

Questions / Answers

1. What did God tell Abram to do when he lived in Ur?
To leave Ur and travel to a country that God would show him.
2. What did God promise Abram if he obeyed?
He would be a great nation. God would bless those who blessed him. All nations would be made happy through him.
3. Why did Abram and Lot part? Why was God pleased with Abram?
There was not enough grass for all the flocks. Abram let Lot choose first. Abram trusted that God would look after him in the dry land.
4. What big problem did Abram have about these promises?
He did not have a son and Sarah was old.
5. What new promise did God give to Abram?
He gave Abram and his descendants all the land for ever.
6. How and when will this promise be fulfilled for Abram?
When Jesus comes back Abram will be raised and live in the land for ever.
7. What were the new names God gave Abram and Sarai?
Abraham and Sarah.
8. What did Abraham and Sarah call their son? *Isaac.*
9. What were the 3 most important promises God made to Abraham?
He would become a great nation. They would have the land of Canaan for ever. One of his descendants would make everyone happy.
10. When and how will the last promise be fulfilled?
When Jesus comes back to be king and brings peace and happiness.

Memory verses

Genesis 12 verses 1–3; Genesis 13 verses 14–15.

Discussion

Read Galatians 3 verses 6–9 and 26–29. God's promises were made to Abraham's descendants, the Jews. We are not Jews. Discuss what these verses tell us about how we can be part of God's promises.

Writing

Write the promises that God made to Abraham. Explain how God has fulfilled His promises. How will Jesus fulfil God's promises to Abraham?

CBM Senior Lessons

Lesson 7 Abraham—a man of faith



READING Genesis 12:1–5; 13:5–18; 18:1–15; 21:1–8

LESSON

One of the important people in the Bible is Abraham. At first his name was Abram, but God changed it later to Abraham. He lived in a great city called Ur in the country we now call Iraq. The people who lived in Ur worshipped idols. They believed that there were many gods. They believed that there was a moon goddess who looked after their city. But Abram and his family knew that there is only one God – the Creator of heaven and earth.

God spoke to Abram and told him to leave his home in Ur and to begin a journey to another country. God told Abram that if he obeyed God he would receive special promises. These promises are very important in God's purpose with mankind.

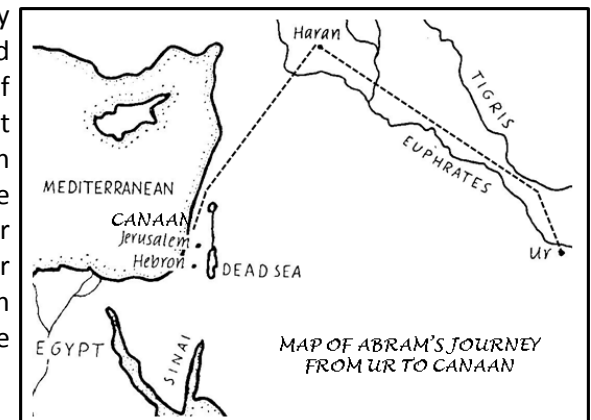
God's promises to Abram

"I will make you into a great nation"

"I will bless those that bless you, and curse him that curses you"

"In you shall all families of the earth be blessed"

Abram had faith. He believed in God's promises. He obeyed God. He left his comfortable home and all his friends in Ur. He travelled with Sarai, his wife, and his nephew, Lot. Abram trusted that God would show him where to go. First he travelled north to a city called Haran. Then God showed him the way to the land of Canaan. Abram, Sarai and Lot lived in tents and moved with their sheep to places where there was water and grass for the sheep to eat. In the summer it was difficult to find enough grass for the animals because the land became very dry.



God blessed Abram and Lot, and their flocks became very large. It became more and more difficult to find enough grass for all the sheep. The shepherds who looked after Abram's sheep began to quarrel with the shepherds who looked after Lot's sheep. Therefore Abram and Lot decided that it would be better for them to separate and live in different places so that they did not have to share water and grass.

Abram was older than Lot and therefore he should have chosen first which land he wanted. But Abram let Lot choose first. They went to the top of a hill and looked around them. Lot chose to go and live in the Jordan valley. There was plenty of water and grass by the River Jordan. There were cities there and life was easier. This seemed like a good choice - life was easy for Lot. But the wicked people living in the cities influenced Lot's wife and daughters. After some years God destroyed the cities in the valley and Lot lost everything. We can learn from this that when we make decisions we must think very carefully. It is very important to think whether our decision will help us to serve God.

Abram went to live in the dry hills where it was more difficult to find grass and water. But Abram preferred to live in the hills. He did not want to live in the valley near the cities where the wicked people lived. Abram had faith. He trusted that God would look after him.

God was pleased that Abram trusted him. God promised that He would give all the land of Canaan to Abram and his descendants for ever. To possess the land for ever, Abram would have to live for ever. So God was promising him everlasting life.

God promised so much to Abram. But there was one big problem. Abram did not have a son. His wife, Sarai, had no children. This was a great disappointment to them. How could the God's promises that God would make them into a great nation come true when they had no children.

God sent another message to Abram. God repeated His promise that Abram would be the father of a nation. God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means 'Father of a great multitude'. Sarai's name was also changed. Her name was changed to Sarah, which means 'Princess'.

God said that Sarah would have a son. The nation who would be Abraham's descendants would come from Sarah's son. Sarah was an old woman. She was 90 years old and Abraham was 100 Years old. She was too old to have children. But God promised that Sarah would have a son; his name would be Isaac.

Abraham had faith. He believed God's promise that Sarah would have a son although she was old. The next year Sarah had a son. They called him Isaac. How excited Abraham and Sarah were! They thanked God for keeping His promise.

God was very pleased that Abraham loved and obeyed him. God repeated His promises to Abraham. Abraham had faith. He believed God's promises.

God promised that Abraham's descendants would be so many that they could not be counted, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the sea shore. They would become a great nation.

God promised to give Abraham and his descendants all the land of Canaan for ever.

God promised that through one of Abraham's descendants all nations of the world would be blessed – made happy.

Abraham's story is very important because it tells us about God's promises for the future.

God kept His promise that Abraham would have a son. He kept His promise that Abraham's descendants would become a great nation. This nation was the people of Israel. Today they are called Jews. The Bible tells us about the history of Abraham's descendants, the Jews.

God kept His promise that He would give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants. God gave this land to the nation of Israel. Today Abraham's descendants, the Jews, live in the same land. Today we call it the land of Israel. God promised the land to Abraham and his descendants for ever. When Jesus comes back to the earth he will raise Abraham from the dead and then he will live in the land for ever. Abraham's descendants, the Jews, will live there, too.

Many centuries after Abraham, the most important descendant of Abraham was born. This was Jesus Christ. In the New Testament we learn that Jesus will fulfil the last part of the promises God made to Abraham. Jesus will be the one who brings happiness to all peoples of the world. Soon Jesus will come back to the earth. He will reign as King over the whole world. He will bring peace and happiness to all nations.

God kept His promises to Abraham. We can be certain that He will keep His promise to send Jesus to bring peace and happiness to all men. This is the important message of the Bible.