

In the Beginning...

An Exploration of Genesis

SERMON NOTES

Week 3 April 28, 2024

“The Father of Many Religions”

Genesis 12:1–3, 12:4–9 15:4–6;
Romans 4:22–24

I. Introduction

- A. Abram (later known as Abraham), son of Terah, was born in the city of _____.
- B. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam all look back to Abraham as kind of the father or founder of their _____.
- C. There is a conversation recorded in the book of Genesis between God and Abraham that touches on a _____ that we have wrestled with.

II. God’s Starting Point/God’s Dilemma

- A. All the major faith traditions believe that God decided to wade into the mess of humanity by choosing a single man, _____.
- B. Abraham was not a perfect man, at one point he gave his wife Sarah to Pharaoh and told him it was his _____.
- C. God made _____ promises to Abraham:
 - 1. I will make you into a great nation.
 - 2. I will bless you; I will make your name great.
 - 3. All the people of the earth will be blessed through you.

III. A New Relational Equation

- A. _____ in God resulted in a right standing with God for Abraham.
- B. For centuries, all people of faith question how to have a _____ relationship with God.
- C. The _____ available to Abraham is available to you as well.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *April 29 – May 4, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

Three major world faith traditions - Judaism, Islam, and Christianity - claim the same starting point: a man named Abraham. All three agree that sin made a mess of the world and God started his clean-up operation with Abraham. God made a series of promises and Abraham's responses to those promises didn't just have implications for his personal starting point or the starting points of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. It had implications for your starting point as well.

Monday: Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 12:1-3 is packed with promises from God. What an encouragement it must have been for Abram to hear the Word of the Lord make such amazing commitments. What does God promise him? How many of them did Abram get to experience to some degree in his lifetime? Can you list 5 promises of God that are precious to you?

Tuesday: Genesis 12:4-9

Imagine if you grew up in a city, got a job, and started a family. It isn't the perfect life, but you feel like you could live in that place the rest of your life. Suddenly, God intervenes in your life with an irresistible and growing conviction that you're called to do a greater work somewhere else. When your family asks you what the work is and where you're going, all you can tell them is that you don't know. You only know that you're supposed to uproot and begin driving in the one direction you've never been before. Only then will God give you more specifics. How certain would you be that your conviction is God's voice? Do you think he would really tell you to do something so disruptive and inconvenient? What would you say about the lack of specifics?

Wednesday: Genesis 15:1-6

Trust in God resulted in a right standing with God for Abraham. Which of the following reflects your view in regards to a right relationship with God? Why?

- *God accepts me based upon my birth*
- *God accepts me based upon my behavior*
- *God accepts me based upon my belief*
- *God accepts me based upon some combination of the above*

Thursday: Genesis 16:1-4

After many years, God's promise to Abraham that he would be "the father of many nations" was not happening. So he and Sarai (Sarah) took matters into their own hands. What experiences have you had that have made it difficult to trust God?

Friday: Romans 4:22-24

Paul's point? The righteousness available to Abraham is available to you as well. In what area of your life is God currently calling you to trust him? What is one thing you can do to trust him?

MOVING FORWARD

When sin stranded humankind in a sea of broken glass, God had a choice: to hang an "Out of Order" sign on our mess and move on or to get involved. Because he cared, he chose to get involved. That meant he had to start somewhere. He reached out to one man, Abraham, and asked for his trust. In return for Abraham's faith, God credited him with righteousness and cleared a path for a personal relationship. He makes the same offer to each of us.

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Ur, B) faith, C) tension. IIA) Abraham, B) sister, C) three.
IIIA) Trust, B) right, C) righteousness.*