

Abraham, Father Of Many Nations

Don Hatch

The etymology of the name Abraham is “father of”. Abraham became a central character in history following the worldwide flood (Gen 11-22). Abraham is introduced in history in the Bible. His lineage is traced from Shem, the son of Noah (Gen 11:27). Stephen, in his defense of Christianity refers to Abraham and the calling of God to a great task (Acts 7). God promised Abraham unique blessings (Gen 15). He believed God and in the New Testament is given the unique title of “father of us all” (Rom 4:16). God, who calls things that were not as though they were, promised Abraham he would be the father of many nations. He, being about one hundred years old and Sarah ninety, wavered not but waxed strong in his faith being fully assured that God was able to perform what had been promised (Rom 4:1-25). The things written about Abraham were written for our sakes, that we might believe that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and gave mankind deliverance from their sins.

Abraham believed God and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness (Rom 4). Paul, the writer of Galatians, assures Jew and Gentile that Abraham knew that “...in thee [Abraham] shall all the nations be blessed” (Gal 3:8). This was the gospel that those of obedient faith are blessed with faithful Abraham (Gal 3:8, 9). Upon the Gentiles came the blessing of Abraham, that they might receive remission of sins (2 Cor 5:18-20). All can become sons of God, through faith in Jesus Christ. “...for as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ. There can be neither Jew nor Greek, there can be neither bond nor free, there can be neither male nor female; for all are one man in Christ Jesus. And if Christ’s then are ye Abraham’s seed, heirs according to the promise” (Gal 3:23-29). Baptism is the way by which we are redeemed, in Christ becoming heirs to the promise of Abraham.

Abraham was endowed by Jehovah through divine providence and in successive stages he slowly moved from place to place finding countless blessings in all that he did. His generous nature is fully displayed as he cared for his nephew Lot. Later he separated from Lot because of the strife between their herdsmen (Gen 13). He gave Lot the opportunity to choose any part of the land and Abraham would take the latter. Lot beheld the plains of the Jordan, that it was well watered. This was before Jehovah destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and he dwelt there. When the kings Amraphel, Arioch, Chedorlaomer and Tidal rose up against Sodom and Gomorrah taking captive Lot and his family. Abraham, the Hebrew, mounted an army of three hundred eighteen men to rescue Lot (Gen 14). On the return trip he met **Melchizedek**, King of Salem and Priest of the God Most High. He blessed Abraham and Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils to the Priest. Abraham proved his integrity by not taking any reward from the king of Sodom. Abraham trusted in Jehovah and he would not take a thread or shoe-latch. God pledged to Abraham and there was none greater than God. Therefore, God swore by Himself that He would bless Abraham abundantly. The oath was assured because God cannot lie and is immutable. In this pledge God made an abundant show to the heirs of Abraham of His ability to make and keep promises (Heb 6:13-20).

Melchizedek, king of Salem and Priest of God Most High is considered to be a **typical** of Christ, who is our High Priest (Heb 7). The Old Testament is not merely an accumulation of facts, historical records giving origin to the Hebrew people, but is a useful tool to trace the enormous blessings God has given and will give. The Bible can be compared with any beautifully illustrated volume ever published and will exemplify that God’s word exceeds all. “The Old Testament contains the New and the New Testament explains the Old Testament”. There is a wealth and variety of allusions to Abraham in the Bible. His position as the “father of many nations” is peculiarly a Christian teaching. Other religions claim Abraham [i.e. Jewish and Muslim] but only the New Testament explain His unique relationship to the Christian’s heritage. Covenants and blessings are passed collectively to the redeemed by the blood of Christ.

The way Abraham responded to Jehovah makes him a **type** of the Christian. Abraham rejoiced to see the day of Christ, “he saw it and was glad” (Jn 8:53-58). Hence, Abraham was alive after death (Mat 22: 30-33). It is to Abraham’s bosom the angels bore Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31). Abraham confessed that this world was not his home. He died in faith not having received the promises, confessing that he was a pilgrim and sojourner upon the earth. He sought after a country of his own. “He desired a better country, that is, heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God; for he hath prepared them a city” (Heb 11:13-16). Abraham’s faith in the divine promises, when unsupported any evidence of the senses, “...accounted that God is able to raise up, even from the dead” (Heb 11:17-21). The “scriptures foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel

beforehand unto Abraham, saying in thee shall all nations be blessed”. This amplifies the **type** that Abraham displayed (Gal 3:7, 8).

Abraham was called the friend of God (Jas 2:21). Jesus said, “Greater love has no man, than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend. Ye are my friends, if ye do the things I command you. No longer do I call you servants...but I have called you friends...” (Jn 15:13-15).

FAMILY CARE A Message from Our Shepherds

The Lord willing as you read this article, I'll be busy in Cape Town, South Africa. I plan to arrive there Tuesday at noon after 34 hours in transit. After a few hours of sleep at p.m., Brother Paul Gerber, the minister of the Somerset church of Christ will take me about 60 miles to a bible study. Wednesday, I'm scheduled to meet with one of the elders of the congregation, who is very interested in the work of Mission Printing. They are in the process of building a preaching school. Later that day, I meet with the leaders of about twenty congregations who are interested in distributing the Mission Printing tracts. I teach the Wednesday night lesson and then we have a pot luck. Thursday morning, Brother Rohan Jones, our missionary at the Athlone congregation will pick me up for a two day trip around the southern coastline and up the eastern coastline of Africa. We plan to visit several congregations and mission points. Saturday morning, I will have the devotional for Cape Bible School, the preaching school at Athlone. Monday, I will meet with the leaders of other congregations who could not attend the Wednesday meeting about Mission Printing. They too are desiring to be a part of the tract distribution. Many area congregations have joined together in a yearlong effort to do a great outreach program utilizing the tracts and telling others about Jesus Christ! Tuesday morning, Rohan will take me to the airport for my return home. This trip will be a great time for me to get to know Rohan and his family better. We plan to discuss his current situation and his future plans for the growth of the church in Cape Town. I hope to be able to give you a Sunday night report on this work, sometime in February. Please read Matthew 5:16.

Richard L. Renfro

“Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man thinketh himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let each man prove his own work, and then shall he have his glorying in regard of himself alone, and not of his neighbor. For each man shall bear his own burden. But let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith (Gal 6:1-10).

What Do I Owe?

When a congregation has loved me, provided a place to worship, work, rear a family, use our talents and countless other spiritual and personal opportunities, what do I owe it? Do I have anything that I should give back? How can I render a “just do” to the thoughtfulness that has been granted me? Over the years I have been

called, visited, written wonderful notes, made special effort to encourage me in times of need and blessed my life with love and kindness, many were by my side when death visited, came to the hospital for me or my loved one. The teacher who taught me, my children, loved ones and friends spent countless hours in study to serve the best spiritual food available that my soul would grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. Elders, deacons, song leaders, those who offered prayers, scripture readers, preachers, those who wait on the Lord's Table, greeters and countless others have been constantly serving me. **What do I owe the congregation?**

I OWE IT MY LOYALTY.

Loyalty is allegiance, personal devotion and respect. Loyalty is a virtue that extends good, is faithful to commitments or obligations. Loyalty has constancy, sense of duty, attachment and devotion that displays sentiment and unwavering fidelity. By being loyal I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help others in the congregation in every special way I alone can do. I should not neglect my home congregation.

I OWE IT MY DEPENDABILITY.

Dependability is trustworthiness. It shows the value of reliability of one person to others because of integrity, truthfulness, credibility, traits that can encourage someone to be depended upon. Dependable is a trait of being answerable to someone for something or being responsible for one's conduct. I depend upon the congregation for the many things it does in my behalf. It does not seem fair and right for me to depend on them and not be dependable myself. I must be fully faithful.

I OWE IT MY ECONOMIC SUPPORT.

All the good works in which the congregation involves herself takes time, effort and money. Each Lord's Day the elders set aside a time following the Lord's Supper for all to "lay by in store" (1 Cor 16:1-9; 2 Cor 8 & 9). As a giver I know that if I give sparingly that there will be a meager reaping. God loves a cheerful giver and amply supplies every good and perfect gift from above. It takes money to operate a congregation and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation should have first claim on my financial ability. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contributions when absent.

I OWE MY PRESENCE AND A GODLY LIFE.

If everyone stayed home there would be no worship service. I am as responsible as others to attend all services. I must not be a parasite. The life I live helps others to obey the gospel or hinders them. How I live has an effect on the work of the local congregation.

(Notes from an unknown author) Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

January 30, 2011

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Back foyer: Thomas Rathbun & Ilene Ashworth

February 6, 2011

Front foyer: J.C. & Dessie Ross

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Sermon Titles

January 30, 2011

a.m: "Jacob's Dream"

Scripture: Genesis 28:16-21

p.m: "Fifth Sunday Singing"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-21

February 6, 2011

a.m: "Called Of God"

Scripture: Romans 8:26-30

p.m: "Kingdom Of Truth"

Scripture: John 18:33-40

Contribution Counters

Darrell Allen, Mike Garrison.

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

SINGING SESSION

The singing class will meet **Sunday** in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Investment In Others

As you read the New Testament this year make your cards that list various items we do in the name of the Lord (Gal 6:1-10; Col 3:17). On the back side of the card write the names of those you are going to contact this year. Other passages to consider Mat 25:31-46; Mat 7:12; .

Teens

Teens will visit the shut-ins after Morning Worship February 6th. Lunch will be in the annex.

LADIES

The **Ladies Class** is studying the "Parables of Jesus". February 1st Janet Harvey will be guest teacher. Luncheon will follow the class.

Shenadoah Lectureship begins February 18th. The theme is "Relationships". There is a brochure with times and speakers on the back bulletin board in the back hallway.

RESPONDED

Marcus Jackson placed membership. We are grateful for his fellowship. His address is 2729 W. Royal Ln #1407, Irving, TX 75063 phone # 469-387-6681 email marcjack17 @yahoo.com

THANK YOU CARD

A **Thank You Card** has been received from Serena Beaver and family, friends of the Hatches. She suffers from cancer and has been on our prayer list and is now doing better. Card is posted in back foyer.

·**The Armstrong's** wish to make known their heartfelt thanks for the kindness offered during Evelyn's recent illness [card posted on back bulletin board].

Congratulations

Marion and Jerry Grantham celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Christ's Haven

Fill a sack and put it in office area. Pick up for groceries will be 15th.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- Marjory Bennett's** son, Steven is suffering kidney stones.
- Don Elliot**, Fauna Garrison's son is in serious condition in HEB [PCU] with a kidney infection.
- Johnny Bowman**, Nancy Pond's brother was treated for kidney infection. He is at home recovering.
- Gina Pearson**, the daughter of Jerry and Laquita Baker, is having heart and lupus complications.
- Linda Woodruff**, friend of the Webb's is in Baylor of Irving Rm 305.
- Joann**, Ilene Ashworth's sister is suffering from various illnesses.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Jean Kelly, Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Thomas West, James Coates.

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Richard Renfro asked us to see if we could find Bibles to send in the Mission Printing sea container. Mission Printing is trying to send 500 Bibles in each container. If you have one or more Bibles at home that you would like to donate put them on the table in front foyer.

Kenica Thomason is near the time of the birth of her child. Remember her and Brandon in your prayers.

Sympathy

Kevin Anderson's sister, Melanie Anderson passed away Sunday, services are pending (1/23). **Cindy Vaughn's** uncle, Hugh Singleton, passed away in Austin. Funeral services are pending.

Be sure and mark your calendar –

- Ladies' Class February 1st Janet Harvey will be guest speaker. There will be a luncheon following class.
- Christ's Haven will pick up groceries (2/15)
- Teens will visit Shut-ins after AM worship February 6th and have lunch in annex.

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Front Table</u> | <u>Rear Table</u> |
| ·Purman Cofer | · J.C. Ross |
| ·Jerry Baker | ·Robert Taylor |
| ·Dorris Walker | ·Brent Howard |
| ·Marvin Brown | ·Max Melton |
| ·Mike Garrison | ·Thomas Rathbun |
| · Denzel Myers | ·Darrol Allen |

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· John Mayer
Genesis 28:16-21

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Glen Kelly
- Robert Ruckman

- Dean Webb
- Mike Batot

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Marvin Brown
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

·Garl Latham

A.M. SONG LEADER

·Jerry Baker

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

· Fifth Sunday Singing

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>	
Sun. Class	82	86	82	100
A.M. Worship	134	162	144	150
P.M. Worship	72	75	75	75
Wed. Class	71	77	76	75
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	29	25
Contribution	\$5162	\$4819	\$5056	\$5553

MISSIONS

Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia
Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
Glen & Kuin Tattersall – Australia
Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko – Russia
Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
Hyderabad Church of Christ - Hyderabad, India
Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching
Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India
Rohan & Sandra Jones Capetown South Africa