



2022 2Q Genesis—Lesson 6 The Roots of Abraham

by Tim Jennings

SABBATH

Read second paragraph, “In his journeying...” What do you think they mean by this sentence, “In his journeying, Abraham is suspended in a void—without his past, which he has lost, and without his future, which he does not see”?

Did Abraham’s life history, prior experiences, knowledge, perspectives, understandings of the cultures and world around him, abilities, language change when he left Ur? In other words, did Abraham leave his history behind? Did he have amnesia?

Did his past no longer have an impact upon who he was and the decisions he made?

We will read about him rescuing Lot this week—who was Lot? His nephew and when did that relationship get established? Wasn’t it in his past, in his history?

When Abraham was old and wanted to get a wife for his son Isaac what did he instruct his servant to do? “go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac” (Genesis 24:4 NIV84).

If Abraham was in a void without his past history, how could he send his servant to his relatives for a wife, weren’t his family part of his history?

Perhaps this is simply poorly worded and they meant to say, “Abraham left the support and resources of his home, family, and community,” which he did. But it just didn’t sound right to me the way it was worded.

SUNDAY

The lesson is about the covenant with Abraham that all nations on earth will be blessed through his Seed, meaning through Jesus.

Read second paragraph, “The fulfillment of that prophecy...” The Bible is an historic document that records the life of real people doing real historic events, but many of its historic figures and the actions they took were chosen by God to be recorded in Scripture because they also serve as object lessons to teach the larger reality of the plan of salvation.



- Ur or Babylon represents Satan's kingdom—and what is the underlying foundation that every kingdom is founded upon? Its laws. And of all the kingdoms that interacted with God's people and thus entered the Bible story arc, what is Babylon known for? The code of Hammurabi—the first nation to have an imposed law. Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world because all the kingdoms of the world operate upon imposed—made up rules—that require inflicted punishments. But God is Creator and His laws are design laws that life is built upon and that when broken continued life require the Creator to heal and fix the damage and restore to harmony with the law lest if God does nothing death ensues.
- Abraham leaving Ur or Babylon is an object lesson for the people of God who are to leave the systems of this world with their imposed laws and inflicted punishments as a way of achieving justice. The beast of revelation rises to do justice, to make things right, to fix what is wrong. But it does so through imposed law and more controlling, oppressive government with more rules, more mandates, more encroachment upon liberty, ultimately coercing consciences. Those who believe God's government operates like Babylon or Rome, with made up rules that require inflicted punishments will embrace this beastly system and believe it is right to do so. But God's true saints will leave the methods of this world behind and live out God's law of truth, love and liberty.
- So, like Abraham left Ur, we must leave the methods, practices, and ways of this world behind. We do not get a new history; we get new hearts and right spirits that live out God's methods and principles in how we treat others. In fact, we remember quite clearly our own history when we used to practice and believe the methods of the world were right, and praise God that we are no longer of this world even though we are still in this world.
- As we leave the old ways of the world behind, no longer identifying with the imposed law systems, the penal legal theologies, but instead advancing the Creator God and living out his methods, we like Abraham move toward the promised land—a land we see by faith.
- Like Abraham left behind his family and human inheritance in order to receive the inheritance from God, we must leave worldly ties behind and be reborn as children of God in order to receive our heavenly inheritance.

MONDAY

Genesis 12:1-9 God calls Abraham to leave Ur and he accepts the call and he, his nephew Lot, his wife Sarah and his servants all leave and go to the Negev.

Abraham's choice to leave his home, family, friends, all that was familiar to him was an act of faith. But when he arrived to the land where God led him there is a famine and in response to the famine he then goes down to Egypt, where he tells Sarah to present herself as his sister for fear of Pharaoh wanting Sarah and killing him and taking her.

What is going on here?

Why did God call Abraham to leave his home and travel to the Negev region?



For Abraham's children to be the avenue for the Messiah. In other words, Abraham was called to be the father of the branch of the human family through whom the Genesis 3:15 promise would be fulfilled, through whom Messiah would come.

Again, this is the focus of Scripture, the great controversy over God's character and government and God's solution for the sin problem, i.e. the plan of salvation. Thus our focus on Abraham's family, narrowing down on Isaac, Jacob, and then Judah.

So, once Abraham is identified by God's call as the one through whom all nations will be blessed by the Seed or descendant who would come, and who is the same promised Seed who will crush the serpent's head, what did Satan do? Did Satan ignore Abraham, or focus his attention on Abraham?

And immediately after Abraham arrives in the promised land area, he experiences a famine—what is likely going on? Who is behind the famine? Satan is actively working on the forces of nature to destroy Abraham.

And when this famine occurred, did Abraham turn to God in faith, or did Abraham seek his own solution? And what solution did Abraham choose? To go to Egypt. And having turned from faith to self-dependence, what was the next action Abraham chose? To lie and to solicit his wife help him deceive others, in order to do what? Protect self. In other words, having left the life of faith for the life of protecting self, fear and selfishness, the survival of the fittest drives, took over and Abraham began practicing the methods of Satan's kingdom rather than the methods of God's kingdom. And what was the result? Trouble for Abraham, but God in mercy intervened therapeutically to stop Pharaoh from violating Sarah's virtue, yet Abraham's reputation was damaged.

Real historic people who did real historic things—but what is the object lesson for us?

- We are all called like Abraham to leave this world and its systems behind and enter a journey of faith with God that will lead us to the heavenly promised land
- Satan will use every means available to him in order to discourage us just like he did Abraham and we may find ourselves in a famine. What is a famine symbolic of? Some place with limited resources—spiritually speaking we may find ourselves in a community with people who don't believe as we do, without the comfort, encouragement, support of fellow believers.
- We may be tempted to go down to Egypt. Egypt is symbolic of godlessness. We may have difficulties and feel as if we are dying of thirst spiritually. And we may be tempted to turn to the systems of this world to find justice, or comfort, or connection and leave behind the truths of God's kingdom.
- But our choices to compromise with the world will always bring painful and negative consequences, yet God in mercy will intervene to provide every opportunity for us to return to Him and His promises and resume our journey to the heavenly promised land. However, we may have embarrassed ourselves, and just like Abraham damaged his relationship with Pharaoh, we may suffer damaged human relationships from trying to cope on our own rather than trusting God and staying faithful to Him.



But another deeper object lesson is when we realize where Abraham has come from, where God is leading Him, and where he was tempted to go:

- Abraham was led from Babylon to the promised land but was tempted by the famine to go down to Egypt. Here we have three distinct places highlighted, Babylon, the promised land, Egypt. Does this trigger your mind to think of any prophecies or object lessons?
- Daniel 11 the King of the North versus the King of the South. In the prophecy there are three places or powers—the King of the North identified as Babylon and Rome; the beautiful land, which is the promised land, and the King of the South which is identified as Egypt.
- Throughout the prophecy the King of the North and the King of the South fight back and forth over the beautiful land, which represents the people of God.
- Both the King of the North and the King of the South are Satan's kingdoms and he pits them against each other to fight back and forth through history in an effort to pull the people of God into one or the other of his factions.
- The King of the North, represented by Babylon and Rome is symbolic of religious imperialism and the King of the South represented by Egypt is symbolic of godlessness in all its forms (paganism, earth worship, evolutionism, communism, humanism).
- Today the King of the South is the godless forces in the world, communism, godless evolutionism, humanism, socialism, leftism; while the King of the North is religious imperialism and is made up of all those people who believe in the creator God, the God of Abraham, but who also believe in imposed law and would use the power of the state to enforce their morals upon others. This would include Judaism, Islam and many Christian groups who seek to use human governments to impose laws to force their moral agenda upon others.
- The Daniel 11 prophecy ends with the King of the South, godless forces, pushing against the King of the North, which incites the King of the North to storm out against him and destroy him taking his power and wealth. Over the last century we have seen the push of godlessness, evolutionism, socialism, communism, leftism, wokeism, seeking to corrupt the minds of people with their godless worldview—which is based on multiple levels of denying reality—like there is no God, that humans evolved on their own, there is no male and female etc. And in America today we are seeing the beginning of rise of the King of the North and a very strong conservative backlash takes over the reins of government and will crush the godless forces that have been pushing their agenda. Did you see where the state of Florida just this week took back political power from Disney which had since 1967 the right to police their own area?
- But throughout all human history, including the prophecy of Daniel 11. God's people are not to be part of either Babylon or Egypt, they are to be identified with the beautiful land. Thus, the 3 Angels' messages call the people of God out of the fallen system of Babylon, built upon imposed laws. This includes both the governments of this world AND the false imposed law penal/legal theologies taught in the churches that make God's government functionally no different than the governments of this world.
- We will find ourselves in increasing end-time distress—like Abraham's famine—and we will have to decide, do we go back to Babylon, join with the forces of the state, impose laws on others, mandates, coerce others, do we go to Egypt and join with the godless forces of leftism,



or do we leave Babylon, refuse Egypt and stay loyal to our Creator God and trust Him with our lives, families, and futures such that we stay faithful to His kingdom and live the truth, presenting it in love, while we leave others free?

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, “Abram’s reconnection...” This is an excellent point. Abram, when relying on self, when focusing on the threats of this world, experienced increasing fear which led to selfishness, the desire to protect self and thus he fled to Egypt and told lies to protect self.

Do we see in the world today that Satan is like a roaring lion—and a lion’s roar is designed to incite fear and fear leads to more selfish behaviors, more willingness to surrender freedom, to lie, to mandate, to control others, in order to feel safe.

However, notice that after Abraham repented and returned to living for God, he again trusts God with his life, his fortune, and his future, and doesn’t act to get the best for himself, but allows Lot to choose first and Abraham trusts God to bring good out of whichever land with which he ends up possessing.

This type of decision-making, the decision-making of love and trust, is not natural to our sinful hearts. Our sinful hearts are driven by fear and selfishness and naturally sees threats and chooses actions which are designed to protect self, even if it may put others at risk.

The person of faith, lives differently, they trust God to watch over them, to bring good out of every situation, to protect them—as long as they are carrying out what God would have them do and thus they choose truth, love, and God’s principles in how they conduct themselves. They seek to honor God and fulfill His purposes in every situation and trust God with how things turn out. Sometimes this can be a very difficult thing to do, especially when the issue is very important to us and will cause us emotionally pain or suffering.

And these struggles in decision-making are often related to what we have become emotionally attached to. People struggle to set healthy boundaries with others if they fear being rejected by the other. Instead of speaking truth in love and holding firm to what they believe is right for them to do in governance of self, people who live controlled by fear of rejection will compromise what they know is truth, healthy, and right, and go along with the other person in order to be accepted. Such insecure people rather than speaking truth graciously, will try to manage the other person’s responses by avoiding any truth they believe will upset the other person. This almost always results in the person lying in some way, just like Abram lied about Sarah to try and manage Pharaoh’s reactions to him.

Read the fourth paragraph, “In contrast, Abram’s move...” The lesson notes that it wasn’t until this separation from Lot that God speaks to Abraham again. Is there an object lesson for us?

- Do we ever have people in our lives that interfere with our connection with God?



- Do we ever have people in our lives that Satan uses to distract us from our duty, or who actively undermine our relationship with God?
- Do we have a responsibility to determine with whom we associate and on what level we associate?
- In other words, whom we let into the inner circles of our affections and whom we spend time with?

- What if we have family members who are not living for the Lord, should we ever stop loving them? Absolutely not!
- Should we ever stop lifting our family members up in pray? No!
- But could there be times we do set boundaries with certain family members and stop hanging out with them, or even stop letting them come over to our homes?
- What about spouses—could someone have married a person who is actually being used by Satan to undermine their mission and purpose for God?
 - What about Samson and Delilah?

WEDNESDAY

The lesson is about the coalition of various kings going to war and Lot being taken captive and Abraham organizing a rescue mission and rescuing Lot.

Read the second and third paragraph, “The involvement...” In light of what we have discussed regarding the King of the North and King of the South, what is the application to us of what Abraham did?

Whose ultimate kingdom did the various kings and political powers that were warring in Abraham’s day belong? Note, all the various powers that were warring in Abraham’s day were part of Satan’s kingdom. Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world. All the kingdoms of this world are Satan.

Likewise, today, Russia and Ukraine, the USA and Iraq or Afghanistan, or China or Iran are all Satan’s kingdoms. God’s kingdom will not be found in any human government. All human governments are built upon imposed law, which is Satan’s form of governing, and all human governments commit injustices in the name of doing justice.

Just as in Abraham’s day Satan’s various governments warred against each other as a means of taking God’s people captive, so too today Satan has his kingdoms, the human governments of this world, war each other in all kinds of ways in order to take the minds and hearts of God’s people captive. Satan’s agents engage in:

- economic wars
- political wars
- biological wars (think COVID—a manmade virus that killed millions)



- physical wars
- cultural wars (think wokeism—all the recent attacks on the US flag, on the national monuments, on the names of various places, schools, institution, on marriage, on gender, on speech, on liberty, so-called virtue signaling, the BLM movement and so much more—all if this is a form of warfare—every bit of it specifically designed to undermine Bible principles and take captive the hearts and minds of God’s people into a godless system of false justice).

So in Abraham’s day Satan’s kingdoms went to war and took Lot captive. Abraham had to decide what to do? Does he go to war to destroy the kingdoms of the world and establish his own earthly government with him and his people in charge so that he can be safe? No, what does he do? He goes to war to free Lot from captivity.

What is the object lesson for us today?

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV84)

We are engaged in a war, but we don’t fight like the world, we don’t use the methods of the world. We don’t use guns and tanks; and we don’t use the power of the state to pass laws to force people to do it our way. We instead, wield the sword of the Spirit, which is the truth, the Word of God, to destroy the lies and set hearts and minds free from both Babylon and Egypt, from both the King of the North (religious imperialism) and the King of the South (godlessness), by calling people out of the imposed law systems of this world back to worshipping the Creator God whose laws are design laws.

THURSDAY

The lesson focuses upon Abraham paying tithe to Melchizedek, in the third paragraph the lesson states, “Melchizedek is, however, not to be identified with Christ.”

I think this is a poorly worded sentence and should be written as “Melchizedek is, however, not to be identified AS BEING Christ.”

He is identified in Scripture with Christ. He was a type of Christ as the writer of Hebrews makes clear, but He was not Christ.

This is the view taught by the SDA church, here is an historic quote:

It was Christ that spoke through Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God. Melchizedek was not Christ, but he was the voice of God in the world, the representative of the Father.
Selected Messages volume 1 page 409



What is the significance of Abraham paying tithe to Melchizedek?

What is the difference between tithe and offerings?

Tithe is understood to be our lived-out, practiced, acknowledgement of our partnership with God in all things. That all our success in life no matter where, is only due to the fact that God so loved us He sent His Son to partner with us, to become human, to take up our cause, to provide us the living connection with Him that enables us to succeed in every aspect of life. Returning the tithe functionally says we recognize God as our partner in life and that all our success comes from Him!

The offering is our thanks to God, or our passion to support some specific program, outreach, project etc.

What is the tithe supposed to be used for? The advancement of the gospel.

To whom is the tithe to be paid today? The church? Which church?

Well obviously the church promoting the gospel—which church is that? Would we need to identify what the gospel is?

What is the gospel? The good news, about what? Does the good news expand and develop over time taking on new and deeper insights as time unfolds?

Did the Reformers promote the gospel? Did they leave their parent church to do so? And did the Reformation stop with Luther? Did the gospel message advance with advancing truths?

Would you recommend today that people pay tithes to groups presenting the gospel as Luther did, a message that is 500 years old?

What is the gospel message today?

Do we have a responsibility similar to those who did live in Luther's day, to examine the various presentations of the gospel and decide which version we believe to be the most consistent with Scripture and support those presenting that gospel?

Should we decide where to send our tithes, to programs, groups, organizations that are advancing the gospel as we understand it, or are we to mindlessly send our tithes to the organization of our birth, the church that our parents raised us in, regardless of what gospel they present?

Is it possible that many sincere, good-hearted Christians, have been conditioned to send their tithe money blindly to a church organization that is not presenting the gospel and they are innocently funding programs and materials that are working against the final message of mercy for the world? What is the final gospel message to go to the world?



Here is one historic view, do you agree?

“It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. **His character is to be made known.** Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy and truth... ***The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is the revelation of His character of love.***” Christ's Object Lessons, p.415

What is the gospel, the good news? Would it be good news that you get eternal life in a universe run by Satan? So, if we teach the good news is that Jesus died to pay for our sins to an offended god so that god won't use his power to kill us are we presenting the good news? No, we are actually teaching Satan's view of God and undermining love and trust.

EG White, one of the founders of the SDA church wrote this about her personal tithe:

“There are ministers' wives... who have been devoted, earnest, whole-souled workers, giving Bible readings and praying with families, helping along by personal efforts just as successfully as their husbands. These women give their whole time, and are told that they receive nothing for their labors because their husbands receive wages. I tell them to go forward and all such decisions will be revised. The Word says, "The labourer is worthy of his hire." Luke 10:7. When any such decision as this is made, I will, in the name of the Lord, protest. **I will feel it my duty to create a fund from my tithe money to pay these women who are accomplishing just as essential work as the ministers are doing, and this tithe I will reserve for work in the same line as that of the ministers, hunting for souls, fishing for souls.**{DG 106.1}

It has been presented to me for years [by whom?] that my tithe was to be appropriated by myself to aid the white and colored ministers who were neglected and did not receive sufficient [income to] properly to support their families... {2MR 99.3}

I have myself appropriated my tithe to the most needy cases brought to my notice. I have been instructed to do this, and as the money is not withheld from the Lord's treasury, [wait, it wasn't being given to the organized church, yet was not withheld from the Lord's treasury, why?] it is not a matter that should be commented upon, for it will necessitate my making known these matters, which I do not desire to do, because it is not best. {2MR 99.5}

Some cases have been kept before me for years, and I have supplied their needs from the tithe, ***as God has instructed me to do.*** And if any person shall say to me, Sister White, will you appropriate my tithe where you know it is most needed, I shall say, Yes, I will; and I have done so... {2MR 100.1}



Did you notice that this person believed that her title was to go directly to people who were not funded by the institution, but who were promoting the true gospel message, she was 1) acting at God's direction and 2) the money was going into God's treasury, i.e. storehouse.

What do you think?

What is the gospel for this time? The message of the 3 Angels who come with the eternal gospel? If you haven't read our [Final Message of Mercy to the World: The Three Angels](#) magazine, I encourage you to do so. And as you read, ask yourself, is this the gospel?

The final message of mercy to the world, the eternal gospel is the truth about God's character of love, which is only rightly understood when we return to worshipping the Creator whose laws are design laws upon which reality is built to operate. If we teach the imposed law view of law we are not presenting the eternal gospel, but the lie of God's enemy.

Historic Adventism taught the following:

- **The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God.** Upon this battle we are now entering,—a **battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah**, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition. {GC88 582.2}

What was Satan's opening lies about God's law?

- **In the opening of the great controversy**, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, **it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan**; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. {DA 761.4}

We have such a wonderfully good news message to share with the world. We invite you to join us in sharing this message. We have many free resources we will ship to you anywhere with a US postal address, or if you are in South Africa or Australia New Zealand, we have centers there to share these materials. Check our website for details.

If you live in other parts of the world, most of our resources are on our website and can either be read online or downloaded in pdf format for local printing and sharing.

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, "Christ's church is to be a blessing..." do you hear a design law described here?

The law of sowing/reaping, exertion, watering, love, the more you give the more you receive.



Read and discuss questions

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

May 6-7, 2022: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Lakewood Seventh-Day Adventist Church 1382 Arthur Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107.

- Friday evening: Healing the Mind
- Sabbath SS time: The God Shaped Brain
- Sabbath Church: Growing up in Christ—the 7 levels of moral decision making
- Sabbath afternoon: The Developing Brain followed by Q&A