

6. The Story of Abraham

Introduction: The previous story was about the incident at the tower in Babel. Because of their pride and disobedience, God caused men to begin speaking different dialects and languages.

After this, Noah's descendants spread out to many different places on the earth. God did not forget about men. He still wanted men to have a good relationship with Him. God then chose one man, so that the descendants of this man would become a great nation – they would become God's people. This man was Abraham. (Genesis 11:5–8; 12:2)

God told Abraham, "Abraham, leave this place where you were born and grew up, and go to a place that I have planned for you. I will bless you. I will make your descendants into a great nation. Also you will be a blessing to the people of all nations." (Genesis 12:1–2)

Abraham listened to what God had said. It was during his 75th year that he set out with his whole family and all his belongings and travelled to the place God had planned for him. On the way, they encountered many difficulties. (Genesis 12:4–5; 12:10)

When they arrived at a place called Canaan, God told Abraham, "Abraham, this is the land I am going to give to you and your descendants." (Genesis 12:7)

So Abraham built a place for worshiping God at the place God showed him. There he knelt down and worshipped God. (Genesis 12:8)

After some time, Abraham had acquired many cows, sheep, gold and silver. (Genesis 13:5–6)

God appeared to Abraham again and said to him, "Abraham, don't be afraid. No one can harm you. I want to give you a big reward." (Genesis 15:1)

Abraham said, "God! What else would you want to give me? You haven't given me a son, so who will inherit my estate? Will those born of my servants become my descendants and inherit my estate?" (Genesis 15:2–3)

God said, "No, your own son should be the one who will inherit your estate." (Genesis 15:4)

Then, God led Abraham outside and said, "Look at the stars on the sky. In the future your descendants will be as many as these stars." (Genesis 15:5)

Abraham believed very much in what God had told him and would believe nothing else. God saw this faith as evidence that Abraham had a good relationship with Him. (Genesis 15:6)

When Abraham was 100-years-old, God gave him and his wife a son named Isaac. (Genesis 21:3, 5)