

God's Calling in the Old Testament

Lesson Eight

GOD CALLED ABRAHAM (2) (Gen. 12:4-8; 22:1-3, 12; Heb. 11:17-19)

Burden to Impart:

After obeying God's calling to go to Canaan, Abraham lived a simple life as a called one, loving the Lord and calling upon Him. He lived with an altar and a tent. He trusted in God and defeated kings in battle. He believed in God's promise and had a son, Isaac, in his old age. He was called a "friend of God."

Memory Verse:

"And Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness, and he was called the friend of God" (James 2:23).

Facts to Teach:

1. God's invisible presence safely brought Abraham, his wife, and Lot through the long desert journey to the Promised Land. When they arrived, God again appeared to his believing and obedient called one. This was to encourage him and let him know that he had arrived, God was still with him, and God was with him
2. Abraham lived a simple life in his new country. Although God blessed him and he became very rich, he never built a house for himself. He chose to live in a tent instead. In this way he could more easily follow the Lord. He lived like a pilgrim. Also, he built an altar nearby his tent and there he would pray and call upon the Lord. This tells us that Abraham loved the Lord and worshipped the Lord. He no longer worshipped idols in silence; Abraham called upon the name of the Lord (Gen. 12:8)
3. One day Abraham's nephew, Lot, was taken away as a captive by the armies of four neighboring kings. Abraham prayed to the Lord (indicated by the raising up of his hand before going out to battle) and, with his trained household servants, defeated the kings and their armies and delivered Lot (Gen. 14). Abraham believed in God's power
4. Although Abraham was ninety-nine years old he believed that the Lord would fulfill His promise to give him a son by Sarah. God fulfilled His promise and at nearly one hundred years of age Sarah gave birth to Abraham's son, Isaac. Abraham believed in God's promises.
5. So today, Abraham is the father of all the Jews, who were born through him physically. Also, he is the father of all those who believe and obey God's calling (Rom. 4:16-17)