



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

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No.23

Random Thoughts About Abraham ***Sam Willcut***

Abraham was a contemporary of his great-ancestor Noah. The Bible reveals that Noah lived 350 years after the flood (Gen. 9:28). A simple calculation from Genesis 11:10-26 reveals that Abram lived during the last fifty-eight years of the life of Noah. I have always marveled at the great faith Abram had developed, in spite of the fact that many of his immediate family members “served other gods” (cf. Josh. 24:2). In view of such, I have speculated as to whether or not Abram ever met his ancestor, Noah. Could it even be possible that little Abram sat on the knee of elderly Noah and asked, “Could you please tell the story again of the Ark? What was it like to see a rainbow for the very first time?” I can only imagine that the legacy of godliness somehow made its way from Noah to Abram during the final 58 years that Noah lived until the point in time within the first 75 years of Abram’s life when God called him to leave Ur (cf. Gen. 12:4).

Abraham had to leave his family, not once, but twice. When God called Abram out of Ur in Mesopotamia to leave for the land of Canaan, he stopped for a brief time and dwelt in Haran far to the northwest. Simple mathematics reveals that his father, Terah, was seventy years old when Abram was born (Gen. 11:26), which makes him 145 when Abram left Haran (Gen. 12:4). Yet, Terah died in Haran at the age of 205 (Gen. 11:32). Thus, the only possible explanation for this is that he lived his final sixty years in Haran. In other words, not only did Abram have to leave his family in Ur (Gen. 12:1), but he later left his father behind in Haran, taking his nephew Lot with him. Thus, he had to leave his family on two different occasions—once was difficult enough, but twice must have been painful, especially with his father getting older. The pains of

separation are never easy, and it only reinforces how much love Abram had for God, even more than that he had for his own flesh and blood (cf. Luke 14:26).

Abraham needed to learn patience. As I mentioned above, Abram was at least 75 years old when God called him and gave him the great Messianic promise through his seed (Gen. 12:1-3). Yet, his wife, Sarai, was barren (Gen. 11:30) at the time God gave the promise. After his stay in Egypt and separating from his nephew, Lot, God reinforces His promise (Gen. 13:14-18). Yet again, after the Great War among the nations, Abram still has no child, and wonders if God is going to count his steward, Eliezer, as his child (Gen. 15), which prompts God to reinforce His promise once more. Thus, by the time that we arrive to Genesis 16 where Sarai suggests that Abram have children through her handmaid, Hagar, a full ten years has passed, since Abram is now 85 (Gen. 16:3). Ten years is a long time, especially when waiting on the promise of children! Ishmael is born, but God stipulates that he is not the son of promise, and Abram and Sarai have to wait another thirteen years, when Abram is 99 and Sarai is 90. In other words, from the time that they initially receive the promise, they waited at least twenty-five years! Abraham learned the hard way what it means when the psalmist cried, "I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope" (Psa. 130:5). Abraham not only needed to develop faith, but he also needed to learn patience!

This previous point only reinforces the difficulty of the test that Abraham faced when God told him to sacrifice his son, Isaac, on Mount Moriah in Genesis 22. The words could not be truer, but yet are so inadequate to convey truly their meaning—"Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest..." (Gen. 22:2). To have to endure what he went through just to get Isaac, and to have the time he did to enjoy him, now to be told by God to sacrifice him is a challenge that I am not sure any of us really can understand fully. Nevertheless, Abraham listened to God and intended on doing exactly what God said. No wonder we know him for his great faith!

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Mary Bolen, Luther & Jo Merritt
Nadine McDonald,
Sandra Epperson, Sue Harris
Freddie Stewart, Cindy Kidder,
Lisa Dukes, Doug Crouse,
Freddie Callis, Betty Mosely,
Teriyaki Anderson,
James Morris, Troyce Taylor,
Pearl Johnson, Paula Wadley,
Judy Ellis, Jerry Crabb,
Karen Chance
Gaylon & Betty Cooper,
Sammy & Shirley Puckett,

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood,
Beverly Martindale,
Diane Hubbard,
Brandi Rogers, Corey Allen
Kenton Lancaster,
Ruby Malone, Melissa Henson
Caraline Rogers, Justin Puckett,
Jane Washington, Joyce Pack

Today's Sermons

AM - Big Picture Faith
Abraham — Faith That Walks
into the Unknown
Genesis 12:1–4

PM - Ian Shoemate Speaking

Happenings

South Jackson

June 19-20

Work Days at the Building
Friday - 6:30 PM
Saturday - 9 AM

Cookout will take place at 1 PM
on Saturday

See bulletin Board for
Area Events

Cards to Send

Mary Bolen
Jackson Meadows
25 Max Lane
Apt 114
Jackson, TN 38301

Judy Ellis
425 Gasden Road
Humboldt, TN 38343

Weekly Record

Bible Class	44/8
AM Worship	89/12
PM Worship	45/8
Wed Bible Study	40/4
Contribution	3903
Budget	3600

Those Privileged to Serve

June 7 - AM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: John Smith
Read Scripture:
Jeff Bliss
Opening Prayer:
Marion Thomas
Sermon: Ray Pack
Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder
Communion: Paul Hatcher
Contribution:
Van McConnell

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Mike Wages
Sermon: Ian Shoemate
Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse
Communion: Greg Long

June 10 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Mike Wages
Devo - Marion Thoma

June 14 - AM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages
Read Scripture:
Jonathan Orr
Opening Prayer:
Paul Hatcher
Sermon: Ray Pack
Closing Prayer: Marion Thomas
Communion: Mike Wages
Contribution:
Charlie Richardson

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Greg Long
Sermon: Ray Pack
Closing Prayer: Jerry Butcher
Communion: Mike Wages

June 17 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Ray Pack
Devo - Ronald Clouse

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Minister: Ray Pack
rpac119@gmail.com
(731) 437-9501

Service Times

Gospel of Christ - WBBJ	5:00 AM
Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study	6:30 PM