

## The Wildest and Craziest Stories in the Bible

### Lesson 2

#### Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible during the forty years he led the nation of Israel in the wilderness before they entered the promised land of Canaan. They had been slaves of Egypt, but now God was making them a nation and giving them a land. Moses wrote Genesis (meaning origins) to record their beginnings and to give them an understanding of the covenant between Abraham and God essential to understanding the rest of the Bible.

1. There are two main parts to Genesis: (a) Ch 1 – 11 is made up of the creation, the fall of man, the flood, and the beginning and dispersal of nations. It reveals the determined efforts of man to rebel against God. (b) Ch 12 – 50 is a historical narrative of patriarchal history about Abraham's family. It reveals the faithfulness of God in sovereignly working in history to redeem man. Based on the amount of space given by the author, what is the emphasis of the book of Genesis?
2. In Gen 11:1-9, humanity was united in its determination to rebel against God. The rebellion was restrained when God confused their languages and divided them. Nevertheless, it was God's plan to redeem man. With whom did God choose to begin the redemptive plan (Gen 12:1; Acts 7:2-3; Hebrews 11:8)? Were Abram and his family righteous and worshipping the true God when He called Abram (Joshua 24:2)?
3. After God called Abram, blessed him and made promises to him, what kind of a guy was he (Gen 12:10-19)? During Abram's remaining sojourn God put him through a series of tests or crises. What were these tests and which did he fail and pass? Gen 12:10; 13:7; 14:14-15, 24; 16:2-4; 17:16-19; 20:1-3; 22:1-2, 9-12.
4. For what reason did God declare Abraham righteous (Gen 15:6)? How did Paul use this passage to prove the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Romans 4:2-5? What was the supreme test of Abraham's faith thus proving it to be genuine (Gen 22:9-12)? How did James use this passage to teach the relationship of faith to works in James 2:21-22? Which came first (Gen 15 or Gen 22) – Abraham's faith or his works? Therefore, works are a result of faith and they prove faith.

5. What incredible, universal and gracious promise did God make in Genesis 22:18? What great event did this foresee (Galatians 3:8-9)? In Gen 22:18, is “seed” singular or plural and who specifically did it refer to (Galatians 3:16)? How do we become heirs to the promise (Galatians 3:29)?
  
6. What promises did God repeatedly make to Abraham (Gen 12:2-3; 13:14-17; 15:5, 18)? After ten years, how many sons did he have (Gen 16:1)? How did they try to “help” God with this promise (Gen 16:2-4)?
  
7. What consequence “erupted” as a result of their impatience in taking matters into their own hands (Gen 16:4-6)? How did God mercifully intervene to protect Hagar (16:7-9)? What promise did God make to Hagar in Gen 16:10? What prophecy was made in Gen 16:11-12?
  
8. Who was born to Hagar (Gen 16:15-16)? How old was Abraham when Ishmael was born 16:16; how old was he when Isaac was born (21:5)? In Gen 17, God repeated his promises to Abraham. What was the “sign” of this covenant that Abraham and his descendants would see every day of their lives reminding them of God’s promises (Gen 17:11-12)?
  
9. What amazing revelation did God give about Abraham’s true wife Sarah (Gen 17:15-16)? What was amazing about this (17:17)? What was Abraham’s objection (17:18), and God’s response (17:19)? Contrast the promises God made for Isaac with those for Ishmael (Gen 17:19-21; 21:12-13; 22:16-18). Through which son would God “bless all the nations of the earth”?
  
10. Was there a rivalry between Sarah and Hagar (Gen 16:4-6; 21:9-10)? Would there be a rivalry between Isaac and Ishmael (Gen 16:12; 25:18)? Where would Ishmael’s descendants settle and become a nation (Gen 16:12; 25:18)? Would the descendants continue throughout history to harass each other (Psalm 83:1-6; Isa 21:13-17; 2 Chronicles 21:16-17; 26:7; Judges 6:3)? How does the New Testament relate this story to the grace of God saving us through the gift of Christ (Galatians 4:28-31)?