

## **Some Spiritual Footprints of Abraham**

**Genesis 11:27-32; 12:1-4**

Wednesday Worship

May 12, 2021

**Introduction:** Last Wednesday night we began a study on people in the Bible who left spiritual footprints for us to follow. One of the things I said last Wednesday night was that not one of the 3,237 named people in the Bible was perfect. Each had weaknesses and flaws because after the fall of Adam every person born is born with a sin nature (Romans 5:12). Even though Noah left some good spiritual footprints to follow, he had his weaknesses and flaws.

### **Some of Noah's good spiritual footprints to follow:**

1. Intimacy with God. The Bible says, "Noah walked with God" (Genesis 6:9).
2. Lived each day by faith not sight. Noah had no clue about "floodwaters" (6:17).
3. Was a partner with God. He and his family and the animals went into the ark—human responsibility (7:13-16). God closed the door—God's sovereignty (7:16).
4. Worship priority in his life -- first thing out of the ark he built an altar (8:20).

But Noah still had a sin nature. The Bible tells us that Noah got drunk which is not a good spiritual footprint to follow. (9:21).

This week we look at Abraham. Like Noah he too had spiritual footprints to follow and other footprints not to follow.

### **The story of Abraham is found in the Bible in Genesis chapters 12 through 25.**

- Twenty-five percent of the book of Genesis is about Abraham.
- One of the great comfort verses about death is Genesis 25:8.
- We do not know much about Abraham until he was seventy-five years old (Genesis 12:4).
- Abraham had one-hundred more years to live and in those one--hundred years we know a great deal about him (Genesis 25:8).
- In those 100 years, God chose a Gentile to begin the Hebrew Nation.

### **Abraham's good spiritual footprints:**

**One of Abraham's spiritual footprints to follow is the footprint of faith to obey God.**

- We see this when he left Ur (11:27-32).
- Ur would be the southern part of present-day Iraq.
- We see this when he left Haran (12:1-4).
- He gave up certainty for uncertainty.
- In Genesis 12, the call is repeated.
- We see this in the word "had" in Genesis 12:1 found in every translation I looked except the NASV and the ESV.
- The ESV has a footnote in Genesis 12:1 that refers you to Acts 7:2. When you read Acts 7:2 it makes it clear that God first called Abraham when he was in Ur. The word "had" in the other translations makes it clear that Genesis 12:1 was a repeat of God's call in Ur.
- Ur, like Haran, was a pagan city devoted to worship of false gods—the moon god.
- The people in Ur and Haran were gentiles which means Abraham was a Gentile.
- Gentiles are not part of God's chosen people at birth.
- The Bible does not tell us how God revealed His plan to Abraham in Ur or what his father Terah knew.
- We see this when Abraham was willing to offer Isaac (Genesis 22).
- Genesis 22 is Abraham's "final exam" and he passed with flying colors!

**Another spiritual footprint of Abraham to follow is the footprint of compassion and forgiveness (Genesis 14).**

- In chapter 14, we read about the first war recorded in the Bible.
- There are ten kings mentioned in chapter 14.

- Abraham's nephew, Lot, had been captured and one of Lot's men escaped and reported everything to Abram (14:13).
- Abraham could have said to himself, "It serves Lot right. He should have kept clear of Sodom. He made bad choices so now he deserves to face the consequences."
- Genesis 14:16 is a word picture of Abraham's compassion and forgiveness.

**Abraham's greatest spiritual footprint to follow is the footprint of his justification (Genesis 15:6).**

1. His justification was based on his faith not his works. This was Paul's point in Romans 4:3-5.
2. His justification was not based on perfect faith. He doubted.
3. His justification was not being "made" righteous, but by being "declared" righteous.

Genesis 15:6 does not say "God made him righteous," but God declared him (reckoned him, counted it, credited him) righteous. God imputed His righteousness on Abraham.

**Illustration:** 2 Corinthians 5:21 says it clearly.

**Abraham's bad spiritual footprints:**

**One of Abraham's bad spiritual footprints was failing to trust God to fulfill His promise (12:10).**

- God did not call Abraham to Egypt.
- Had Abraham stayed in Canaan God would have provided.

**Application:** When God calls you to do something, He will make a way. God does not need our assistance to fulfill His promises.

**Another of Abraham's bad spiritual footprints was telling a lie (12:11-13).**

- Telling the Egyptians that Sarai was his sister was a lie.
- In Proverbs 6:16-19, the Bible lists 7 things God hates. Lying is number 2 on the list.

**Another of Abraham's bad spiritual footprints was yielding to culture rather than to what God said (16:1-4).**

- After 10 childless years Sarai resorted to the custom of the day which a barren wife could get a child through her own maidservants (16:2).

- Egyptian culture had a code of conduct that Sarai may have told Abraham was honored in Canaan.

**Application:** We have taken our eyes off what God says and little by little our godless culture is making the rules.

1. Legalized abortion for any reason
2. Contempt for historic Christian marriage
3. Liberalism in our pulpits
4. As it is put at the end of the book of Judges: “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).
5. What we are witnessing at the present time is unprecedented in America.
6. Joshua’s words to the children of Israel as they were preparing to enter Canaan are for us today. Joshua told them to keep their eyes on the Ark because “they had never been this way before” (Joshua 3:4).

**Conclusion:** Whatever culture says or does, we must “look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:2).