

Abraham: The Main Man!

March 12, 2006

Acts 7:1 Then the high priest asked him, "*Are these charges true?*" 2 To this he replied: "*Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. 3 'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.'*" 4 So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living. 5 He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. 6 God spoke to him in this way: "*Your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. 7 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,' God said, 'and afterward they will come out of that country and worship Me in this place.'*" 8 Then He gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.

What was life like around Mesopotamia?

TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES: The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers begin in eastern Turkey, flow in a southeast direction, converge in southeast Iraq, and empty in the Persian Gulf. In ancient times, the land between the twin-rivers was called Mesopotamia which was the site of the world's first civilization. Mesopotamia is often referred to as the "*cradle of civilization.*"

MESOPOTAMIA: Mesopotamia means "*the land between the two-rivers.*" This was the site of the world's first civilization, Sumer.

This area that is spoken of in Acts 7 is about 5,200 miles (8,375 km) from Tokyo. Baghdad to Jerusalem is about 543 miles (873 km). We could do this in one hour by plane but it took him many days of walking. His obedience came harder than ours.

Abraham's name is used in over 216 verses. Abram is used in 51 verses.

Gen 11: 26 on until Gen 17, when he was then called Abraham.

Somewhere around Gen 15:1 and Gen 15:6, Abram's life really changed. He believed God. This voice that was talking to him said something that he really believed. Gen. 15:6 "Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness."

Gen 15:4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "*This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.*" 5 He took him outside and said, "*Look up at the heavens and count the stars --if indeed you can count them.*" Then He said to him, "*So shall your offspring be.*" **Then:** Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.

When do we believe? What does it take? What do I need to know to believe?

The Promise was given to this man, Abraham. Why? And What was the Promise?

The Punishment was given to the country that resisted the Promise

Believing means RECEIVING—Him!

John 5:24

John 6:40-47

John 3:16 THE MAIN MESSAGE

God's love is wide-The world

God's love is free-cost Jesus

God's love requires that we believe

—just like Abe. Actions/belief

Isa 35:3, 4

Rom 10:9-10

Repent Acts 2:38; 3:19

Be Converted Matt 13:15; 18:3

Believe and be born again John 3:3; 1:12

Believe what God says is TRUE. John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears My Word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. AN EXCHANGE OF TERRITORY. LIVED ON THIS SIDE FOR A TIME/NOW MOVED—by belief—TO THE OTHER SIDE. CROSSING over.

John 6:40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." 41 At this the Jews began to grumble about Him because He said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can He now say, 'I came down from heaven'?" 43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. 44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets: *'They will all be taught by God.'* Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to Me. 46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only He has seen the Father. 47 I tell you the truth, **he who believes has everlasting life.**

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

Isa. 35:3 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; 4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you."

Rom. 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 **For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, **that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,**

Matt. 13:15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. **Otherwise** they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and **I would heal them.**

Matt. 18:3 And he said: “I tell you the truth, **unless you change** and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

John 3:3 “In reply Jesus declared, *“I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”*

John 1:12 *“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God”*

GOD'S LOVE IS WIDE

GOD'S LOVE IS FREE

GOD'S LOVE REQUIRES THAT WE BELIEVE