

GENESIS 12

The Calling of Abram

“And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).

God’s Promise to Abram (12:1-3)

- Abram was to leave his country, his relatives, and his father’s house (12:1)
- God promises Abram a great nation, a divine blessing, and a great name (12:2)
- God promises to bless those who bless Abram and curse those who curse him (12:3)
- In Abram would all families of the earth be blessed (12:3)

Abram in Canaan (12:4-9)

- Abram went forth as the Lord commanded him (12:4)
- He took his wife Sarai, nephew Lot, possessions, and servants (12:5)
- Abram journeys from Haran to Canaan (12:5-6)
- God promises to give the land to Abram’s descendants (12:7)
- Abram continues traveling and building altars (12:7-9)

Abram in Egypt (12:10-20)

- Abram goes to Egypt on account of a famine (12:10)
- Abram plans to represent Sarai as just his sister (12:11-13)
- In Egypt, Sarai was taken into Pharaoh’s house and Abram was treated well for her sake (12:14-16)
- The Lord struck Pharaoh for taking Abram’s wife (12:17)
- Pharaoh calls Abram and returns his wife (12:18-20)

Questions on Genesis 12:

What three things did God call Abram to leave?

What three things did God promise to Abram in return?

Was there any truth to the claim of Sarai being Abram's sister?
(See Genesis 20:12)

GENESIS 13

Abram and Lot

“Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom” (Genesis 13:12).

Abram and Lot Separate (13:1-13)

- Abram and his people travel from Egypt to the Negev (13:1)
- Abram was rich in livestock, silver, and gold (13:2)
- Abram and Lot traveled together from the Negev as far as Bethel (13:3-5)
- Strife between Abram and Lot's herdsmen because the land could not sustain them (13:6-7)
- Abram suggests they separate and lets Lot choose the direction he will go (13:8-9)

- Lot chooses the fertile Jordan valley, toward Sodom (13:10-12)
- Abram settled in Canaan (13:12)
- The men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked (13:13)

The Promised Land (13:14-18)

- God restates the land promise to Abram (13:14-15)
- God promises to make his descendants as the dust of the earth (13:16)
- God told Abram to walk through the land God would give him (13:17)
- Abram moved to the oaks of Mamre, in Hebron, and built an altar (13:18)

Questions on Genesis 13:

Why did Abram and Lot need to separate from one another?

What factors led to Lot's decision to choose the Jordan valley?

What factors did Lot fail to consider?

GENESIS 14

War of the Kings

“Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed by God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand” (Genesis 14:19).

Capture of Lot (14:1-12)

- The kings who engaged in this war (14:1-3)
- Reason for the start of the war (14:4)
- Summary of events in the war (14:5-10)
- Sodom and Gomorrah are plundered (14:11)
- Lot is captured (14:12)

Rescue of Lot (14:13-16)

- Abram receives word that Lot had been captured (14:13)
- Abram pursued Lot’s captors and defeated them (14:14-15)
- Abram returned with the people and possessions that had been captured (14:16)

Abram and the Kings (14:17-24)

- The king of Sodom comes to meet Abram (14:17)
- Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God, blesses Abram and receives a tenth from him (14:18-20)
- The king of Sodom offered to let Abram keep the goods and Abram refused (14:21)

Questions on Genesis 14:

Where was Lot living, and how was this different than in the previous chapter?

Who helped Abram fight and how were they ready so quickly?

According to the Hebrew writer, Melchizedek represents a type (or shadow) of whom? (See Hebrews 5:5-10; 7:1-3)

Why did Abram refuse the reward from the king of Sodom?

GENESIS 15

The Promised Son

“And He took him outside and said, ‘Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:5-6).

Abram Promised a Son (15:1-11)

- God told Abram not to fear and that his reward would be great (15:1)
- Abram suggests Eliezer be his heir (15:2-3)
- God said the promise would be fulfilled through one born of from Abram’s own body (15:4-5)
- Abram believed God; it was reckoned as righteousness (15:6)
- God promises to give Abram a sign that his descendants would possess the promised land (15:7-11)

His Descendants Would Be Slaves (15:12-16)

- God tells Abram his descendants would be slaves (15:12-13)
- God promises to judge the nation they serve (15:14)
- When Abram's descendants leave the nation in which they were slaves, they would leave with many possessions (15:14)
- Abram would die in peace (15:15)
- God gives a timeline for the people's return from bondage to Canaan (15:16)

God's Covenant with Abram (15:17-21)

- God makes a covenant to give Abram's descendants the land (15:18)
- God lists the nations they would defeat in taking the land (15:19-21)

Questions on Genesis 15:

Who did Abram suggest could be his heir and why?

According to verse 6, what did God reckon to Abram as righteousness?

How long would Abram's descendants be enslaved?

What other nation factored into God's timeline of deliverance and why?

GENESIS 16

Sarai and Hagar

“So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael” (Genesis 16:15).

Hagar Conceives (16:1-6)

- Sarai’s plan for Abram to have children by Hagar (16:1-3)
- After Hagar conceived, Sarai despised her (16:4-5)
- Sarai treats Hagar harshly and she flees (16:6)

God’s Promise to Hagar (16:7-14)

- An angel appears to Hagar in the wilderness and tells her to return (16:7-9)
- She is promised that her descendants will be many (16:10)
- The promise of Ishmael and his future of turmoil (16:11-12)
- Hagar responds to the Lord (16:13-14)

Birth of Ishmael (16:15-16)

- Hagar bore Abram a son – Ishmael (16:15)
- Abram was eighty-six years old when he was born (16:16)

Questions on Genesis 16:

Why does Sarai turn against Hagar?

What is promised regarding Hagar’s son, Ishmael?

GENESIS 17

The Promise and Covenant

“As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you will be the father of a multitude of nations” (Genesis 17:4).

God Restates His Promise to Abraham (17:1-8)

- God again appeared to Abram, tells him to walk before Him and be blameless (17:1)
- God promises to establish His covenant with Abram (17:2)
- God calls him Abraham, promises that he will be the father of nations (17:3-6)
- Covenant that God would be God to Abraham and his descendants (17:7)
- God promises to give him and his descendants the land of Canaan (17:8)

Covenant of Circumcision (17:9-14)

- God commands Abraham that he and his descendants would keep His covenant (17:9)
- God explains the covenant of circumcision (17:10-13)
- One who is uncircumcised was to be cut off from the people (17:14)

The Promise of Isaac (17:15-22)

- God changes Sarai's name to Sarah, promises that she will be a mother of nations (17:15-16)
- Abraham suggests Ishmael be the heir (17:17-18)
- God promises Isaac to be born from Sarah (17:19)
- God promises to bless Ishmael (17:20)
- God makes it clear that He would establish His covenant with Isaac (17:21)

Abraham and His Household are Circumcised (17:23-27)

- Abraham, Ishmael, and all the servants in the household are circumcised (17:23, 26-27)
- Abraham was ninety-nine when he was circumcised (17:24)
- Ishmael was thirteen when he was circumcised (17:25)

Questions on Genesis 17:

What two name changes occur in this chapter?

Who was to be circumcised according to this covenant?

What circumcision do we submit to today? (See Romans 2:28-29 and Colossians 2:11-12 for help)

Why did Abraham suggest that God make the covenant with Ishmael?

GENESIS 18

Three Men Visit Abraham

“Now the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day” (Genesis 18:1).

Sarah Hears of the Promise of Isaac (18:1-15)

- The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre (18:1)
- Abraham was visited by three men and eagerly offered to show hospitality to them (18:2-8)
- Sarah hears the promise that she will have a son (18:9-10)
- Sarah considers her age and laughs at the thought (18:11-12)
- The Lord questioned Abraham about Sarah laughing, reminding him that nothing is too difficult for Him (18:13-14)
- Sarah was afraid and denied laughing (18:15)

God’s Plan to Destroy Sodom (18:16-33)

- The men left Abraham and headed toward Sodom (18:16)
- God decides to reveal His plans for Sodom to Abraham because of His promises to him (18:17-19)
- God tells of the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah (18:20)
- The men who left Abraham were sent to gain first hand knowledge of the state of Sodom (18:21-22)
- Abraham pleads for the city to be spared (18:23-33)

Questions on Genesis 18:

Sarah laughed when she heard the promise of a son. Abraham also laughed earlier (see 17:17). Why was Sarah rebuked and Abraham not?

Why did God reveal His plan regarding Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham?

Who were the two men that visited Abraham and then traveled to Sodom? (See Genesis 19:1)

GENESIS 19

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

“Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven, and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground” (Genesis 19:24-25).

Two Visitors Welcomed by Lot (19:1-11)

- Lot meets the angels who were visiting and insists that they stay in his house (19:1-3)
- That night the men of Sodom surrounded the house and demanded that the visitors be sent out to them (19:4-5)
- Lot pleads with them not to harm the visitors (19:6-7)
- Lot goes so far as to offer his two daughters to the crowd instead (19:8)
- The men turn against Lot and threatened him (19:9)
- The angels rescued Lot from the crowd and struck the men with blindness (19:10-11)

The Angels Warn Lot to Escape (19:12-22)

- The angels tell Lot to get himself and his family out of the city because they were going to destroy it (19:12-13)
- Lot warned his sons-in-law but they thought he was joking (19:14)
- In the morning the angels brought Lot out of the city and told him to escape to the mountains (19:15-17)
- Lot requests to be able to flee to Zoar instead; his request is granted (19:18-22)

Sodom and Gomorrah are Destroyed (19:23-29)

- When Lot reached Zoar, fire and brimstone rained down on Sodom and Gomorrah (19:23-24)
- The cities, valley, inhabitants, and plants were destroyed (19:25)
- Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt (19:26)
- Abraham saw the smoke of the destruction (19:27-28)
- God remembered Abraham and spared Lot (19:29)

Lot and His Daughters (19:30-38)

- Lot stayed in a cave with his two daughters (19:30)
- His daughters conspire to make their father drunk and lie with him so as to preserve their family's lineage (19:31-35)
- Both daughters bore sons by their father – Moab and Ammon (19:36-38)

Questions on Genesis 19:

What does 2 Peter 2:7-8 tell us about Lot's attitude about living among the wicked people of Sodom?

Lot refused to allow the men of Sodom to sexually abuse his male visitors, but offered his own daughters to them instead. Does this mean that homosexuality is *worse* than other sins?

Why was Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt?

What did Lot's daughters need to use to get their father to lie with them? What does this teach us?

GENESIS 20

Abraham and Abimelech

“Abraham said of Sarah his wife, ‘She is my sister.’ So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah” (Genesis 20:2).

Abimelech Takes Sarah (20:1-7)

- Abraham sojourned in Gerar (20:1)
- Abraham said Sarah was his sister; Abimelech king of Gerar took her (20:2)
- God confronts Abimelech for taking another man's wife (20:3-5)
- God spares Abimelech and commands him to restore Sarah to Abraham (20:6-7)

Abimelech Restores Sarah to Abraham (20:8-18)

- Abimelech informed his servants of what happened (20:8)
- Abimelech confronts Abraham for bringing this sin upon him (20:9-10)
- Abraham explains his motives, reveals the truth (20:11-13)
- Abimelech makes peace with Abraham (20:14-16)
- Abraham prays to God for Abimelech and the women of his household (20:17-18)

Questions on Genesis 20:

Where else did Abraham depict his wife as being his sister?
(See Genesis 12:10-13)

Why did God spare Abimelech?

Why did Abraham have to pray for Abimelech and the women of his household?

GENESIS 21

The Birth of Isaac

“So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him” (Genesis 21:2).

The Promise of a Son is Fulfilled (21:1-8)

- Sarah conceived and bore a son as God promised (21:1-2)
- The son is named Isaac; he was circumcised according to the Lord’s command (21:3-4)
- Abraham was one hundred years old (21:5)
- Sarah acknowledges God’s help in bearing a son (21:6-7)
- Abraham makes a feast on the day Isaac was weaned (21:8)

Hagar and Her Son are Sent Away (21:9-21)

- Sarah saw Hagar’s son mocking Isaac (21:9)
- She tells Abraham to drive out Hagar and Ishmael (21:10-11)
- God tells Abraham to listen to Sarah, and that Ishmael would also be blessed (21:12-13)
- Abraham sends them away (21:14)
- When the water ran out, Hagar believed her son would die (21:15-16)
- God promises Hagar that He will bless her son (21:17-18)
- God opens her eyes and she finds a well of water (21:19)
- God was with Ishmael as he grew (21:20)
- Hagar found a wife for Ishmael from Egypt (21:21)

Abraham’s Covenant with Abimelech (21:22-34)

- Abimelech makes a covenant with Abraham (21:22-24)
- Abraham complains about his well that Abimelech’s servants seized (21:25-26)
- Abraham and Abimelech enter into the covenant (21:27-32)
- Abraham plants a tamarisk tree, calls upon God (21:33)
- Abraham sojourned in the land of the Philistines (21:34)

Questions on Genesis 21:

How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?

Sarah was condemned for laughing when she heard the promise of Isaac (See Genesis 18:12-15). After Isaac was born, she said that those who heard the news would laugh with her (Genesis 21:6). How is *laughter* used in this passage?

What did Abimelech do when he learned his servants had seized the well that belonged to Abraham?

GENESIS 22

The Offering of Isaac

“He said, ‘Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you’ (Genesis 22:2).

God Tells Abraham to Offer His Son (22:1-2)

- God decides to test Abraham (22:1)
- God tells Abraham to go to the land of Moriah and offer Isaac as a burnt offering (22:2)

Abraham's Obedience in Offering Isaac (22:3-14)

- Abraham rose early in the morning with Isaac, two young men, and supplies (22:3)
- They came to the place on the third day (22:4)
- Abraham tells the young men to stay; he and Isaac would go, worship, and return (22:5)
- Abraham and Isaac went to the place for the sacrifice (22:6)
- Isaac questions Abraham and is told that God would provide (22:7-8)
- At the place, Abraham proceeded to offer his son (22:9-10)
- At the last moment, an angel stopped Abraham (22:11-12)
- He instead offered a ram that was caught in a thicket (22:13)
- Abraham called the place, "The Lord Will Provide" (22:14)

God Restates the Blessing to Abraham (22:15-19)

- God speaks to Abraham through the angel (22:15)
- Because Abraham was willing to offer his son, he would be blessed (22:16-17)
- Because he obeyed, all the nations would be blessed through his seed (22:18)
- Abraham returned and went to Beersheba (22:19)

The Family of Abraham (22:20-24)

- Abraham receives word that Milcah had borne eight children to Nahor (22:20-23)
- His concubine also borne four children to him (22:24)

Questions on Genesis 22:

What is suggested by Abraham's statement to the young men in verse 5?

Though Isaac was the son of promise, Abraham was willing to offer him as a sacrifice. According to Hebrews 11:17-19, how did Abraham, in his mind, harmonize the command with the promise?

Prior to Abraham offering his son, did God not know if Abraham truly feared Him? (See verse 12)

GENESIS 23

The Death of Sarah

“After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field at Machpelah facing Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan” (Genesis 23:19).

The Death of Sarah (23:1-2)

- Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years (23:1)
- She died in Kiriath-arba (Hebron) in Canaan (23:2)

Abraham Acquires the Land for Her Burial (23:3-18)

- Abraham tries to buy a burial site from sons of Heth (23:3-4)
- They offer to let him use whatever land he wants (23:5-6)
- Abraham offers to buy the cave of Machpelah (23:7-9)
- Ephron offers to give the cave to him (23:10-11)
- Abraham insists on paying Ephron for the land (23:12-16)
- The land is deeded over to Abraham in the presence of the sons of Heth (23:17-18, 20)
- Abraham buries Sarah in the cave of Machpelah (23:19)

Questions on Genesis 23:

How old was Sarah when she died?

Who did Abraham purchase the burial site from? And how much did he pay for it?

How was the transaction made official?

GENESIS 24

Isaac and Rebekah

“Then Laban and Bethuel replied, ‘The matter comes from the Lord; so we cannot speak to you bad or good. Here is Rebekah before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the Lord has spoken’ (Genesis 24:50-51).

Abraham’s Servant Sent to Find a Wife for Isaac (24:1-14)

- Abraham was old and advanced in age (24:1)
- He charges his servant to find Isaac a wife from his relatives (24:2-4)
- The servant was not to take Isaac with him (24:5-7)
- If the woman was unwilling to go, the servant was free from his oath (24:8-9)
- The servant went to the city of Nahor (24:10-11)
- He prays that God will grant him success (24:12-14)

Rebekah is Chosen (24:15-27)

- The servant finds Rebekah (24:15-16)
- Rebekah provides water to him and his camels (24:17-21)
- He learns that she is of Abraham's relatives (24:22-25)
- The servant worshiped the Lord (24:26-27)

The Servant Meets with Rebekah's Family (24:28-61)

- The servant meets Rebekah's brother Laban (24:28-32)
- The servant describes the reason why he was sent (24:33-49)
- Laban and Bethuel give him permission to take Rebekah to be Isaac's wife (24:50-51)
- The servant and Rebekah's family celebrate before she leaves with him (24:52-61)

Isaac Marries Rebekah (24:62-67)

- Rebekah meets Isaac (24:62-65)
- The servant informs Isaac of all that has transpired (24:66)
- Isaac took Rebekah to be his wife (24:68)

Questions on Genesis 24:

Where was the servant sent to find a wife for Isaac?

How did the servant know that Rebekah was the right choice?

According to the text, how did Isaac and Rebekah become husband and wife?

GENESIS 25

The Death of Abraham

“Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people” (Genesis 25:8).

The Final Years of Abraham (25:1-6)

- Abraham remarries and has other children (25:1-4)
- Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac (25:5)
- Abraham gave gifts to the other sons before sending them away (25:6)

The Death of Abraham (25:7-11)

- Abraham was one hundred and seventy-five years old when he died (25:7-8)
- Isaac and Ishmael buried their father in the cave of Machpelah where Sarah was also buried (25:9-10)
- After Abraham’s death, God blessed Isaac (25:11)

The Descendants of Ishmael (25:12-18)

- The twelve sons of Ishmael (25:12-16)
- Ishmael was one hundred and thirty-seven years old when he died (25:17)
- He settled from Havilah to Shur, east of Egypt (25:18)

The Sons of Isaac (25:19-34)

- Isaac married Rebekah at forty years old (25:19-20)
- Rebekah was barren; Isaac prayed for her and she conceived (25:21)
- God reveals the future of her two sons (25:22-26)
- Differences between Esau and Jacob (25:27-28)
- Esau sells his birthright to Jacob for the stew he was cooking (25:29-34)

Questions on Genesis 25:

After remarrying and having other children, how did Abraham make it clear that Isaac was his rightful heir?

Where was Abraham buried?

What did God reveal to Rebekah about her twin sons?

Explain the meaning of the phrase in verse 34 – “Esau despised his birthright.”

