

March 17, 2024

Genesis Behind the Curtain: Abraham - Part 3

Ep 8: God's Plan

Pastor Joshua Pigg

Genesis 25:1-11

Vs. [1] Abraham married another wife, whose name was Keturah. [2] She gave birth to Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. [3] Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan. Dedan's descendants were the Asshurites, Letushites, and Leummites. [4] Midian's sons were Ephah, Ephher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. These were all descendants of Abraham through Keturah. [5] Abraham gave everything he owned to his son Isaac. [6] But before he died, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them off to a land in the east, away from Isaac. [7] Abraham lived for 175 years, [8] and he died at a ripe old age, having lived a long and satisfying life. He breathed his last and joined his ancestors in death. [9] His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite. [10] This was the field Abraham had purchased from the Hittites and where he had buried his wife Sarah. [11] After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who settled near Beer-lahai-roi in the Negev. [Gen 25:1-11 NLT]

1. Have you found your place in God's plan?

Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Have you found your place in God's plan? Remember, God sees everything, so we can trust Him to guide us in the right direction. Knowing that God is always watching over us can help us understand our role in His big plan and feel confident in following His lead.

1. Can God Lead you? God called Abram (later named Abraham) to leave his homeland, Ur of the Chaldeans, and journey to the land of Canaan. He promised to bless Abram, make him into a great nation, and bless all the families of the earth through him. (Genesis 12:1-5)

a. Are you open to releasing your attachments?

i. God may not be asking you to leave everything...

ii. God told Abraham that he would show him a land. V.1

b. Do you believe God can accomplish it?

i. I will make thee a great nation, I will bless the, I will make thy name great. V.2

2. Will you follow? Isaac is the promised son of Abraham and Sarah, born to them in their old age as a fulfillment of God's promise. As a child, Isaac is nearly sacrificed by his Abraham but God intervenes and provides a ram as a substitute. Genesis 22:1-19

a. Will you follow?

i. **Matthew 16:24-26: Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For**

what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

- ii. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My Father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the Lamb for a burnt offering? V.7
 - b. Are you putting up a fight?
 - i. Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. V.9
- 3. Have you settled? After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who settled near Beer-lahai-roi. V.11**
- a. Beerlahairoi means **"the well of him that lives and sees me"** or "the well of the vision of life."
 - i. Where have you decided to make your permanent residence?
 - b. Hebrews 4:13: "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Can you allow God to lead you? Just as He called Abram to leave his homeland and embark on a journey of faith, God may prompt us to release attachments and follow His guidance. Trusting in His promises and willingness to follow His lead can lead to great blessings.

Are you willing to follow God's direction, even when it seems difficult? Similar to Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac, our faith may be tested, but ultimately, obedience brings divine provision and blessings.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. How do you interpret the concept of "finding your place in God's plan" in your life?
2. What steps have you taken or are currently taking to discern God's plan for your life?
3. Have there been moments or experiences in your life where you felt a strong sense of alignment with God's plan for you? If so, can you describe them?
4. How do you think one's understanding of God's plan evolves over time? Have your perceptions of God's plan changed throughout different stages of your life?
5. What role does prayer, meditation, or seeking guidance from Scripture play in helping you discern God's plan for your life?
6. How do you balance personal desires and ambitions with surrendering to God's plan for your life?