

Reading: Genesis Chapters 12 & 13

Abraham lived in a place called Ur of the Chaldees and this place was a nice place and Abraham was very comfortable there. Now God asked Abraham to leave Ur and to go on a long journey never to return to his home again. And Abraham obeyed God and packed up all his belongings and his family and started on his long journey. Why did God want Abraham to leave Ur? The Chaldeans did not "worship" God and thank Him for all the good things they possessed; they worshipped images or idols of wood and stone and called them their Gods. This did not please God at all it made him very angry.

Abraham was very different from the people around him, he was not afraid to thank God for all His goodness and try to please Him in everything he did. That was why God made such a wonderful promise to him to "make of him a great nation" and to give him a beautiful land to live in.

Reading from Genesis Chapter 12 verses 1 to 3:

"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:"

"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."

THE MEANING OF THE ABOVE VERSES:-

Imagine God asking your daddy to do a special job for him and God sending him to a big city (e.g. Sydney) and everyone who follows Abraham and helped him God would bless them.

We can think of many excuses Abraham might have given why he should not leave Ur, but Abraham made not one, because he was sure that whatever God asked him to do must be right. Now Abraham was old, perhaps even older than our grandparents, Abraham needed to be very brave to leave his home when he was getting old, but he had faith in God. How would Abraham carry his load? He had camels and donkeys to carry his load. What do you think he would of needed. e.g. food, water, clothes, tents etc.

Abraham did not make the journey alone. He would need lots of servants to look after his cattle and sheep. He also took his wife Sarah, and his nephew Lot, who also had sheep and cattle requiring servants to tend them. Abraham was not afraid when he started out on his journey, for he knew God would take care of him and all those who went with him.

After a long journey Abraham arrived in the land which God had promised him. The land was very important in God's eyes; a land

of high hills and low lying valleys; a well-watered land; a land of oliveyards and vineyards; a land flowing with milk and honey.

The difference between Abraham and Lot was: Lot chose the better part of the country. His choice was the low lying fertile Jordan Valley. But the wicked people of the land lived in this rich part and Lot soon found himself in trouble.

But Abraham who had gone to the hills, was away from them and spent his time remembering God who had brought him to this land.

Now while Abraham was in the new land three angels visited Abraham in his tent and Abraham let them rest in his tent and gave them water to wash their feet and gave them food to eat. Now Sarah, Abraham's wife, was in another part of the tent which was curtained off where she overheard the angels talking to Abraham. The angels told Abraham that Sarah his wife (who was barren) would have a child, and Sarah laughed at the idea of having a child in her old age. Their son was called Isaac, his birth was a miracle because people do not usually have children when they are very old. Yet God was able to give Abraham and Sarah a son.

Some years later God asked Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice, and Abraham was obedient and went to offer Isaac, and this showed great faith in the eyes of God and God stopped him from doing this because he was so faithful and obedient to God. God then told Abraham to offer up a lamb instead which God had provided for him.

From this lesson we learn how Abraham is an important person in the Bible, because he believed and obeyed God at all times and he put his faith in God, just as we should also.

Point to remember:- We must believe and obey God at all times.