

Chapter 1 : Abraham Archives - Children's Bible Activities | Sunday School Activities for Kids

Abraham is called the father of the faithful (Gal. ; Rom.) and "the friend of God" (Jas.). He is an example to us in many ways, therefore, it is always good to study him and learn from that which the Bible reveals to us about him.

Lathbury The people who lived four thousand years ago were very much like children who easily forget. They told their children about the great flood, but nearly all forgot to tell them of the good God who is the Father of us all, whom we should always love and obey. Yet there is always one, if not more, who remembers God, and keeps his name alive in the world. Abram did just what God told him to do. He took Sarai, his wife, and Lot, his nephew, and some servants, and cows, and sheep, and camels, and asses, and went into the land of Canaan. When they rested at night Abram and Lot set some sticks in the ground, and covered them with skins for a tent, and near by they made an altar, where Abram offered a sacrifice, for that was the only way they could worship God when the earth was young. Abram went down into Egypt when there was a lack of food in Canaan, but he came back to Bethel, where he made the altar before, and worshipped God there. He was very rich, for his cattle and sheep had grown into great herds and flocks, though he had sold many in Egypt for silver, and gold, and food. Abram and Lot moved often, for their flocks and herds soon ate up the grass. Then they rolled up the tents, and loaded the camels and asses, and went where the grass was thick and fresh. They could easily live in tents, for the country was warm. And so Abram spoke kindly to Lot, and told him to take his servants, and flocks, and herds, and go where the pastures were good, and he would go the other way. So they parted, and Lot went to the low plains of the Jordan, but Abram went to the high plains of Mamre, in Hebron, and there he built another altar to the Lord, who had given him all that country -- to him and to his children forever. There were warlike people in Canaan, and once when they had carried off Lot from Sodom, Abram took his servants and herdsmen and went out to fight. He had more than three hundred men, and they took Lot away from the enemy, and brought him back to Sodom. It was here that Abram met a wonderful man, who was both a king and a priest. His name was Melchisedek, and he brought Abram bread and wine, and blessed him there. That was hard to believe, but Abram believed God always and everywhere. Still no child came to Abram and Sarai, and Abram was almost a hundred years old, but God spoke to him again, and told him that he should be the father of many nations. They were strangers, and Abraham asked them to rest beneath the tree, and bathe their feet, while he brought them food. So Sarah made cakes, and a tender calf was cooked, and these with butter, and milk, were set before the men. But they were not men of this world; they were angels, and they had come to tell Abraham and Sarah once more that their little child was sure to come. But the Lord never forgets. The two angels went to Sodom and stayed with Lot until morning, when they took him and all his family outside the city, and then the Lord said to him, "Escape for thy life -- look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain. The three strangers] And the Lord hid them in the little town of Zoar, while a great rain of fire fell upon the wicked cities of the plain, until they became a heap of ashes. The next morning when Abraham looked from Hebron down toward the cities of the plain, a great smoke was rising from them like the smoke of a furnace. A little son was born to them, and they called him Isaac. They were very happy, for though Abraham was a hundred years old, no child had ever been sent them. Sarah was angry, and told her husband that Hagar and her boy must be sent away. So he sent them out with only a bottle of water and a loaf of bread; for God had told Abraham to do as Sarah wished him to do, and He would take care of little Ishmael, and make him the father of another nation. When the water was gone, and the sun grew very hot, poor Hagar laid her child under a bush to die, for she was very lonely and sorrowful. While she hid her eyes and wept, saying, "Let me not see the death of the child," she heard a voice out of heaven telling her not to be afraid. Hagar in the desert] "Arise, lift up the lad," said the voice, "for I will make him a great nation. Then she filled the empty bottle, and gave the boy a drink, and God took good care of them ever after, though they lived in a wilderness. Ishmael grew up to be an archer, and became the father of the Arabs, who still live in tents as Ishmael did. But the Lord let a strange trial come to the little lad Isaac, also. His father loved and obeyed God, but there were heathen people around them, who worshipped idols, and sometimes killed their own children as a sacrifice to these idols. Abraham brought the best of his lambs and cattle to offer to the

Lord; but one day the Lord told Abraham to take his only son Isaac and offer him upon a mountain called Moriah as a burnt sacrifice to God. Abraham had always obeyed God, and believed his word, and now, though he could not understand, he rose up early in the morning and took his young son, with two servants, and an ass loaded with wood, to the place of which God had told him. They were three days on the journey, but at last they came to the high place, where the city of Jerusalem was afterward built, and to the very rock upon which the temple was built long afterward, with its great altar and Holy of Holies. On Mount Moriah] Abraham had left the young men at the foot of the mount, and went with Isaac to the great rock on the top of the mount. Abraham made an altar of stones, and bound Isaac and laid him upon it, but when his hand was lifted to offer up the boy, the Lord called to him from heaven. How glad and grateful Abraham must have been that morning, when he came down the mountain, with Isaac walking beside him, to think that he had still obeyed God when it was hard to do so. Abraham was an old man when Sarah died. They had lived together a long lifetime, and he mourned for her many days. He bought a field close by the oak-shaded plain of Mamre in Hebron, and there in a rocky cave he buried her. He was called a Prince of God by the Canaanites because he lived a true, faithful life. Ishmael came up from the south country to mourn with Isaac at the burial of their father, the Friend of God, and Father of the faithful.

Chapter 2 : Abraham lied, at least twice. | Christian Forums

Abraham --The Father of the Faithful. Child's Story of the Bible â€” Mary A. Lathbury The people who lived four thousand years ago were very much like children who easily forget.

James Ricks posted in: James Ricks , Bible Study , Vol. He was a friend of God and did not earn his salvation but was saved by the graciousness of God. Paul, while trying to save the Galatian Christians from the Judaizing conspiracy, explained that Abraham, the progenitor of all Israel including the Jews, was himself saved by grace. Paul wanted the Galatians to avoid the bondage that returning to Judaism would be for them. This would not only include circumcision but many other expanded regulations. Christ told the Jewish people that his yoke was light while that of their religious leaders were burdensome. Christ explained to the Pharisees that the Law, if administered correctly, should be a blessing to people, but they had made it a burden. The Judaizers were surreptitiously trying to make Christians, and especially Gentiles, just another sect within Judaism. They missed the true message of the spiritual circumcising of our hearts toward God. Abraham learned that it was not what we do for God, but what God has done for us that counts. He obeyed because he believed in God as his friend and loved Him. He knew God gave him many blessings. We, like Abraham, cannot earn our salvation. Abraham relocated all his people and belongings from his home country to a foreign one out of trust and obedience to God. That is not an easy thing to do. God gave him the covenant that would make him the father of the faithful for many nations. The faith of his wife Sarah was also critical. Abraham knew he needed his only son Isaac in order for God to fulfill His promise of making him a father to many nations and a blessing to the world. Yet he obeyed God when he was commanded to make the ultimate sacrifice of his only son. Abraham offered Isaac on Mt. He trusted that somehow God would make it work out. Just like God, Abraham found it harder to sacrifice his only beloved son than to die himself. God allowed the father of the faithful to have a similar experience to God the Father, during the original Passover period. Abraham proved his faithfulness by being willing to sacrifice his son. He was stopped at the last second. Abraham was wealthy and had a large number of employees or servants. He had enough resources to raise a small army and rescue his nephew Lot, who he brought to the land of Canaan with him. Abraham was such a friend of God and a prophet that he almost talked God into sparing Sodom and Gomorrah. If no speed laws existed, you would not need a pardon for speeding. The deceived just do not want to understand. Why should we obey? Because we love Christ! Be like Abraham and follow God all the way with faith, trust and love. Allowed Lot to choose the best land. Dependent on God and gave Him glory. A Candid Personal Connection: He had a close, personal relationship with God. Read the account of his special visitors in Genesis

Chapter 3 : - Abraham our Father in Faith Interfaith Event

Faithful Shem stayed clear of that rebellion, so when Jehovah confused the language of the tower-builders, Shem and his family continued to speak man's original language, the tongue of Noah. That family included Abram.

Do you remember how this letter from the Apostle Paul began? After a brief introduction, Paul declares, in striking terms, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes: In those words you have the theme to the book of Romans. Yesterday morning in Cincinnati, I spoke to a beautiful young woman who had been divorced a few weeks before. Her husband had deserted her and had run off with another woman. This young woman was a Christian, but she was very much afraid even to contemplate what was ahead for her. She confessed that she was upset and nervous, uncertain of what to do, afraid of the future. As I talked with her I could see that what was troubling her was a lack of any sense of self-worth or respect for herself as a person. Therefore she lacked confidence in herself and feared what would happen to her. Today you can buy books by the score on the subject of the need for self-worth. It is called self-image, or a sense of significance to your life, or loving and being loved, or accepting and being acceptable: These things are what is meant by the word righteousness in Scripture. Righteousness lies at the heart of the gospel. Paul says in Romans 1: It is the ground upon which you face life and the place from which you operate -- it is a gift of the grace of God. Abraham is one of the great names of all history. There are very few names that are known and honored throughout the world in the entire record of human history, but the name Abraham is. He is known, revered, and honored by three faiths. Jews, Muslims, and Christians all honor the name of Abraham. Here is a man who, by any reckoning at all, stands head and shoulders above most of the human race. Paul uses Abraham as an example especially for the Jewish readers of this letter. In these twelve verses Paul discusses three important questions about Abraham: How was Abraham made righteous? When was Abraham made righteous? And why was Abraham made righteous? That is the outline of our study this morning. What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter [that is, in regard to being acceptable before God]? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about -- but not before God. What does the Scripture say? One, Paul suggests, is by works. Abraham was a man of good works. In Genesis, the very first account of Abraham, when he was living in the city of Ur of the Chaldea in the Mesopotamian Valley, describes him as a religious man. Abraham was an idolator and worshipped the moon goddess. But he was not deliberately seeking to evade God. He worshipped the moon goddess in ignorance. It was in the midst of that condition that God appeared to him and spoke to him. Abraham believed God, responded to his call, and set out on a march without a map. He trusted God to lead him to a land he had never seen before, to take care of his family, and to lead them into a place that would fulfill the promises of God. So Abraham appears in the Scripture as a man of great works. Paul says, "If in fact Abraham was justified [i. If you can give a good performance in any endeavor you will be highly thought of, you will gain a sense of being appreciated, you will have a feeling of self-respect, and you will be able to function on that basis. Paul admits that if Abraham was righteous because of works, he had something to boast about. Works always give you something to boast about. You can look at the record, you can show people what you have done and why you ought to be appreciated. You may not boast openly, but we all have very subtle ways and clever tricks of getting it out into the open so people can see what we have done. You can drop a hint of something you have done, hoping that people will ask some more about it. Somehow you manage things so that people will know you are a person of significance. That may work before men, but not before God. God is never impressed by that kind of performance. In fact, God, who sees the heart, is not looking at outward performance; he knows what is going on. He knows the selfishness, the greed, the grasping, the self-centeredness, the ruthlessness with which we cut people out and harm those we profess to love. He sees all the maneuvering and manipulating, the clever arranging that goes on in our lives and in our hearts. Therefore, to his purposes, that beautiful performance is utterly invalid, worthless, to God. That is why the sense of righteousness that results from our performance before men never lasts. It is but a temporary shot in the arm that we need to repeat again and again, almost as though we were addicted to it. But it will always

let us down in the hour of crisis. It is only the righteousness that comes from God that is lasting and will work -- not only in time, but for all eternity. That is what Abraham discovered. He discovered that righteousness which comes from performance is worthless. How did he discover this? Paul says, "What does the Scripture say? He took him out one night and showed him the stars in the heavens. God said to him, "If you can number those stars, you can number your descendants. Their number will be far more than all the stars of heaven. It says that "Abraham believed God," but we have to be careful. These Old Testament accounts are highly condensed versions. They do not give us the details. We have to fill them in from elsewhere in Scripture, and oftentimes we need to use a bit of sanctified imagination, guided by what the passage gives us. From other passages we know that God did not just say, "Abraham, see the stars? So shall your seed be. God evidently explained to Abraham that there was One coming who would fulfill all the promises that Abraham would have a heavenly seed as well as the earthly seed of his physical descendants. With regard to his spiritual descendants God said his seed would be Jesus. That is why, on one occasion, when Jesus was talking to the Pharisees, they said to him, "Abraham is our father. He would rise again from the dead as a living Lord to give his life to men and women everywhere, thus fulfilling the promise to Abraham. Abraham is a beautiful example of what Paul is talking about here in Romans. Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited[or reckoned] as righteousness. Tomorrow I must sit down and fill out my income tax. There is a very tantalizing regulation in the income tax law that awakens my cupidity every year. The rule says that if you have money given to you as a gift, it is not taxable. I keep looking for ways that will make it appear to the IRS that all the money I receive from my various functions as a pastor is really a gift. But the IRS will never buy it. They insist that if you work, what you are given is not a gift, but wages, and must be reported. This is exactly the argument Paul uses. If you work for something, then what you get is never a gift, it is what you have earned. You have it as a result of your labor; it is an obligation that must be paid. Therefore you yourself can take the credit for having earned it. Who is Paul talking about? From the context it is clearly Abraham. However, to this man Abraham, who does not work, but trusts God who justifies the wicked, the ungodly, his faith is credited to him as righteousness -- worth, acceptance, standing, and love from God. It is startling to think that Abraham was a wicked man, but he was. That is what the Scriptures say. We are trying to gain something by our own merit that can never be gained that way. Therefore it is the height of wickedness. Many, many Christians fall back into this trap. You never know when you have done enough. You cannot earn the gift of love, but it is yours if you take it by faith in Christ, fresh every morning. Paul now brings in another illustration from the Old Testament to confirm this. He says David expressed the same idea when he spoke of the blessedness of the man to whom God credited righteousness apart from works.

Chapter 4 : The Faith of Abraham - Life, Hope & Truth

God changed Abram's name from High Father (Abram) to Father of a Multitude (Abraham), and Sarai's name from Princess (Sarai) to THE Princess (Sarah). God instituted circumcision as a sign of the covenant and promised a son via Sarah. Abraham laughed that a hundred-year-old man would father a son.

Abraham had full faith in the promises of the true and living God; and upon the basis of his faith God accepted him into the circle of his friendship. God said to Abraham that through his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed. That One was Jesus, the Messiah. These qualify for this honored place in the plan of God solely upon the basis of their faith, which leads to their full surrender to do the will of God. They are identified as those baptized into Christ. God did not permit Abraham actually to slay Isaac as a sacrifice. Instead he substituted a male lamb to take his place on the altar. A hint of this was given to Abraham by God when he confirmed his covenant to him by his oath. His footstep followers are shown as being raised from the dead to live and reign with him. David was of the tribe of Judah, and, in his promises to him God assured David that his throne would be established forever. The angel who announced to Mary that she would give birth to the great King of promise specifically explained that he was the One who would fulfill the covenant God made with David. We know that Jesus, the Head of this seed class, was obedientâ€”faithful to his Heavenly Father in every detail. When, through Moses, God gave his Law to the Israelites, the natural descendants of Abraham, he offered them the opportunity, as a people, to become a holy nation and a royal priesthood. Jesus said that the kingdomâ€”that is, the opportunity of becoming rulers in the messianic kingdom, would be taken from them and given to a nation which would bring forth the necessary fruits of righteousness. The history of Israel as a nation indicates an almost continuous course of disobedience to divine law, but in every generation there were some who made a sincere and wholehearted effort to please the Lord, and doubtless the promise God made to them concerning rulership in the earth was one of their incentives to faithfulness. These faithful ones of the descendants of Abraham, as well as those prior to his day who exercised the same justifying faith as he, are referred to by the Apostle Paul, and the names of many of them given. First among these, particularly as the work of the messianic kingdom begins, will be the natural descendants of Abraham, other than those who qualified to be the earthly representatives of the kingdom. Upon what basis did Abraham become the friend of God? What is the key word used by God in his promises to Abraham? Who will be associated with Jesus as also a part of the seed of blessing? Who were the first to be offered this opportunity? What important lesson did God teach by asking Abraham to offer his son Isaac in sacrifice? What symbolic name does the Bible apply to Jesus to denote the fact that he died as a sacrifice? Is it necessary for the followers of Jesus to suffer and die with him if they are to participate in the future work of blessing? What is indicated by the New Testament statement that Abraham looked for a city? What covenant did God make with David that is related to the ruling seed of promise? What condition did God stipulate would have to be met by those who would share in the work of blessing all the families of the earth? Did the Israelites as a nation qualify for this honored position? When and by whom was this special opportunity taken away from Israel as a nation, and to whom was it given? Who will be the human, or visible representatives of the spiritual rulers in the kingdom, and how will they be related to the promise God made to Abraham? What will be the position of the natural descendants of Abraham who did not qualify to be part of the ruling seed of promise? How do we know that the promised blessings will be extended to the people of all nationalities? There is the seed that will do the blessing, and the seed that will receive the blessings; the latter eventually including the obedient of all kindreds and nations. Dawn Bible Students Association.

Chapter 5 : ABRAHAM, THE FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL

Two abraham as the Father of Faith(ful Betrayal) 26 2 The Fidelity oF BeTrayal out what ought to be done. After an intense discussion it was.

That song asks a very serious question about why we as the Body of Christ are not bringing healing to those who are hurting. I want to share with you this morning something that I believe answers that question. I want to share with you the heartbeat of Healing Hearts Ministry. It comes from an article I read on the Saturday night before the accident. I believe God used the truth in this article to prepare me for what would come in the days ahead. He has also used it to help many others who are feeling like God has abandoned them. So I began to read the article: It told a story of a man who was driving his truck on a narrow mountain road, who went around a curve and lost control. As the car went over a cliff he jumped out just in time to see the car crash and burn in the valley below. Although the man was terrified, he managed to grab a bush near the top. But first you must turn loose of the limb and trust Me to catch you. The article went on to talk about how that after years of consistent answers to prayers, the Lord may choose not to grant a request that we think is vitally important. The questions began to rise up as we become anxious and reveal what is truly in our hearts: Where is God when we need Him? Does He know what is happening? Why have the heavens grown dark and silent? What have I done to deserve this kind of treatment, this abandonment by God? What sin have I committed? What must I do to regain His favor? Dr Dobson said that he had seen few other circumstances in life that equal the agony of a shattered faith. It is a crisis brewed in hell. Then he said that Dr. That is, we feel hurt by God. Dr Dobson said that he agreed with that statistic. I sat in awe as I read this article, because I was going through a time when I felt like God had abandoned me. Then the next day I shared it with my Sunday School class and my pastor. Sooner or later our intellect will pose questions we cannot possibly answer. Sooner or later we will face a time when our feelings will cause us to pose questions we cannot possibly answer. We must know that God will not leave us or abandon us. This is a solid truth that we can stand on during the hard times. It is the basis for our faith and trust in Him. The leaders of Israel come to Moses and complain. So what does Moses do? He goes to God complaining! You would feel like God stuck you out on a limb and you were dangling there barely hanging on, expecting to fall any moment. God did not come through--He abandoned you at the worst time! God did not abandon him, but that is how Moses felt--just like he had been abandoned. Now he has a choice, trust God or not trust Him. Moses, I will reveal myself to you in a way no one has ever known me before. God wanted Moses to see there was more to Him than Moses knew about God. Moses did not know everything about God or the situation, so he had to trust God. So what did Moses do when God told him this? Look at Ex 6: Did He allow His not understanding God or the situation to stop him from trusting God? Maybe, but he trusted God anyway. That is real faith! God and His word and His people. My Word is true, you can believe it even in the dark times of your life. Because of the hurt, anger, guilt, bitterness, rejection or other feelings we will resist God and His Word. We will begin to question Him: I thought you loved me? Why are you allowing this to happen to me? Why did my loved one die? Why did I get divorced from my husband? Our grief, our pain, our feelings of abandonment will get in the way of our trusting God. And satan delights in this, because it causes us to become isolated from the Body of Christ. Do you realize this means that only 9 out of Christians are whole! There were many times when I went through the pain of grief that all I could do was cry. Yet, with the tenderness and love and of a Father, I would feel God wrap His arms around me and hold me tight. I would look up into His eyes, and see nothing but love and concern. You see, He wanted to show me a new side of Him that I did not know, although I had been a Christian for over 25 years. One thing I learned is that no matter what, God will never leave us or forsake us, no matter how much it feels like He has done so. We must have the Word of God deeply planted in our hearts, so that when the storms of life come blowing upon us and they will blow--Amen! Because the broken-hearted are in pain! That pain is so intense it can seem to overshadow the truths we know in our heart. That is why God gave us each other! That is why we need the Body of Christ--the second agent of healing. When one is weak, the other can be strong. Tough times can either make us or break us. Satan wants to use them to break us. God wants to use them to make

usâ€™ more like Jesus! You see, satan wants to isolate us, so we do not have the strength to believe God and His Word because of the circumstances and feelings. That is when we get hurt, because we feel like God has abandoned us. As we come alongside a hurting brother or sister, we can strengthen them and can encourage them to trust God in spite of how it may feel or seem. We can encourage them in the truth that God has not abandoned them. We can stand with them against the storms of life and they will know that they are not alone in this battle. You may say--I had someone help me once through a tough time, but I kept going back to the same old feelings of hurt. That is because there is a process to healing. We are hurt and all we feel is the pain of our broken heart. We shut off the Holy Spirit from being able to do His work in us. We have a weak faith and cannot believe God cares for us--after all we feel like He abandoned us. We have no life for ourselves and none to give out to others who are hurting. If we are not healed from this hurt, then how can we do the work that God has for His body to do? How can we reach a hurting world when we, the Body of Christ, are hurting ourselves? But thank God, His Word will not return void. It is a powerful weapon and can be used to fight the enemy. As we allow the process to continue in our life, doing the grief work, attending a support group, learning to trust God in spite of the circumstances. It begins to change us. We reestablish communication with the Father who loves us. Our feelings and emotions begin to yield to the faith of our spirit. We begin to fellowship with the Body of Christ and we start to see hope once again. We hurt, we heal, then we are able to help others. When God comforts us in our trials, He does it so we can then comfort others in theirs. He wants to reveal to us, through the trials we go through, more about Himself than we already know, just like He did for Moses and I. When we truly get the revelation of His unfailing love for us, then there is absolutely nothing that can stop the Body of Christ from being the healing agent that God designed it to be! We will be His arms reaching, His hands healing, His feet going, His Body showing them there is a way to real abundant life through Jesus Christ!

Abraham believed the truth from the mouths of God's messengers and from the mouth of the Lord. The faith of Abraham is living faith. We need to do what our father Abraham did. We need to believe that God can do the impossible and that nothing is too hard for God. We need to believe in God's power and promises, without wavering.

Each crime was followed by a fitting and catastrophic punishment: And yet a tiny but holy remnant was preserved in each case: And the Armenian and some other chronicles add that certain Japhethites also refused, because of which a war took place between them and Nimrod. They must build their own polity that is not founded on the worship of man, but of God. The only exception is Melchizedek, the mysterious king-priest of Shalem, who blessed him on his return from the slaughter of the Babylonian kings. However, Melchizedek was the exception that proved the rule; for he was more like God than man, being both the first and the last man in the history of the People of God lawfully to combine the roles of king and priest [2]. This shows, according to St. These works of faith include: To strengthen him on this path, Abraham is given bread and wine, a figure of the Body and Blood of Christ, by Melchizedek. This meant, as St. Abraham is not only a model of the man of faith and the physical ancestor of Christ: Isaac is the true heir of Abraham, the freeborn son of Sarah, who inherits the promises and blessings given to Abraham in full measure, being also a man of faith of whom it is also said that in his Seed, Christ, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed Genesis Ishmael is the son of a slave, Hagar, and does not inherit those blessings, although he does receive the promise that his heirs will be strong and numerous. Now according to the popular conception, Isaac is the ancestor of the Jews, and Ishmael " of the Arab peoples. It was only towards the Coming of Christ that an Idumean, Herod the Great, reversed the relationship by killing the Hasmoneans and becoming the first non-Jewish king of Israel " the event which, according to the prophecy of Jacob, would usher in the reign of the Messiah Genesis In fact, however, the racial interpretation of the two peoples of the Covenant has only limited validity before the Coming of Christ, and none at all after. For, according to the inspired interpretation of the Apostle Paul, the two peoples " or two covenants, as he calls them - represent, not racial, but spiritual categories: But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: But the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. For the Christians, - and this includes the Jews before Christ who believed in His Coming, - become through faith in Christ the freeborn heirs of the promises made to Abraham and Isaac, whereas the Jews, by remaining slaves to the Law of Moses and refusing to believe in Christ, show themselves to be the children of the bondwoman, and therefore cannot inherit the promises together with the Christians. That Isaac is the ancestor of Christ and the Christians is indicated also by his choice of wife, Rebecca, who signifies the Bride of Christ, or the Church. And she is chosen for him, not by a trusted member of the family, but by his rejected mother, the slave-woman Hagar. Philaret comments on the verse: The two latter elections, that is, the election of the race of Israel, and the election of the spiritual Israel, are included in the first, that is, in the personal election of Jacob: And for the carnal Israel, from the time of its rejection, there remained only the sword of rebellion, inner enslavement and external humiliation. Thus Leah, whom Jacob married first, signifies with her weak eyes and fertile womb the weak faith of the carnal Israel and its abundant offspring. But Rachel, whom he married later but loved first and most strongly, signifies the New Testament Church, which the Lord loved first but married later. Christ recognized that the unbelieving Jews were the children of Abraham, saying: And yet only a few moments later He denied them this honour, saying: But now ye seek to kill Me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God. This did not Abraham. Ultimately, therefore, only Christians belong to the chosen people. Justin the Martyr writes: Now this is surely a sign that some of you Jews are surely the children of Abraham, and that you will share in the inheritance of Christ; but " a greater part of your people " drink of bitter and godless doctrine while you spurn the word of God. Exceptions may be found in the history of the tiny kingdom of Montenegro in the Ottoman period. Beholding the just Abraham worthy of communion with him, he separated part of his oblation and took it out to him to mingle him therewith. Ambrose of Milan, On Isaac, or the Soul. Philaret, Zapiski, part 3, pp. Justin, Dialogue

with Trypho,

The People in God's Plan "Lesson IV. Abraham, the Father of the Faithful. THE name Abraham signifies "father of a multitude." This patriarch's original name was Abram, but it was changed to Abraham by God, in keeping with the divine intention concerning him.

The Faith of Our Father Romans 3: Patton, a banker, talking with a British officer. Patton, the Harrison family certainly could not have come from such aristocratic stock as he; they were obviously inferior. After asking a few questions about his family line and listening politely, the officer silences the snobbish Mr. Patton with one remark: If ever there were a people proud of their ancestry, it was the Jews. They took particular pride in being descendants of Abraham, believing that this physical descent made them better than others. They even believed their ancestry assured them of eternal life in the kingdom of God. Beyond this, they thought they determined who was eligible for salvation, because they owned it. Before the coming of Christ, they shared salvation only with those willing to become Jewish proselytes. When proselytes converted to Judaism, they must be circumcised and place themselves under the Law of Moses. With the coming of Christ, Christianity was altogether rejected by many Jews. They did not believe Jesus was the Messiah, and they opposed the preaching of Jesus as the Messiah even to the Gentiles. Jews who converted to Christianity wanted to obtain ownership and control, just as they had done in Judaism. The Jews insisted that to be saved, Gentiles needed not only to believe in Jesus as the Messiah, but they must be circumcised and keep the Law. In virtually all the churches he founded or to which he wrote, Paul found it necessary to refute and correct the errors of the Judaisers. This included the church at Rome. Throughout the Book of Romans, Paul deals with the misconceptions and heresies of Judaism. In order to be saved from their sin and condemnation, all are in need of a righteousness not their own. To the Jews, Abraham was their father. They took great pride in looking upon themselves as the sons of Abraham. Paul must correct some of their views concerning Abraham. The entire fourth chapter of Romans is therefore devoted to Abraham. Structure of the Text Paul begins in chapter 4 to answer the three questions he has raised at the end of chapter 3. Those three questions are: The entire fourth chapter of Romans surrounds Abraham, the Old Testament patriarch. Chapter 4 can be divided into three major segments: References to Abraham or Abram in Genesis 11 "From this point on, the remaining references to Abraham point back to these historical events. As a background to our study, we must consider a brief overview of the major events in the life of Abraham, the father of our faith. Originally Abram came from the land of Ur of the Chaldeans Genesis God instructed Abraham to leave Haran and go to the place He would show him. There, God promised to bless Abraham by making of him a great nation, and by blessing the entire world through his seed Genesis Abram obeyed, taking along Lot, his nephew. When a famine occurred in Canaan, Abram went to Egypt. Fearing he might be killed and his still beautiful wife might be taken in marriage, Abram passed off his wife Sarai as his sister. God further told Abram of the years his descendants would be mistreated in a foreign land, after which they would possess the land of Canaan As the years passed, Abram and Sarai became concerned, since no son had yet been given them by God. At age 86, through Hagar, Abram and Sarah had a son, Ishmael. The next year, God promised, they would have a son. God commanded Abraham to be circumcised and to circumcise all the males in his household. Thus, years after he was declared to be righteous, on the basis of his faith Genesis 17, Abraham was circumcised. Abraham pled with God to spare these cities, if but a handful of righteous were found. The cities were destroyed, with only Lot and his immediate family spared. Abram no longer needed to lie or to be afraid Genesis At the age of , Sarah died Genesis Abraham lived yet another 38 years, married again, and fathered more children That land which God had promised to give to Abraham someday was not yet his. He nevertheless bought the parcel of land, on which Sarah, and he, and his descendants could be buried chapter Commissioning his most trusted servant to secure a wife for his son, she was not be from among the Canaanites nor was Isaac to be taken back to the land from which he had come. After this, Abraham died at the ripe old age of Genesis This same faithfulness is emphasized in the Psalms: And they wandered about from nation to nation, From one kingdom to another people. He permitted no man to oppress them, And He reproved kings for their sakes: When Isaiah spoke of

the righteousness and salvation God was to provide, as He promised, He called upon His people to think back to their beginnings, in Abraham and Sarah: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; When he was but one I called him, Then I blessed him and multiplied him. My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait for Me, And for My arm they will wait expectantly. Lift up your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth will wear out like a garment, And its inhabitants will die in like manner, But my salvation shall be forever, And My righteousness shall not wane. Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, A people in whose heart is My law; Do not fear the reproach of man, Neither be dismayed at their revilings. For the moth will eat them like a garment, And the grub will eat them like wool. Ezekiel likewise called upon Israel to trust in Him, by faith. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead As in the days of old. As in the days when you came out from the land of Egypt, I will show you miracles. They will put their hand on their mouth, Their ears will be deaf. They will lick the dust like a serpent, Like reptiles of the earth. Who is a God like Thee, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, Thou wilt cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea. These Old Testament prophets spoke of the righteousness and salvation God would provide in fulfillment of His promise to Abraham. That righteousness, like the righteousness of Abraham, was not a righteousness which men earned by their law-keeping, but a righteousness which God Himself would provide through His Messiah, the coming Savior. Abraham is also a very prominent person in the New Testament. Especially in the Gospels do we see the distorted thinking of the Jews concerning Abraham. The Jews took pride in their physical descent from Abraham, believing that being his seed was synonymous with salvation. John the Baptist immediately challenges this thinking as incorrect: And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Believing they had confirmed reservations in the kingdom of God, the Jews saw the Gentiles as those who would never enter into the blessings promised Abraham. Jesus marveled at and commended the faith of the Gentile centurion: Here was a revolutionary thought to the Jews, but one completely consistent with the Old Testament and with the gospel. A similar shock was in store for the Jews when Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus Luke According to Jewish thinking, the rich man would surely go to heaven while the poor man was surely destined for hell. Jesus reversed the destinies of these two. The rich man was found in hell, and the poor man, Lazarus, went to heaven. Most shocking are the words of the rich man when appealing for mercy: And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us. Priding themselves that Abraham was their physical forefather, the Jews were self-assured that they would enter into the promised kingdom and the blessings promised Abraham. Salvation is attained through faith and not through the fatherhood of Abraham. And the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed. I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father. But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. You are doing the deeds of your father. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

Chapter 8 : Bible Study: Abraham, Father of the Faithful and Friend of God

The name Abram means "exalted father"; Abraham means "father of a multitude." Abraham was first promised a "seed" in Genesis at the age of 75 (). A more specific promise was given in Genesis Abram was between 75 and 86 () when he was reckoned to be righteous by God, as recorded in Genesis

This metaphor could be a prophetic description of the nomadic life of the descendants of Ishmael see v. This commandment has been given to the Saints in all ages see Deuteronomy That will not come all at once, but line upon line, and precept upon precept, example upon example, and even then not as long as we live in this mortal life, for we will have to go even beyond the grave before we reach that perfection and shall be like God. Here is where we are taught these simple truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in this probationary state, to prepare us for that perfection. It is our duty to be better today than we were yesterday, and better tomorrow than we are today. Because we are on that road, if we are keeping the commandments of the Lord, we are on that road to perfection, and that can only come through obedience and the desire in our hearts to overcome the world. To better understand why the Lord chose this particular sign or token, read the account in the Joseph Smith Translation: Much additional information is given in this account. Before instituting the law of circumcision, the Lord explained why He was establishing this token of the covenant. The people had left correct principles and forsaken the true ordinances. Baptism was one ordinance being incorrectly observed. They misunderstood the relationship between accountability of children and the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Because of this apostasy, circumcision was instituted. It was a covenant token. It was for the seed of Abraham. It signified that children were not accountable until they were eight years old. Other scriptures make it clear that it was not the act itself but rather what it stood for that gave circumcision its greatest significance. In many places the Lord speaks of true circumcision as being the circumcision of the heart. Though a person may have had the token of circumcision in the flesh, unless he was righteous the covenant was invalidated and the circumcision became profitless. Thus, circumcision was only a sign or token of what needed to happen to the inward man. If the inward change had not taken place, then circumcision was virtually meaningless. The organ of the body that produces seed and brings about physical birth is the organ on which the token of the covenant was made. Thus, when a person was circumcised it signified that while he had been born into the covenant, he need not be baptized until he became accountable before the Lord. But spiritual circumcision, or the circumcision of the heart, must take place once one becomes accountable or one is not considered as true Israel. This change is also substantiated by the Hebrew text. The traditional burial place of Abraham and Sarah at Hebron Genesis Yet, Ishmael, through his twelve sons, was also to be the father of a great nation. Points to Ponder Though we know from modern scripture that the covenant-making process began with Adam and the other patriarchs see Moses 6: This covenant was renewed with Isaac Gen. Those portions of it which pertain to personal exaltation and eternal increase are renewed with each member of the House of Israel who enters the order of celestial marriage; through that order the participating parties become inheritors of all the blessings of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. A close analysis of the promises shows both their temporal and eternal significance. Temporal Significance The land of Canaan was promised to Abraham and his descendants, even though he never personally possessed it see Genesis Yet, as Stephen said at the time of his martyrdom, Abraham never received as much as a foot of it as a possession while he lived. Simply this, that the time would eventually come, after the resurrection from the dead, when Abraham and his children who have been faithful in the keeping of the commandments of the Lord, should possess that land, and they shall also spread forth as far as it is necessary for them to receive an inheritance. Then the poor and the meek—that is, the godfearing and the righteous—shall inherit the earth; it will become an abiding place for the Father and the Son, and celestial beings will possess it forever and ever. Temporal Significance Abraham was one hundred years old before his covenant son, Isaac, was born. When one adds to that figure the deceased ancestors, and the estimates of future posterities of those groups, plus other descendants of Abraham such as the past, present, and future members of the Nephite-Lamanite cultures, the lost ten tribes, and the Latter-day Saints, he sees what the Lord meant concerning the innumerable and unmeasurable blessing of posterity. Temporal

Significance As Noah was given the priesthood and commissioned to preach the gospel, so Abraham received the priesthood that he might preach and bless others with the gospel. The mission of the covenant people is to serve the Lord by blessing others with the gospel. Moses , as I have said was of his seed, and he was the deliverer of the whole of that nation. And who were the prophets that existed among ancient Israel? They were descendants of Abraham; and to them came the word of God and the light of revelation. After the flesh of the seed of Abraham. Who were his Twelve Apostles? Of the seed of Abraham. Who were the people that came to this continentâ€”Lehi and his family, about years B. Who were the Apostles they had among them that spread forth among the millions that then lived upon this continent? Who was Joseph Smith? Eternal Significance As descendants of Abraham, if we remain true and faithful to our charge to bless our own family and others with the blessings of the gospel, we will continue to do so throughout all eternity. Also, we will be heirs to all that the Father has through Christ. God, man, and Satan. There is no question about which of those powers is the greatest. God has all power and therefore no one has greater power than He. But of these, who has greater powerâ€”man or Satan? Before answering, read the following scriptures, thinking in terms of power. Either man binds himself to God and draws on His power God Satan or he comes under the power of Satan. Joseph Smith stated this truth in these words: The moment we revolt at anything which comes from God, the devil takes power. What is the means of binding oneself to God?

Chapter 9 : Why the Bible Reveals Abraham's Doubt and Sin in So Much Detail – Charisma Magazine

Abraham Father of the Faithful Finally, a book that covers the life of Abraham from beginning to end is here. This book ties together a collection of stories from the Midrash, Talmud, and the Bible, chronologically, and allows us to peer into the past at what things might have looked like as they happened.

Faith Like Abraham Romans 4: All of us today along with those spoken of in bible times and everyone in between look to Abraham as our father, either as a direct descendant in the case of the children of Israel, or as our father by faith. Faith like Abraham Abraham crosses the divide that exists between the old and the new covenants for he was the father of the adherents of the old covenant law through the covenant and sign of circumcision, and he is father of those who now come to God through Jesus Christ whose faith is like the faith Abraham had in the word of God. That is how great his faith in God was that God called him a friend. The basis of this friendship between Abraham and God was faith for the scripture tells us that Abraham believed God and God in turn then proclaimed Abraham to be righteous. That is, Abraham was given righteousness as a gift, not because he worked for it or earned it or through anything else he had done, but simply because he believed what God said to him and he had faith that God could and would do whatever He said He would do. Abraham was given something very specific to believe in. God said to Abraham when he was about ninety years old that he would have a son by his wife Sarah and that through him he would become the father of many nations and peoples. Now Sarah was about eighty years old at the time and well past the age of menopause. Plus she had been barren all her life and unable to bear children. He did not doubt or scoff or think The Lord must be joking with him, he simply believed what The Lord said he was going to do and waited for the thing to come to pass. Strength of Faith As time passed by Abraham waited for The Lord to bring about His word and to do this miraculous thing. In fact it was not until about ten years later that Isaac was born. Now if a person was told something would happen and it did not come to pass for a long period of time, natural human reaction would be to doubt, disbelieve or maybe even forget. But that was not the case with Abraham. The scripture tells us that Abraham grew strong in his faith. As time went on he continued to believe and grow stronger in faith in what The Lord had told him and that no doubt made him waver in what he knew and fully expected The Lord to do. Did Abraham balk at this request? Did he question God over what He wanted, especially after waiting so long for God to fulfill His original promise to give a son who would be father of many nations? Again Abraham believed God and was strong in his faith knowing that God can do anything, even bringing back to life his son Isaac if he were offered upon the altar. And God did provide, for He told Abraham to stop just as he was about to deliver the killing blow and provided a sheep to take the place of Isaac as an offering. By any measure the faith Abraham had was powerful and strong, and that is why God reckoned his faith to him as righteousness and called him the friend of God. Children of Faith But the faith of Abraham was not shown just for his sake alone or to give a lesson on faith. Abraham became the forerunner of righteousness by faith where a person could have their sins overlooked because they believed God and had righteousness bestowed as a gift through their faith. In being the father of many nations Abraham was both a literal father to all the nations and tribes of the people of Israel, but he also became the spiritual father of all those who became the children of God through faith. The principle of righteousness by faith that began with Abraham has carried down to us today through the new covenant. It is by faith that we receive righteousness today to be able to stand in the presence of God. And it was by grace that God chose to give His righteousness to those who believe. Like Abraham who was given specific things to believe, we too have been given specific things to believe as well. Not the same as Abraham, but the words of God nonetheless. We are instructed to accept Jesus Christ as our saviour, to be baptised in His name and believe that by water baptism we die with Christ, which sets us free from the law and washes away our sins. Then we are to believe that as we are raised from the baptismal waters we are resurrected with Christ as new creations, no longer subject to the law since we have died and the law does not pass through death, no longer under condemnation for death pays the price or debt of sin and prepared for the walk with Christ Jesus ready to receive the Holy Spirit to guide us and transform us into the image of Christ. These are the specifics of what we are called to believe in Jesus Christ

that forms the beginning of our walk. And when we believe and accept these things God steps in and proclaims us righteous by our faith just as He did with Abraham. Abraham is a great example for us to follow. We too need to remember at all times that God can do anything and that He is able to resolve all issues, problems and obstacles that may come against us. There is nothing outside His power or His control. The plans that He set in place millennia ago are slowly being fulfilled. The prophecies His prophets gave in the bible are slowly being fulfilled and the day when Jesus returns to rule and remove all forms of sin will come at the time appointed by God. As the creator of the whole universe, both physical and spiritual, there is nothing outside his power or control. We need to remember it too, especially when we doubt or feel that God has left us. He watches His people constantly and He guides and protects them. Sure, He allows difficulties to come upon us and troubles will arise. He may even test our faith as He did with Abraham and Isaac. But He will also always provide the solutions and comfort His people who remain faithful. Do not ever doubt what God can and will do. As Jesus said, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. That is how much God cares for his people. Hold fast your faith in God because in the end that is all that will ensure you stand by God in your appointed place in His kingdom. Clip art sourced from ChristiansUnite.