

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## THE DESTINY OF HUMANITY

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### PART 6: LATTER YEARS OF ABRAM

#### **CHANGING NAMES**

Despite these moral flaws of Abram and Sarai, God was determined to have it His way and not let the Devil derail this project. In doing so, the first thing God did was to change their names. Abram means “Exalted Father” and Sarai means “My Princess.” The name Abraham means “Father of Many Nations” and Sarah means “Mother of Nations.” A personal name is important because it identifies the person and releases power in the spiritual world every time it is spoken. **Genesis 17:1-6, 15-16; Isaiah 55:10-11**

#### **THE PROMISE OF A SON**

God’s plan for Abraham and Sarah to have a child was laid out under the circumcision covenant with Abraham and applied to all males in the family. **Genesis 17:7-14**

Abraham’s response to the promise that he and Sarah would have a son was to laugh at God in scorn. **Genesis 17:17**

Abraham wanted God to accept Ishmael as the heir as well. God was insistent that there would be another son but this time it would be born to Sarah and he would be named Isaac, which means “laughter.” **verses 19, 21**

Ishmael was innocent in that he could not help that Abraham and Sarah had sinned by moving in the flesh and God had a special plan for him. **verse 20**

#### **GOD’S MERCY AND LONG SUFFERING**

Jesus is the Creator and the God of the Old Testament and He came to pay Abraham a personal visit in order to let him know that the promised of a son was still in effect despite the Abraham’s character flaws. Abraham did not laugh at Jesus this time but Sarah did and lied about it. **Genesis 18:1-16**

Jesus was under no obligation to inform Abraham what was going to happen with Sodom and Gomorrah, but since Jesus considered Abraham a friend, He wanted him to know what was going to happen. **verses 17-21; James 2:23**

#### **THE COMPASSION OF ABRAHAM**

Abraham knew about the wickedness in Sodom and Gomorrah and that Jesus would destroy these two cities after surveying the situation. So he bargained with Jesus to spare the cities if just 10 righteous men could be found. **Genesis 18:22-33**

Sodom and Gomorrah were the last cities recorded in the Bible to be punished with mass destruction from the Lord. Men, women, and children were all killed without impunity just like with Noah’s flood. **Genesis 19:17-29**



## **LYING AGAIN**

Head knowledge alone does not generate faith. Abraham had a hard time believing that God could protect him against human kings even though he had eaten with Jesus and seen the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

During his travels in the land of Canaan, Abraham came to the city of Gerar with a king named Abimelech. Once again Abraham told Sarah to lie and say that she was his sister so that he would not be killed. **Genesis 20:1-2**

God had to supernaturally intervene and spoke to Abimelech in a dream. **verses 3-7**

Abraham had to publicly admit once again that he was a liar and a coward before God restored Abimelech and his people. **verses 8-18**

## **THE BIRTH OF ISAAC**

God is always on time; He is never late or early. God supernaturally touched Abraham and Sarah so that she became pregnant and gave birth to Isaac. **Genesis 21:1-7**

It is true that God will forgive when we seek forgiveness, but there are also consequences we must accept and face as well. **Galatians 6:7-8**

Hagar and Ishmael could not live with Sarah and Isaac. There was no harmony and Ishmael had to go, even if it grieved Abraham. **verses 9-14**

The Bible does not reveal why Abraham did not set aside some of his servants and animals for Hagar and Ishmael. He was very rich and could also have included gold and silver so that they could live in a decent manner. Instead, Hagar was given some bread and a bottle of water and sent out into the wilderness. **verses 14-19**

## **THE BIG TEST**

God is never in the dark; He knows the past, present and future. Nothing is hidden from Him. **Isaiah 46:9-10; Hebrews 4:13**

God already knew what was in the heart of Abraham it's just that Abraham needed to know for himself. This is why God provided him with the difficult test of sacrificing the son he had waited so long for. At the time of Abraham, Mount Moriah was simply an undeveloped place in Canaan. Years later, it would be on this precise spot that God instructed Solomon to build the temple. **Genesis 22:1-2**

Abraham did not seek permission from Sarah. As soon as he was given the command, he began to faithfully execute what God had told him to do. **verses 3**

It must have been the three worst days for Abraham as he walked with Isaac and a servant to the place where Isaac would die. When Isaac asked Abraham about the sacrifice, Abraham replied in faith that God would provide it. Abraham fully believed that God would intervene at the last minute and supply the sacrifice. **verses 4-8**

When they finally came to the place, Abraham built an altar, bound Isaac and laid him upon it. Isaac too must have had faith in God because he did not resist. **verse 9**

God wanted Abraham to know that the fear was gone, it had been replaced by faith, and it wasn't until the last moment that God interceded and provided the sacrifice. **verses 10-14**

Abraham was rewarded for his obedience and faith in God. **verses 15-18**

### **THE END OF SARAH'S TIME ON EARTH**

Sarah lived for another 37 years after giving birth to Isaac and died at the age of 127 years old. It must have been difficult for Abraham to say goodbye to his wife of many years. **Genesis 23:1-6, 19-20**

### **SELECTING A WIFE FOR ISAAC**

God emphatically told Abraham under no circumstances would Isaac be permitted to marry a woman from Canaan. Abraham was too old to travel back to Haran and sent his most senior servant to find a wife for Isaac among his family. Abraham told the servant in the strongest terms not to take Isaac back to Haran and at the same time he could not marry a Canaanite woman. **Genesis 24:1-9; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

### **THE LAST YEARS OF ABRAHAM**

Abraham lived another 75 years after the birth of Isaac, outliving Sarah by 40 years. He married a new wife named Keturah. The Bible does not state the nationality of this woman who bore him six boys. **Genesis 25:1-2**

In addition, Abraham had a number of concubines (slave women) who also bore him children. Before Abraham died at the age of 175 years, he gave gifts to the children of his concubines and sent them away. **verses 3-7**

### **SUMMARY**

It was not God's will for Abraham to have concubines. **Genesis 2:24**

Abraham was not saved by his deeds; he was saved by grace and faith just like everyone else. **Romans 4:1-5**

At the end of his life on earth, Abraham was taken to Paradise – also known as Abraham's bosom – where he waited until the day Jesus finished His duties and he was taken to heaven on the day Jesus ascended to heaven. **Luke 16:22-23; Ephesians 4:8-10**

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

***Do you have an ear to hear with?***