



[Read Genesis 12:1-6] - The Promise to Abraham

[Read Genesis 12:10-16]

Genesis 20:12 - Abraham's dad had another wife and she gave birth to Sarai

[Read Genesis 12:17-20]

There's a famine in the land. They go down to Egypt. God sends plagues against pharaoh and Abram leaves Egypt with sheep, oxen, donkeys, servants, and a lot of loot.

You have a mixed group of people here: God called Abram, but Lot is tagging along with him.

[Read Genesis 13:8-13]

Abram and his nephew Lot have a lot of flocks and there's conflict between their herds.

Lot lifted his eyes and he saw that it was good (like the garden) and he journeyed *east*. Then he camped near Sodom.

Genesis 13:14-18 God restates his covenant with Abram.

[Genesis 14]

We find out that Abram is a tough dude. The battle of the kings. An army goes in to Sodom and pillages it and Lot is taken captive.

A guy escapes and goes to tell Abram. Abram gathers up his 318 soldiers and goes to battle. They destroy the army and bring back to Sodom all the goods along with Lot. The king of Sodom wants to reward him with goods, but Abram refuses because he's trusting God for the good. He doesn't need the fruit of Sodom.

[Read Genesis 14:18-24]

We also meet an interesting guy named Melchizedek. His name literally means "King of Righteousness." He's the King of Salem (Peace) and a priest of the God Most High. He brings bread and wine and blesses Abram. Abram gives a tithe to him.

King of Righteousness, King of Peace, High Priest... who does that sound like? The book of Hebrews points to this event and what happens in Kadesh Barnea in the Book of Numbers (which we'll get to later). So if you have problems understanding Hebrews, you'll need to pay attention to these events.

[Genesis 15]

God has a conversation with Abram, but Abram says I don't have a child and my chief servant Eliezer of Damascus is going to inherit everything.

God promises that Abrams descendants will be like the stars of heaven.

Genesis 15:6 – Abram believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. This is the argument used in Romans: Abram was considered righteous before circumcision was given to him and 400 years before the law was given. Salvation has never been by works. It's always about faith in what God can do.

James also points to this when he argues about faith and works. True faith will produce works. Abraham believed in ch 15, but you see that faith working in ch 22 about 30 years later.

[Read Genesis 15:7-11]

Covenant with Abram – At this time, when you wanted to make a covenant with someone, you'd take some animals, split them in half and the two parties would walk through the halves. They were saying let this happen to me if I break this agreement.

[Read Genesis 15:12-18]

Abram is put into a deep sleep and, just like Adam couldn't participate in making a wife, Abram can't participate in this covenant. God makes a covenant *with Himself* that Abram will have this land. The Jews have never owned all the land that God specifies.

God appears as a smoking oven and a burning torch.

In the book of Acts, how does the Holy Spirit appear to the disciples?
Tongues of fire.

John 16:13 – The Spirit will not speak of Himself

What does God the Father look like? Jesus says no man has seen the Father. He's shrouded.

John 5:37 You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

So if God has been revealed as a Trinity and we have the Holy Spirit represented here and we have the Father hidden here... where is Jesus?
On the ground as a sacrifice.

Abram couldn't negotiate the terms, he couldn't modify the contract. God wrote the contract and signed it and Abram accepted. If Abram didn't sign the contract, can he break the contract? Who can break the contract? Only God.

It's the same for us in regards to salvation: we can't negotiate terms, we can't modify the contract. God wrote it, signed it and all we can do is accept it. And God will not break that contract with us: That's called Eternal security. When you accept the sacrifice of Jesus, you enter into this contract and only GOD can break that contract. And He will never leave you or forsake you.

Ezekiel 36:22: I don't do this for your sake Israel, I do it for MY HOLY NAME'S SAKE. God ties the existence of Israel to His name. The nations will know that God is the Lord because He will sanctify His name by taking Israel from among the nations, gathering them into their own land, cleansing them, giving them a new heart and spirit, and will cause them to walk in His ways.

Ezekiel 37 is the dry bones where Israel will be restored under one King and one Shepherd. Israel today still rejects Jesus as Messiah. But there will be a time when they'll be forced to call upon Him. At that time, Ezekiel 36 and 37 will be fulfilled.

God ties His name to Israel and preserves them as a testament to Him, His power to preserve, His power to work all things together for the good. Their disobedience is a stain on His name. Their existence and eventual obedience will be a testimony to His name.

If you want evidence that God exists, Exhibit A is the existence of Israel. God has given us an example in Israel that He can preserve us even when we're unfaithful to Him. If you believe in Jesus, God will preserve you.

