

Abraham's Faith

Genesis 12:1-9

"We are going to give our ultimate trust and allegiance to someone -- either Satan, human leaders, or God -- and the object of our faith and allegiance will make all the difference. Satan -- and others -- will lead us down blind alleys and eventually to destruction. Only obedience to God will lead us upward as, by stages, as he causes our faith to grow and opens up new vistas of spiritual experience." Boice

- I. God is sovereign, which means that he is in absolute control of all things. Nothing can or will occur without His permission. He, when necessary, will step in to change the direction mankind is going in. He did it with the great worldwide flood, He did it with the tower of Babel, He did it with the coming of the Messiah and the gospel message, and he will do it when he brings about a worldwide tribulation to usher in His Son's millennial reign. Each time God intervened, he did so to set apart a people for himself who would worship and love Him above the world and its wicked ways. From Adam to Abel, to Enoch, to Noah, to Shem, to Abraham and the Jews and to those of us who know Him, God intervened to set a people apart to be His very own. We, like those who have gone before us, have been chosen to carry His gospel of grace so that others too might know what it is like to be set apart for His glory. What a privilege!

Gen. 12:1-9

1 Peter 2:9-10 *9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

- II. Abraham was chosen by God to be the progenitor of the great nation called Israel. From his seed would come the Savior of mankind, God's Son Jesus Christ, who would reverse the effects of the fall through his sacrifice for our sins. God called Abraham, like us, to a holy life, not because of anything he had done but because of God's own purpose and grace (2 Timothy 1:8-10). He chose Abraham to fulfill His purpose, which means he was up for the task. His divine power gave him everything he needed to live his will, and he did. His purpose for us may be different, yet we too *are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:10)*. Are you up for the task?

Gen. 12:1

Acts 14:16

Joshua 24:2-3

Isa. 41:8-9

James 2:23

Rom. 3:10-12

John 15:12-15

John 10:27

2 Timothy 1:8-10 *He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but **because of his own purpose and grace**. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

- III. Not only did God chose Abraham to fulfill his purpose, but he also obligated himself to him with promises to bless him and make his name great. Abraham knew that God would be true to his word, so it moved him to obedience, reverence, and worship. The promises he was given were unconditional. Abram did not earn His favor, God freely gave, that's grace. *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast (Eph. 2:8-9).*

Gen. 12:2-9

2 Cor. 1:20

Gen. 3:16

Gal. 3:6-9

Gal. 3:16

Gal. 3:26-29

Heb. 11:8-13

Addendum:

Abraham was the 10th generation from Noah. He was born in the year 1948 after creation, 292 years after the flood (by figuring the life ages given in the Bible). Shem and Noah would both have still been alive at Abraham's birth and at the Tower of Babel event.

Shem died at 600 years old and 502 years after the flood. Shem would not only have been alive at the Tower of Babel incident but he would have been alive to know Abraham, and Jacob, and Esau. Abraham would have also lived long enough to know Jacob and Esau. Jacob and Esau would have been already grown when Shem dies (he dies about 35 years after Abraham). All of these great timelines can be figured from the ages given in the Bible.

When Abraham was born, Shem was 390 years old, and his father Noah was 893 years old. (Noah lived 350 years after the flood – living to age of 950 years).

Abraham was 57 years old when Noah died. So, for 57 years Noah, Shem, and Abraham all lived together at the same time. Abraham could have received first hand accounts of creation because Noah knew Methuselah and many of the other early patriarchs who knew Adam. This would have been passed to Abraham.

Jewish tradition states that Noah was 940 (lived 950 years) when the Tower of Babel was destroyed. There were 339 years between when Noah and his family left the ark and the Tower of Babel was destroyed. By figuring up the life years given in the Bible, Abraham would have been 47 years old at the destruction of the tower. Abraham lived to be 175 years old (Gen. 25:7).

Jewish tradition states that Abraham stayed at Noah's house for nearly 39 years, until the year 1997. It was at the end of this period, when he was 48 years old, that Abraham heard about the world-shattering Tower of Babel, and left Noah's house to go spread the truth.

