

GOD'S CALLING

Lesson Eight

God Called Abraham (Part 2; Gen. 12:4-8; 22:1-3, 12; Heb. 11:17-19)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how after obeying God's calling to go to Canaan, Abraham lived a simple life loving the Lord and calling upon the Lord. He lived with an altar and a tent. He trusted in God and defeated kings in battle. He believed in God's promise and had a son, Isaac, in his old age. He passed God's test by obeying God's command to offer up Isaac to God, for he believed God would raise him up from the dead. He was called a "friend of God."

Memory Verse: And Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness, and he was called a friend of God.
James 2:23

Facts to Teach:

1. God's invisible presence safely brought Abraham, his wife, and Lot through the long desert journey to the promised land. When they arrived, God again appeared to His believing and obedient called one. This was to encourage him and let him know that he had arrived, God was still with him, and God was happy with him.
2. Abraham lived a simple life in his new country. Although God blessed him and he became very rich, he never built a house for himself. He chose to live in a tent instead. In this way he could more easily follow the Lord. He lived like a pilgrim. Also, he built an altar nearby his tent and there he would pray and call upon the Lord. This tells us that Abraham loved the Lord and worshipped the Lord. He no longer worshipped idols in silence; Abraham called upon the name of the Lord (Genesis 12:8).
3. One day Abraham's nephew, Lot was taken away as a captive by the armies of four neighboring kings. Abraham prayed to the Lord (indicated by the raising up of his hand before going out to battle) and with his trained household servants defeated the kings and their armies and delivered Lot (Genesis 14). Abraham believed in God's power.
4. Although Abraham was ninety-nine years old he believed that the Lord would fulfill His promise to give him a son by Sarah. God fulfilled His promise and at nearly one hundred years of age Sarah gave birth to Abraham's son, Isaac. Abraham believed in God's promises.
5. Although Abraham loved Isaac very much, when one day God called Abraham and tested him, he was willing to give even Isaac up to the Lord as a sacrifice, if that was what God asked of him. Abraham trusted and obeyed the Lord absolutely. He believed that if Isaac died, then the Lord would raise him up from the dead, for God would be faithful to his promise to him (Genesis 22; Hebrews 11:17-19) that in Isaac would his seed be called.
6. So today, Abraham is the father of all the Jews, who were born through him physically. Also, he is the father of all those who believe and obey God's calling (Romans 4:16-17).