

GENESIS 12:1-25:11
The Biography of Abraham
The week of 07/30/20

The next portion of our Walk Through The Bible is Genesis 12:1-25:11.

Here's what you need to REMEMBER from last week:

In the first part of Genesis we saw that God is eternally in charge and that the goodness that he designed into the world became marred and effaced but not erased by the presence of a destructive evil influence.

We also saw, in 3:15, the first hint of hope when God said he was going to remove the infection of evil from his creation through a child who would be born from a human mother.

Here's what you need to KNOW for this week:

In this next section, we see how God's plan of restoring his creation begins with the establishment of a special group of people. (Centuries later, it will be a woman from this special group that would give birth to the child mentioned in 3:15.)

Beginning in chapter 12, we discover that God chose to establish this special group of people from Abram (later renamed Abraham) and his descendants. Abram was an ordinary guy who was flawed, just like you and me. But God decided to give him extraordinary influence, not because of who he was, but in spite of who he was.

As you read be sure to note that the Lord continually reminded Abraham that he was blessed and that Abraham was in turn expected to be a blessing to those around him.

Abraham often made right choices in life, but if you've never read about Abraham before, his obvious flaws and failures can be confusing. You might find yourself wondering *how could God bless someone with such clear character defects?* However, it's important to remember that the same could be said about you and me!

The right question to ask is: *“Given our moral deficiencies, how could God be so good to Abraham, you, or me?”*

The answer is simple: *“God’s generosity and goodness is so enormous, that he will even bless knuckleheads like us!”*

Also, don't miss what Abraham's life teaches us about how we can have right standing with God.

Like us, Abraham received God's goodness not because he always lived the right way, but simply because he trusted in what the Lord said.

It says in 15:6, *“Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord credited it to him as righteousness.”*

That 'line' becomes a critical, eternal truth for all who long for the hope of Heaven. In fact, centuries later, the Apostle Paul spent all of Romans 4 and much of Galatians 3 explaining the importance of that line. Paul argues that Genesis 15:6 proves that right standing before God has never been about following rules, but always about placing our faith in the Lord!

Key TAKEAWAYS –

Abraham's biography shows us that our capable Lord is in the business of fixing what's wrong with our life and world.

From his story we can also see that God's blessings in our lives are given for our benefit, but with the expectation that we would also be a blessing. When we pay forward our blessings, it puts a smile on the face of God.

GET GOING!

Continue your personal Walk Through The Bible by reading, or listening to, Genesis 12:1-25:11.

Don't forget!

- *A great way to listen to the Bible is to download the YouVersion Bible App on your smartphone.*
- *Then, simply select a Bible version that has a speaker icon.*
- *Use the magnifying glass icon on the bottom of the screen to search for your passage.*
- *When your selected passage appears simply tap the speaker icon on the top right of the screen.*
- *The play/pause button will appear for you to play or pause the recording.*

Enjoy the Journey!