



Lesson 1—Abraham

“Abraham believed God” Rom. 4:3

Biblical Character Sketches



**WALKING IN THEIR
SANDALS**

Dr. Kevin L. Brosnan

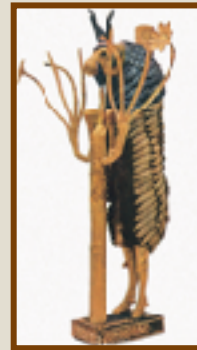
The Significance of Abraham

- Only **Jesus** supersedes Abraham.
- Human **history** unfolds from God's dealings with Abraham's seed.
- God's **covenant** with Abraham is a blessing to all humanity.
- Abraham's **titles** highlight his unique significance.
- God's "chosen" people gave us the **Messiah** and the **Scriptures**.
- Scripture records **conversations** between Abraham and God.
- Abraham is connected with major Bible **doctrines**.

Abraham's pilgrimage from Ur to Palestine



Ziggurat and ram statuette dating to time of Abraham



Paul's doctrines based on Abraham

- The doctrine of **salvation** (soteriology)
- The doctrine of the **church** (ecclesiology)
- The doctrine of **missions** (missiology)

Chronology of Abraham's life – key events

- God's call to Abram (12:1-8)
- Abram lies to the Egyptians about Sarai (12:10-20)
- Lot & Abram part ways (13:1-18)
- Abram rescues Lot (14:1-17)
- Meeting with Melchizedek (14:18-24)
- God's covenant with Abram (15:1-21 & elsewhere)
- Birth of Ishmael through the handmaid Hagar (16:1-16)
- The Covenant restated, name changed, and circumcision instituted (17:1-27)

Chronology of Abraham's life – key events

- Abraham intercedes for Sodom and Gomorrah while hosting the Lord and two angelic beings (18:1 – 19:38)
- Abraham lies about Sarah to Abimelech (20:1-18)
- Isaac is born and Ishmael is banished (21)
- God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac (22)
- Sarah dies (23)
- Abraham seeks a wife for Isaac (24)
- Death of Abraham (25:1-11)



A Discussion Point

**What was different about
Abraham that enabled him
to live by faith?**



A Discussion Point

- His **focus** was spiritual rather than material.
- His **view** of God evoked explicit trust.
- His **relationship** with God prompted selfless obedience to God's word.



A Discussion Point

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. ... He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. 1 Cor. 1:27-31

God's call to Abram (12:1-8)

- The call: go to a place that “I will show thee”
- The promises to Abram
 - “make of thee a great nation”
 - “bless thee”
 - “make thy name great”
- The promises about Abram
 - “thou shalt be a blessing”
 - “bless them that bless thee”
 - “curse him that curseth thee”
 - “in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”

A Practical Summary

God's commands are *always* associated with promises. Count the shalls and wills here. He does not give His reasons, but He is lavish of His *promises*. The keynote of Abram's life was *Separation*. Step by step, until country, kindred, Lot, worldly alliances and fleshly expedients were one by one cast aside and he stood *alone with God!*

F. B. Meyer