

Lesson 4

Purpose

- To learn about The TOWER OF BABEL
- To learn about Abraham and Sarah

Materials

-Bible

Background Information

TOWER OF BABEL

At this point the earth had one language and one speech. The people (Noah's decedents) settled in the land of Shinar. They decided to bake bricks and build a tower. They wanted to make the tower so tall that its top was in heaven so that they could make a name for themselves and not become scattered. God was not pleased so confused their language so that they could not understand each other. God scattered them all over the face of the earth. The work on the tower was ceased. This is how the inhabitants of the earth were scattered all over.

So far in Genesis we have been studying the story of the human race. Now starting with chapter 12 we are studying the history of the Hebrew race.

ABRAHAM

Abraham or Abram is described as the physical and spiritual "father" of the people of Israel; an idol worshiper who came to believe in the one true God and was directed by God to a new land. God began to work out his plan for humanity through one family (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Jacob's sons are the fathers of the nation of Israel. Three times in the Bible Abraham is called the "friend of God". Three world religions trace their spiritual roots back to Abraham (Judaism, Christian and Islam).

When Abraham was 75 years old God directed Abraham (Abram) with his wife Sarah (Sarai) and Lot, his brother's son to leave Haran. God promised Abraham that he would make Abraham and his descendants a great nation and they would be blessed with possessions of the land around him. Here are 2 problems. Abraham had no children and Canaanites already lived in the land. However they departed for Canaan. After a short stay in Egypt they traveled on to Canaan. Dissention occurred between Lot and Abraham so Lot moved on south to the plain of Jordan. *You will remember that later Lot and his family settled in Sodom. Sodom is where God became so displeased with the evil and sin*

that he decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. He could not even find 10 good people so he did destroy Sodom after he warned Lot and his family to flee. As they were fleeing God warned them to not even look back. Lot's wife did look back and was changed into a pillar of salt. (Genesis 18:16 – 19:29).

Abraham continued to please God and he (Abraham) gained in possessions. However, no children were born to Abraham and Sarah.

When Abraham was 86 and Sarah was 70 they still had no children so Sarah sent her handmaiden to be with Abraham. When Hagar, the handmaiden, became pregnant Sarah became very jealous and began to treat Hagar badly. Hagar fled but later came back when an angel directed her to return. Hagar had a son and named him Ishmael. At this time God changed their names from Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah. When Ishmael was 12 God instructed Abraham to circumcise his son.

3 strangers (heavenly) visited Abraham. After Abraham fed them they told him Sarah would have a son. When Abraham was 100 God fulfilled his promise and Sarah became pregnant. A son was born and named Isaac, the Hebrew word for laughter. Sarah became very jealous and upset because by the law Ishmael was the first-born even though he was born of the handmaiden. Sarah feared that Abraham would look with favor upon Ishmael and Sarah wanted him to send them away. Abraham was reluctant but (after being told by God to please Sarah) he did send Ishmael and Hagar away.

You can imagine Abraham and Sarah's delight to be able to watch their beloved son Isaac grow up. God continued to test Abraham and instructed him to take his only *son*, Isaac into the mountain of Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering. Abraham did as God wanted and took Isaac and two young men with him. He split wood and prepared to make the sacrifice. When Isaac questioned his father concerning a lamb for the offering, he replied that God would provide the lamb. Abraham bound Isaac and placed him on the alter. As he prepared to slay Isaac and angel stopped him and directed Abraham to the ram caught in the thicket. Abraham offered the ram as the burnt offering.

Sarah lived to be 127 years old, but she died before Isaac was married or had any children. Abraham buried her in a cave in Canaan.

Procedure

- Do page 4-1.
- 4-2, 4-3 are for fun. Just try them.