



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Abraham and Isaac!

Lesson Text: Genesis 11-25

Focus Verse: Genesis 12:2 - And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.

Truth About Covenant: God promised Abraham he would become a nation and inherit the Promised Land.

Covenant Context: As the world rebuilt after the Flood, they attempted to build a tower to keep God from scattering them once more, indicating they did not trust Him to keep His covenant. God called one man, named Abram, to enter into a covenant with Him, even when it could cost him everything.

Babel and Ur were another rebellion. Seemingly unaware of God's covenant and knowingly disobedient of His command, the people set out to establish for themselves a permanent residence with a man-made tower at the center—a source of pride and protection from future floods (Genesis 11:4). Free will remains one of God's greatest gifts to humanity. Those who willingly obeyed the Lord reaped the blessings.

Abram heard a command from God (Genesis 12:1), and he obeyed that command without knowing exactly where he was going. God promised the following to Abraham: *"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed"* (Genesis 12:2-3). His obedience resulted in a covenant with a promise from God to make him a blessing to all nations. Thanks to Abraham's obedience and God's faithfulness, we remain beneficiaries of God's plan to bless the nations through Abraham.

Believe and obey are action words. Like Noah, Abraham put feet on his faith. When God told Abraham to go, Abraham went. As Abraham walked with God, God continued to reiterate and refine His covenant. Not surprisingly, Abraham battled fear and doubt throughout this long journey. He even sired a son named Ismael when God did not answer as quickly as Abraham had hoped. During one moment of doubt, God instructed Abraham to look up toward heaven and count the stars. This was enough reassurance for Abraham. *"He believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness"* (Genesis 15:5-6). Abraham's final test was at Mount Moriah to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering. In a bold prophetic statement of faith Abraham announced: *"God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering"* (Genesis 22:8). God honored Abraham's faith, and the angel stopped him before he could sacrifice his son and he saw a ram caught in the thicket.

One wise man or woman said, **"A faithful man walks by faith in the present while preparing for the future."** Abraham was human. He dealt with impatience, doubt, and frustration—like we do—while waiting for God's promises to come to pass. Being in covenant with God does not always mean everything will make perfect sense. We must remind ourselves that God does not call us to understand; He calls us to trust. God proves Himself trustworthy every day with each new sunrise. With His Spirit inside us and His Word to guide us, we have every reason to put every season into His nail-pierced hands. They hold us well. Speaking of Jesus, the writer of Hebrews wrote: *"And again, I will put my trust in him"* (Hebrews 2:13). **Is there an "and again" step you need to take today?**

The covenant blessings of God go beyond a spiritual pardon. Not only do we not get what we deserve because of His mercy, but we get what we do not deserve because of His grace. Jesus announced: *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10). Like Abraham and Noah discovered, learning to trust God is a process. Faithful obedience to the Word of God was a pivotal part of the learning process for them, as it is for us. We must learn from our trust falls and failures and remember that the only one we can trust completely and without inhibition is the Lord Jesus Christ. We often find it easier to trust Him with our future than we do our present—with the eternal more so than the temporal. **We must trust Him with both.**

The Bible is definitive on whom we can trust: *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths"* (Proverbs 3:5-6).