



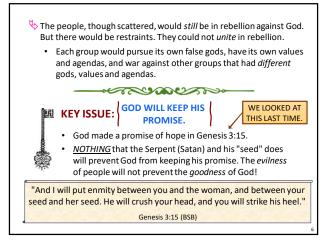
Fortunately, God said "No" to another global flood judgment. Perhaps, if he hadn't said this, we'd be having a global flood every few generations!

This time, when the people were *united* in rebellion, he sent a judgment that would destroy that union, and make it *impossible* for worldwide cooperation in rebellion against God... until the *final* rebellion (in the end-times).

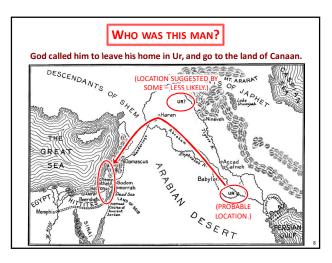
[The LORD said ...] "Come, let's go down there and confuse their language so that they will not understand one another's speech."

So from there the LORD scattered them throughout the earth, and they stopped building the city.

Genesis 11:7-8 (CSB)

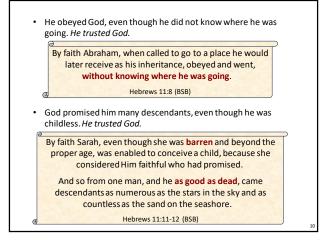


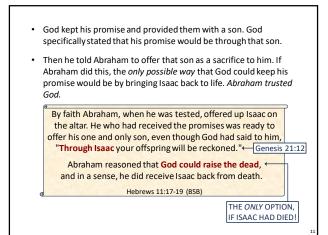


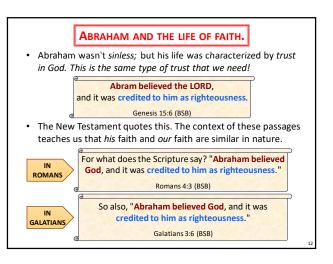


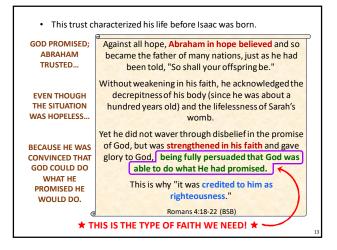
More details about this man. • God called him from the land of the Chaldeans (probably southeast of Babylon). *He obeyed God*. • ... the LORD, the God who chose Abram, who brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans ... Nehemiah 9:7b (BSB) • He came from a family that worshiped other gods. *He abandoned the gods of his family*. • "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your fathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates and worshiped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from beyond the Euphrates and led him through all the land of Canaan, and I multiplied his descendants."

Joshua 24:2b-3a (BSB)











Faith was "credited to him" as righteousness?

- When people have this type of faith, God declares them "righteous."
- HOW? Abraham didn't know all the details. He simply trusted God to deal with it. Today, we recognize that *Jesus* made it possible, by exchanging *his* righteousness for *our* sin. But we still need to *trust* him to do it.

God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (BSB)

· Jesus paid for our sin, and rewarded us with his righteousness.

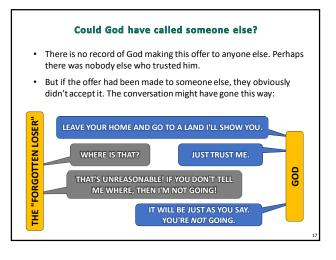
 We have no righteousness of our own, and deserve none from him. But God views Jesus' righteousness as though it was ours. He "credits" it to our account.

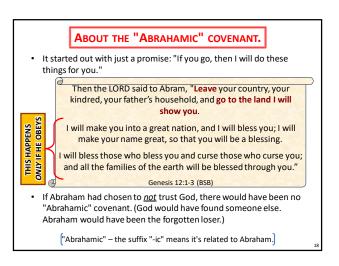


- When Abraham trusted God, God blessed him. But it all started out with that initial trust in God, back when he was still living in Ur of the Chaldees, when he only had to make the *first* step!
- Then, he could move on to the second step, then to the third step, and so on ...

Something to think about...

- Does God work this way with us? Does he expect us to start out with *massive* faith... or with *small but growing* faith?
- We may daydream about doing "big things" for God; but what if he just wants us to be faithful in "small things"? God can take "small things" and grow them – even if we, like Abraham, don't live to see the final outcome.







- Answering this call required Abraham to take one step of trust, then another, then another...
- As we read about Abraham's life, we see God making one promise (or covenant) after another – each being a situation in which Abraham had an opportunity to have *increased trust* in God.
- As Abraham's trust increased, so did the greatness of God's promises (and covenants) to him.



• Some people argue that each of these "steps" was a separate covenant; others argue that they were all parts of one expanding covenant. Either way, it's all there and it's all wonderful!

What are some of these promises/covenants? (A quick glance today; more next time.) He (though childless) would someday be a nation... even many nations. God would give him the land of Canaan. (But God would wait until the inhabitants had become so corrupt that they needed to be destroyed). Abraham would be blessed, and be a blessing to others. So would his "seed" (the word is both singular and plural). Other nations would be blessed or cursed, depending on how they treated him. Some (if not all) aspects of these promises/covenants

- are described as lasting "forever."
- Some of these promises/covenants expand in scope... to the point that they now apply to <u>us</u>!

Our Mission?
 We can't appreciate this covenant (or group of covenants) with Abraham, without understanding the *context* in which it was made: the whole world once again in rebellion against God.
 The promises and covenants God made with Abraham were only possible because <u>Abraham trusted God</u> to keep his promises. And as Abraham's trust increased, so did the greatness of the promises and covenants.

This week: Focus on the nature of Abraham's faith.

This is the <u>same</u> type of faith that God wants <u>us</u> to have!

Credits (1)

RIPTURE

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Credits (2)

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Presentation - Dennis Hinks @ 2024.