

Genesis ch.12-50 – The Way of Salvation / Redemption

As you continue to study the lives of the Patriarchs ie. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, continue looking for the progressive revelation of Jesus Christ being foreshadowed by the major events in their lives.

ch.20 Abraham and Abimelech:

Evidence of a faith needing further growth and development / the old self is still alive and kicking!

- What is the deeply rooted problem in Abraham's life which is also indicative of the times in which he lived? What caused him to lie (half-truth) again about his wife?
- Just how strong and deeply rooted is the old nature's drive for self-preservation?
- What might Abraham's confession to Abimelech have caused him to think and contemplate about his faith in God?
- Regarding Abimelech, God knew his intentions and thus kept him from sinning. God's mercy is restraint. God's wrath gives the green light to our ungodly deeds and sinful desires.
- Verse 17 and 18 quite interestingly indicate that Abraham's intercessory position did not directly correspond to his outward witness to Abimelech. In spite of this fleshly mistake, God kept His promise that He had made back in chapter 12, "I will bless those who bless you..."
- Recall Jesus' words of discipleship, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, pick up the cross, and follow Me."
- **DISCUSSION:** This incident occurred right before the birth of Isaac. As this awesome fulfillment was near, what theological lessons might Abraham have been learning through contemplating all that God had taken him through?

† What can we learn about "...grace through faith, not by works..." from Abraham's life up to this point?