descent, within their nations. From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood.”

Middle of Ch 10 / Story of Mighty Nimrod / Begin 11 / His city – Babel

11.10 Account of Shem / FOCUS on Grandson of Shem = Eber = Hebrew people

2 changes in Mankind 1) Shorter Lifespan 2) Age of Parenthood drops // present level

6.3 The Lord said, My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years”

BACKBONE OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS “toledoths”

11.10 “this is the account of Shem” / Heb. Toledoth of Shem / descendents of

WORD OCCURS 11 TIMES IN GENESIS / Sources of Moses?

11.27 ‘this is the account of Terah – father of Abraham / until Chapter 25

WILLIAM FOXWELL ALBRIGHT – famous scholar on Ancient World

Not a Christian when he wrote “This part of Genesis...stands absolutely alone in ancient literature, without a remote parallel, even among the Greeks, where we find the closest approach to a distribution of peoples in genealogical framework...the Table of Nations remains an astonishingly accurate document.”

Moses told the Israelites who entered Canaan “Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past...When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples” Deut 32.7,8

DAVID ATKINSON “All human people, even different national and cultural identities – as we see in Gen 10 & 11 – are of the same origin, have the same dignity, and belong to the same world. This undercuts all human divisiveness based on nationality, culture, and race. However good, however rich national and cultural diversity can be, it should never be allowed to cloud the more fundamental fact that all human people share the same nature, breath the same air, live in the same earth, and owe their life to the same God”

OUT OF THESE MANY / WE CAN FIND OUR SPIRITUAL FATHER / Abram

One of 3 sons of Terah 11.27 “Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor, & Haran”

1. A Great Man 2. A Graced Man 3. God’s Man

1. A Great Man

a. LIFE ADMIRABLE AND ENVIED BY MANY

GREAT PEDIGREE – traced family line all the way back to Adam

11.26 Abram’s name listed first / not by Birth Order but by IMPORTANCE

GREAT WEALTH – 13.2 “very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold”

GREAT HOMETOWN – 11.31 “Ur of the Chaldeans” / today south of Iraq

4000 BC on the River Euphrates / population over 250,000 / Manufacturing
12 different grades of cloth / Jewelers / Shipbuilders / Potters / Leather workers
Many had 2 to 3 storied houses built around pleasant courtyards

GREAT EDUCATION – people understood Mathematics, Geometry
Could calculate square and cube roots / WITHOUT A CALCULATOR!

GREAT WIFE – 12.11 to Egypt – age 65 “I know what a beautiful woman you are”

Ch. 20 – Same concern at AGE 90 / Pagan kings going after her
MIDDLE EASTERN COSMETIC SECRET “Oil of Delay”

GREAT LIFE 25.7 “Abraham lived a 175 years. He breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people”

175 years – Wealthy – Successful – Important FAMILY LINE

Others of his day GREATER - Abraham Wrote no Laws / Ruled no Nation
Conquered no Country / Created no Works of Art of Literature

b. LEGACY INFLUENCE OF ABE SOLELY IN THE REALM OF RELIGION

Genesis 1-11 / 1000’s of years and Millions of People (who knows?)

Next 13 chapters of Genesis = focus on ONE MAN / 25% of Book

12.3 “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” AMAZING!

GREAT MEN OF BIBLE – Moses, David, Daniel, Paul, Peter even Jesus
THEY ALL CALLED ABRAHAM THE FATHER OF THEIR FAITH

3 Great Monotheistic Faiths / Judaism, Christianity, Islam / Abe is Father
13.16 GOD TO ABE “I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth”

APOSTLE PAUL “Consider Abraham...those who believe are children of Abraham...
So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith” Gal 3.6-9

MOST POPULAR NAME FOR BOYS IN WORLD – Abraham, Ibrahim

NEVER SAW FULFILLMENT IN HIS LIFETIME – walked by faith in unseen God

Heb 11.10 “he was looking forward to the city with foundations,
whose architect and builder is God”

TODAY – 4000 yrs later – We’re looking forward to this city / Abe’s there Now!
WE LIVE BY SAME FAITH IN THE SAME GOD / CONFIDENCE IN HIM

FAITH NOT IN ABE / GOD OF ABE / GOD OF GRACE WHO MADE HIM GREAT

TITLE of Abe / not King, Priest, Prophet, Judge – though he die all these things
 Title “Friend of God” / Jesus “Abraham saw my day and rejoiced”

2. A Graced Man

a. Time of Curses “when sin abounds grace does much more abound”

Gen 1-11 – Picture of SPIRITUAL DECLINE / 3 Judgments from God

1) Eden 2) Flood 3) Confusion of Languages

5 Times of Cursing 1) Serpent 2) Ground 3) Cain 4) Canaan 5) Languages

2 Givings of Blessing Ch. 1 at Creation / Ch. 9 at Re-creation

Dominant Theme – DIVINE DISPLEASURE / global flood, continued rebellion

CALL OF ABRAHAM – GOD SAYS “I still love you, I will bless you”
 GOD WILL BRIDGE THE GAP HIMSELF / DEAL WITH OUR SIN

CREATE A NATION / ANCESTORS OF SAVIOR / PEOPLE OF MESSIAH
 FULLNESS OF TIME – SEND GREAT SON OF ABRAHAM – JESUS

“God redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit” Gal 3.14

b. Time of Confusion DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION

SECULAR ANTHROPOLOGY – man getting better and better / Self Improvement

Evolutionary Development does not fit the Facts

MONOTHEISM IS THE MOST PRIMITIVE OF ALL RELIGIONS

More “Developed” People Become / More Pluralistic they Become

Ch 1 – God is the Creator for His Own Glory / Ch 11 – Man creates Babel for his glory

11.9 “the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth”

Romans 1 “God gave them over” 3 x’s / Divine Judgment on the Nations

They would not have God // So God would not have them

They gave up on God // So God gave up on them

MARTIN LUTHER on Gen 10 & 11 “When I read these names, I think of the wretched state of the human race. Even though we have the most excellent gift of reason, we are nevertheless so overwhelmed by misfortunes that we are ignorant not only of our own origin and the lineal descent of our ancestors but even of God Himself, our Creator. Look into the historical accounts of all nations. If it were not for Moses alone, what would you know about the origin of man? The Greeks wanted to have the account of their activities preserved, the Romans likewise; but how insignificant is this in comparison... Therefore we have reason to regard the Holy Bible highly and consider it a most precious treasure. This very chapter, even though it is full of dead words, leads us right to Christ. Those who are without the Scriptures live in error, uncertainty, and boundless ungodliness, for they have no knowledge about who they are and where they came from”

c. Time of Calling GRACE WAS NOT EARNED, IT WAS RECEIVED

NOT THAT ABE FOUND GOOD MAN / CALLED to LEAVE to be MADE GOOD

Romans 3.10 “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God”

Abe was NOT SEEKING GOD / God sought him - 12.1 “The Lord said to Abram”

FUNDAMENTALLY SAME CALL TO EVERY BELIEVER - 12.1 “Leave”

For some Jesus is a “Home-wrecker” / a Stumbling Block or a Solid Foundation

PATTERN – God’s Revelation / Man’s Response // Statement of Faith – Step of Faith

Abe was CALLED TWICE – like Jonah “the word of the Lord came a second time”

1st Call – Leave Ur of the Chaldeans – left with father Terah, wife Sarai, nephew Lot
STAYED THERE FOR TWENTY FIVE YEARS

STEPHEN’S SERMON “The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. ‘Leave your country and your people’ God said, ‘and go to the land I will show you’ So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After the death of his father, God sent him to the land where you are now living”

2nd Call – Leave Haran and continue to Canaan, the Promised Land

EVEN ABE WAS SLOW TO BELIEVE AND OBEY / GREW IN FAITH & WORKS

3. God's Man

Why Abe great - GREAT GOD // W/OUT GOD – ABE = Rich, childless man / an idolator

a. Trust 7 x's "I will" – see ALL THAT GOD WILL DO FOR HIM

12.1 "go to the land *I will* show you. *I will* make you into a great nation and *I will* bless you; *I will* make your name great, and you will be a blessing. *I will* bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you *I will* curse

WHAT ELSE COULD HE DO IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S AMAZING GRACE?

15.6 "Abram believed the Lord, and he credited to him as righteousness"

FAITH – Forsaking All I Trust Him

Romans 4 – PAUL COMMENTS ON THIS VERSE "the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring. He is the father of us all...He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed – the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were...he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness"

Eric Alexander "The only thing we contribute to the plan of salvation,
Is the sin to make it necessary"

Kazakhstan National Football team / given World Cup / without having to play

b. Transformation God of Grace Transforms this Man

Hundreds of Years Later – Joshua reveals a "Dirty Little Secret" – Joshua 24
"Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham...lived beyond the River and worshipped other gods"

DOES NOT EXACTLY SAY ABE WORSHIPPED IDOLS
HIS GRANDSON went to Hometown / 3 Generations later
31.19 "Rachel stole her father's household gods"

AGAIN PAUL COMMENTS – Romans 4

"What shall we say that Abraham our father discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about – but not before God. What does

