



PRAYING WITH PURPOSE MINISTRIES

Notes on Genesis

The notes on Genesis have been selected to focus on the life and times of Abraham and his relationship with God.

After completing the book of Job, we resume reading Genesis in chapter twelve. We see that God calls a man named Abram (later to be known as Abraham) and God tells him that He wants to bless him and make a nation from his descendants (Genesis 12:1-3). Abraham had a choice to believe God or not to believe God. Abraham believes God and follows His instructions to leave his country and kinsman and go to a land that He would show him (the land of Canaan). God told Abraham that He would give the land of Canaan to his descendants. As we will see, this first step of obedience laid the groundwork for God to establish the nation of Israel from Abraham's offspring. As believers, we have a choice every day to obey the Word of God or not to obey. However, when we obey God's Word, the covenant promises of God are activated NOW in our lives.

Abraham operated in the principle of obedience (a righteousness-building principle) which is God's plan to reward our lives. In order to operate in this principle and obtain the goal/purpose, one must put his/her faith into action. James 2:17-24 says:

¹⁷ *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

¹⁸ *But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."*

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

¹⁹ *You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

²⁰ *You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless^[a]?*

²¹ *Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?* ²² *You see that his faith and his actions were*



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working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,”^[b] and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.”

Abraham’s obedience was based on his belief in God, and his belief in God led him to worship God. As we read through the book of Genesis about Abraham’s life, we see how Abraham repeatedly built altars to worship God. Abraham’s obedience allowed God to establish a relationship with him and out of this relationship, God entered into covenant with him. As part of the covenant, God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as the sands on the seashore. As a component of implementing this covenant, God changed Abram’s name to Abraham, which means “father of nations”. Changing the name from “Abram” to “Abraham” was a strategic action on God’s part. It defined and re-enforced for Abraham and all those around him, those who spoke to him, that his offspring would grow into nations. It is important to note that it was after the name changed that his son Isaac was born. It should also be noted that Isaac is the link from Abraham that grew into the nation of Israel. In fact, at least three nations came out of Abraham’s offspring: the Ishmaelites, the Edomites, and the Israelites. Because of Abraham’s faith in God, God credited it to him as righteousness. Abraham is called the “father of faith.” (Romans 4:3) and he is also known as a friend of God—what an honor!

Abraham’s obedience to offer up his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice paved the way for God to offer up His son, Jesus, as a sacrifice for the salvation of mankind. Because of the covenant agreement with Abraham, God could tell Abraham not to slay Isaac, and instead provide for him a ram in the bush, knowing that in due season, He would give His son, Jesus, as a ransom for all. God counted the sacrifice done because of Abraham’s willingness to hold nothing back from Him, not even his son, Isaac.

Abraham taught his son, Isaac, to serve the Lord as God said he would in Genesis 18:18-19:



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¹⁸ Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.^[c] ¹⁹ For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

The principle that one clearly sees operating in Abraham's life is the principle of obedience, which is God's plan to reward our lives and God rewarded Abraham's life by making him "the father of nations", as well as the "father of faith." Abraham put his faith to work when he left his country and kinsman. He also demonstrated his faith when he was willing to offer Isaac as a sacrifice in obedience to God. We don't see anywhere in scripture where Abraham had a family meeting and discussed with Sarah about sacrificing their son Isaac, nor is it found in scripture where Abraham even questioned God about it. However, we do see where Abraham was fully persuaded that even though he slay Isaac, God would raise him up again because in Genesis 22:5, "He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham simply obeyed God and received the blessing of Isaiah 1:19:

"If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land;"

PRAYER

Father, I pray as children of the Most High God that we would offer our bodies as a living sacrifice which is our reasonable service of worship. And that we will not conform to this world, but renew our minds with Your Word; so, we will have the faith to obey you, especially in those difficult situations, when we are challenged by our human logic. I pray that we will trust You with all our hearts and lean not to our own understanding. May we be called "children of faith" (for the just shall live by faith) and have the honor of being called "a friend of God," in Jesus' Name. Amen.