

Rendezvous/Presentation No. 4, continued.

- Amazingly, God is willing to negotiate with Abraham about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- After the destruction of the two cities, Lot and his daughters wind up living in the mountains (Genesis 19). Desperate to have children, Lot's two daughters become pregnant by their father after they get him intoxicated. They each gave birth to sons who would become the ancestors of the Moabites and Ammonites. Even today's capitol of Jordan (Amman) bears a linguistic connection with these ancient people.

GENESIS 21:1-6

- Isaac's name means "laugh." Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah 90 when Isaac was born. No wonder his name denotes laughter!

GENESIS 22:1-14

- Worshipers of other gods in the time of Abraham would not have been surprised that God asked him to sacrifice his son. What would have caused them to step back in surprise was that God stopped Abraham from sacrificing his son. It was as though God was saying to the world, "Hold on. I'm not like the gods you worship. I don't ask for your son's life to appease me."

BRINGING IT HOME TO THE HEART

Just a short distance from Mt. Moriah, another Father chose to watch as his son was sacrificed on a cross. And because Jesus, the ultimate Promised One (Genesis 3:15) died for us and rose again, we can know with certainty that His words are true: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25 NIV Our living is not limited to the days between birth and death. Because we have a God that takes the long haul journey through death for us and with us, we can know that *who we are* and *what we do* has lasting, eternal significance.



Saturday, March 5, 2011

Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church

Presented by Pastor Ron Schultz, M.Div.

Visit www.YourRendezvous.org for photos and www.hsdac.us to view the presentations live or via archived videos

Presentation No. 3 (11 a.m.): "Nomadic Encounters: Part 1"



Ancient Gate at Tel Dan
Located in northern Israel
(Canaan) it dates back to the
time of Abraham
Photo-Ron Schultz

According to Genesis 11 and 12, Abraham, his father, _____, and other family members began a long trek from their home in Ur. They traveled about 500-600 miles northwest to the city of _____ where Terah died.

Haran was located along the Balikh river in northern Mesopotamia. The Balikh was an important _____ of the Euphrates. The region today contains fertile pasturelands.

The area of Haran may have been heavily influenced by the family of Terah. It's possible that the city of Haran was named after Abraham's brother who had died in Ur. Other cities in that region seem to carry other family names.

GENESIS 12:1-7

When he was 75 years old, God directed Abraham to take a long trek of approximately 400 miles to Canaan. Accompanied by his immediate family, his nephew Lot's family and their combined servants and animals, they started their challenging journey without any clear sense of where they would land.

Nestled inside the story of "Father Abraham" is the story of another Father and Son. This story reveals a profoundly comforting truth: Our God is the God of the lifelong, long-haul journey.

(Words for "fill-in-the-blanks": Terah, Haran, tributary)

Note the many promises God made with Abram/Abraham:

1. He would father a great _____ (Genesis 12:2)
2. God would bless him (12:2)
3. Abraham’s name would become great (12:2)
4. Through Abraham God promised to _____ all people (12:2)
5. God promised to give his offspring extensive land (13:15; 17:8)
6. He would have offspring from his own body too numerous to count (13:16, 15:4, 5)
7. He would be the father of many nations (17:5)
8. God promised to be his _____ God and the God of his descendants (17:7,8)
9. Sarah would supernaturally conceive and give birth to a son (17:16)
(Words for “fill-in-the-blanks”: nation, bless, personal)

GENESIS 13:1-7

- ☛ Though Abraham would never personally own much land in his lifetime, God gave him “portable wealth”: livestock, silver and gold.
- ☛ In this passage we see the first of many “Middle Eastern” conflicts. Ancient scriptures say that Abraham and Lot’s servants fought over land. (13:5-7) Sound familiar?

GENESIS 16:1-5

- ☛ Additional conflicts emerged when Abraham and Sarah tried to help God’s plan along with human intervention. We can avoid much conflict and pain if we don’t run ahead of God. The good news is that God is not thrown off course by our human detours.
- ☛ God predicted that Ishmael would be in conflict with others.
- ☛ Born into a household that would become divided (Sarah vs. Hagar) Ishmael is commonly believed to be the father of the Arabs.
- ☛ Abraham is 86 years old when Ishmael is born to him.
- ☛ Hagar names God: **“You are the God who sees me”**.

GENESIS 17:15-22

- ☛ After changing his name from Abram to Abraham, God promises the supernatural birth of his son of promise.
- ☛ In this promise of the birth of Isaac are echos of another, supernatural visit, conception and birth. In later ancient accounts, the virgin Mary is promised by an angel that she would supernaturally conceive. This Promised Son is a descendant of Abraham.

Note the striking parallels between two promised sons:

- | Isaac | Jesus |
|---|--|
| A. Child of promise (Genesis 17:16, 19, 20) | A. Child of promise (Luke 1:31, 35) |
| B. God predicts birth of son and name (Gen. 17:19) “Isaac” | B. Angel predicts birth of son and name (Matthew 1:21, 23) “Jesus”—saves his people from their sins. “Immanuel—God with us” |
| C. Timing of birth divinely orchestrated (Gen. 18:10, 21:2) | C. Timing of birth divinely orchestrated (Galatians 4:4) |
| D. Supernatural conception and birth (Genesis 21:1, 2) | D. Supernatural conception and birth (Luke 1:31-35) |
| E. Continued being the channel of blessing to all people as was his father Abraham | E. Became our Heavenly Father’s channel of blessing to all people |

**Presentation No. 4 (5 p.m.):
“Nomadic Encounters: Part 2”**



Temple Mount with Dome of the Rock
Area also was known as Mt. Moriah. Photo taken at sundown on Sabbath. View looking north from the general area where Abraham and Isaac would likely have first seen Mt. Moriah.
Photo—Ron Schultz

In this second presentation we’ll see how God answers three of life’s biggest questions from ancient, sacred accounts: **Is there evidence that I’m not alone in the cosmos? Is there hope that I get more than the days between life and death? Does my life have lasting, eternal, significance?**

GENESIS 18

- ☛ God reveals his desire to come close to humanity in this story. God actually comes and speaks face-to-face with Abraham and Sarah.