

# Abraham and Sarah Part 1 of 4

## *Husband Wife Interactions*

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# What We Will Learn

- Life of Abraham and Sarah provide two clear lessons regarding husband-wife interactions
- God considered Abraham leader and representative of his family
- Considered Abraham and Sarah “one in God”
- Study divided into four sessions
- Genesis 12–23

# What We Will Learn cont'd

- Abraham as family leader and representative
- God interacted with Abraham on behalf of Abraham's family
  - Gave directions to him
  - Made promise to him
  - Received commitment from him
  - His communication with Abraham applied equally to Sarah

# What We Will Learn cont'd

- Abraham and Sarah were “one in God”
- God considered Sarah
  - co-beneficiary
  - equal beneficiary
  - of his promise to Abraham
- Sarah was party with Abraham in every interaction with God even if not physically involved

# Call of Abraham

- God called Abram
- Addressed Abram as an individual
- But later events will show
- Whatever he said to Abram applied to Sarai
- Abram left Harran with Sarai and Lot
- Abram was 75 years old
- Sarai, Abram's half-sister and wife, was 65
- Genesis 12:1–5 [read]; 20:11–13 [not read]

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## Genesis 12 (NKJV)

1 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

2 “I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

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## **Genesis 12 (NKJV)**

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

## **Genesis 12 (NKJV)**

5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

# More on Call of Abraham

- God called Abram to establish a home and an ancestral lineage for the Messiah
- Clearly a task for husband and wife
- Sarai was not mentioned in the conversation
  - God considered communication with Abram applied equally to Sarai
  - Allowed Abram and Sarai full flexibility to decide what to do

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# Welcome to Canaan

- God appeared to Abram at Shechem after his arrival in Canaan
- Spoke to him again after Lot moved out
- Spoke to Abram about family matters but did not mention Sarai
- Genesis 12:6–9
- Genesis 13:14–18

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## **Genesis 12 (NKJV)**

6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

## **Genesis 12 (NKJV)**

8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

9 Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

## **Genesis 13 (NKJV)**

14 The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west.

15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.

## Genesis 13 (NKJV)

16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.

17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.”

18 So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the Lord.

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# God's Covenant with Abram

- God spoke to Abram in a vision
- A child from his body will be his heir
- His descendants will be innumerable
- Enslaved and mistreated in a foreign land
- For 400 years
- Will return to Canaan thereafter
- To possess the land of Canaan
- Genesis 15:1–5; 13–16 and 18

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## **Genesis 15 (NKJV)**

1 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

2 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”

## **Genesis 15 (NKJV)**

3 And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

4 Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”

## **Genesis 15 (NKJV)**

5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

## **Genesis 15 (NKJV)**

13 Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there.

14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

## **Genesis 15 (NKJV)**

15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.

16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here ...

18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—

# What We Learned in Part 1

- God called Abram to a mission
- Mission for Abram-Sarai
- Spoke to Abram for Abram-Sarai
  - Abram and Sarai are “One in God”
  - Abram was leader of mission
  - Both had responsibility to mission
  - And flexibility to run their life toward fulfilling the mission

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