

The Gospel According to Abraham, Part 2
Gen. 12:10-13:4

Getting Started

- ❖ Have you ever sensed a definite call from God for your life or for some situation? If so, share this with your group.

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. After a season of spiritual/kingdom growth, our faith is vulnerable to temptation and testing. (v.10a)
 - A. Abraham's "mountain-top" experience. (12:1-9)
 - B. After a "mountain-top experience" (i.e., time of spiritual victory, spiritual growth/maturity or Kingdom advancement) expect the "valley of trial" (i.e., a time of testing).
 - C. Dr. Warren Wiersbe: "Tests follow Triumphs."
 - D. God tests our faith because a faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.
2. In times of testing, we will be tempted to change the object of our faith. (v.10b)
 - A. Abe "went down to Egypt".
 - B. Abraham's faith is being tested and, in this case, he responds the way so many of us do when we are tested and tried--- by changing the object of our faith.
 - C. When we trust in ourselves, our wisdom, the physical instead of the spiritual, we reveal our deepest idolatries & the allegiances of our hearts.
3. Faith compromises always lead to more sin and heartache. (v.11-20)
4. (Takeaway Truth) God graciously overcomes our compromised faith and draws us back to where we belong. (v.13:1-4)

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon and sermon outline, read the sermon text and answer the following:
 - How did a famine seem to jeopardize the fulfillment of all that God had promised?
 - If Abraham had submitted his plans to take refuge in Egypt, do you think God would have blessed those plans? Why or Why not?
 - How did Abram's sin jeopardize the fulfillment of all that God had promised?
 - How would you characterize Abraham's treatment of Sarah in this passage?
 - Did Abram have the power to destroy God's purpose for his life by being disobedient? Or did even his sin serve to advance God's plan? Is the same thing true of our disobedience?
 - In what ways do we find Abram to be like Christ in this passage? In what ways is he not at all like Christ?

Apply It!

The Gospel According to Abraham, Part 2

Gen. 12:10-13:4

- ❖ Have you ever embarked on something for God, only to have everything go wrong right away? What did you learn through that experience?
- ❖ When facing uncertainty do you tend to rely on yourself and human wisdom or do you submit your plans to God or does it depend on the situation?
- ❖ Egypt was a constant source of temptation to Abram, and later to Israel, whenever they doubted God's goodness or ability to keep his promises. To what do you turn when things go wrong and you doubt God's love and power?
- ❖ Have you seen God, in His grace, redeem past disobedience and sin in your life and bring good out of it?

Think About It!

That is why the covenant is so important to us and why the law was such a treasure to Israel. God had spoken. In grace, he condescended to communicate concerning what pleases him and what angers him. We don't have to guess. He has opened to us his character, his attributes, his heart. How sad it is that the reality of revelation has become so commonplace to us. What a tragedy that we take it for granted. Though we have every reason to revel in the thrill of our eternal destiny, we would be terribly remiss if we failed to realize that greater than the privilege of living forever is that of knowing God because, in the end, our faith is about God, not about us.

We need be wary, however, for in today's world there are many who seek to neutralize the revelation that we take for granted. From critical scholars who consider the Bible no different from any other ancient literature to the pluralistic demagogues who tell us that one religious book is as good as another, many discount the Bible's status as God's revelation. We cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that without the Bible, we would know nothing about God.¹⁵ It is only through his Word that we learn the extent and nuances of his holiness, his sovereignty, his justice, his faithfulness, his grace, and his love.¹

NOTE: Study questions for this year's annual theme are derived either directly or indirectly from a number of sources. These Covenant Group studies are indebted to the works of Dr. John Walton, Dr. Derek Kidner, Dr. Bruce Waltke, Dr. James Boice, Dr. Ian Duguid, Dr. Warren Wiersbe, and Dr. Tim Keller.

¹⁵ Admittedly, general revelation does allow us some inferences.

¹ Walton, J. H. (2001). *Genesis* (pp. 408–409). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

January 31, 2021 | Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

WORSHIP SONGS

YOUR LOVE AWAKENS ME

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Chris Quilala, 2016

There were walls between us, by the cross you came and broke them down,
you broke them down. And there were chains around us
By your grace we are no longer bound, no longer bound.
You called me out of the grave, you called me into the light,
You called my name and then my heart came alive.

*Your love is greater, your love is stronger,
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.*

Feel the darkness shaking, all the dead are coming back to life,
I'm back to life. Hear the song awaken,
All creation singing we're alive, 'cause you're alive.

And what a love we've found, death can't hold us down
We shout it out, we're alive 'cause your alive.

LAMB OF GOD

Words by Jason Ingram, Andi Rozier, and Meredith Andrews, 2014

You came from heaven's throne,
acquainted with our sorrow,
to trade the debt we owe—Your suffering for our freedom.

*The Lamb of God in my place.
Your blood poured out, my sin erased.
It was my death You died I am raised to life.
Hallelujah the Lamb of God.*

My name upon Your heart.
My shame upon Your shoulders.
The power of sin undone. The cross for my salvation.

There is no greater love. There is no greater love.
The Savior lifted up. There is no greater love.

WAY MAKER

Words and Music by Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu, 2016

You here, moving in our midst;
I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, working in this place; I worship You, I worship You.

*You are Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.
That is who you are; that is who You are.*

You are here, turning lives around;
I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, healing every heart; I worship You, I worship You.

Even when I don't see it, You're working.
Even when I don't feel it, You're working.
You never stop, You never stop working;
You never stop, Jesus.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS (BEGINNING TO END)

Words by Thomas Chisholm, Jason Ingram, and Michael Weaver / Music by William Runyan, Jason Ingram, and Michael Weaver, 2018

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father. There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not. As Thou has been, Thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest; sun, moon and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Beginning to end, my life in Your hands.
Great, great is Your faithfulness. You never let go,
this one thing I know; great, great is Your faithfulness.*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide. Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow; blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.

Great is Thy faithfulness. Great is Thy faithfulness. Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 108; Isaiah 51:9-16; Hebrews 11:8-16; John 7:14-31
MONDAY | Ps. 73; Isaiah 51:17-23; Galatians 4:1-11; Mark 7:24-37
TUESDAY | Ps. 12; Isaiah 52:1-12; Gal. 4:12-20; Mark 8:1-10
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 96; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Gal. 4:21-31; Mark 8:11-26
THURSDAY | Ps. 26; Isaiah 54:1-17; Gal. 5:1-15; Mark 8:27-9:1
FRIDAY | Ps. 40; Isaiah 55:1-13; Galatians 5:16-24; Mark 9:2-13
SATURDAY | Ps. 149; Isaiah 56:1-8; Galatians 5:25-6:10; Mark 9:14-29

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Lord Jesus,
you are our true Prophet, Priest, and King.
When you speak the raging waters are stilled,
the blind receive sight,
and the dead are brought back to life.
We worship and adore you,
the Holy One of God,
in whom are all things
and through whom we exist. Amen.



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