Life of Abraham Outline

From The Outline Bible – an excellent Bible study tool!

Heart of Wisdom Bible Study Week 6 & 7. See Lessons here and lapbooks here.

I. THE CONVERSION AND CALLING OF ABRAM (12:1–5)
   A. The place (12:1): Ur of the Chaldeans (see Genesis 11:31).
   B. The promises (12:2–3): Abram will found a great nation; and God will bless him, make his name great, and cause him to bless others. Those who bless Abram will be blessed; those who curse him will be cursed. Everyone on earth will be blessed through him. This takes place through Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abram.
   C. The pilgrimage (12:4–5): Abram travels from Ur to Haran and from Haran to Canaan.

II. THE CANAAN OF ABRAM (12:6–9)
   A. Abram at Shechem (12:6–7): The Lord promises to give Canaan to Abram, and Abram builds an altar there.
   B. Abram at Bethel (12:8–9): Abram builds another altar.

III. THE CARNALITY OF ABRAM (FIRST OCCASION) (12:10–20)
   A. The famine (12:10): Abram goes from Canaan to Egypt to escape a famine.
   B. The falsehood (12:11–13): Afraid for his life, Abram tells Sarai to pretend she is his sister.
   C. The favor (12:14–16): Pharaoh rewards Abram with riches for Sarai’s sake, probably intending to marry her.
   D. The frustration (12:17): God plagues Pharaoh and his household for his plans to marry Sarai.

IV. THE CONDESCENSION OF ABRAM (13:1–18)
   A. The arrival (13:1–4): Abram arrives at Bethel and worships God again.
   B. The argument (13:5–7): The herdsmen of Abram and Lot (his nephew) have a dispute over grazing rights.
   C. The agreement (13:8–13)
      1. The terms (13:8–9): Abram allows Lot to select his own land.
      2. The tragedy (13:10–13): Lot foolishly chooses land close to the morally perverted city of Sodom.
   D. The assurance (13:14–18): After Lot’s departure, God again promises to make Abram’s descendants as numerous as the dust of the earth and to give them the land of Canaan.

V. THE COURAGE OF ABRAM (14:1–16)
   A. The villains (14:1–11)
2. **The retaliation** (14:5–11): Kedorlaomer and his allies defeat the armies of the five city-states, plunder their cities, and carry many people away as slaves.

B. **The victim** (14:12): Lot, now living in Sodom, is taken away as a slave.

C. **The victory** (14:13–16)
   1. **Abram’s army** (14:13–14): Upon learning of Lot’s capture, Abram and his 318 trained servants ride out to rescue Lot.
   2. **Abram's attack** (14:15): Abram divides his men and initiates a surprise attack at night.
   3. **Abram's achievements** (14:16): Kedorlaomer is defeated, and Lot is rescued.

VI. **The Communion of Abram** (14:17–24)
   A. **The godly and priestly king of Salem** (14:17–20): As he is returning from battle to his home in Hebron, Abram meets Melchizedek, who blesses him. Abram offers him a tenth of all the goods he has recovered from Kedorlaomer.

   B. **The godless and perverted king of Sodom** (14:21–24): In stark contrast, Abram refuses to have any fellowship with Bera, king of wicked Sodom.

VII. **The Covenant with Abram** (15:1–21)
   A. **Abram’s faulty assumption** (15:1–3): Abram complains that upon his death all his goods will be passed on to Eliezer, one of his servants from Damascus. Eliezer will then become the heir to the covenant.

   B. **God’s faithful assurance** (15:4–21)
     1. **The revelation** (15:4–5): God tells Abram that the promised heir will be Abram’s own son and that Abram’s descendants will be as numerous as the stars in the heavens!
     2. **The response** (15:6): “And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD declared him righteous because of his faith.”
     3. **The ratification** (15:7–17)
        a. The details (15:7–11): God ratifies his promise to Abram with a covenant sealed by blood.
        b. The dream (15:12): At sunset Abram falls into a deep sleep and sees troubling visions.
        c. The destiny (of Israel) (15:13–16): God speaks to Abram in his sleep, telling him his descendants will be enslaved for four hundred years. God also tells him that the oppressors will be punished, and that Abram’s descendants will be set free and depart with great riches.
        d. The descent (of God himself) (15:17): A smoking firepot and a flaming torch, probably symbolizing God himself, pass between the dead animals of the blood covenant.
     4. **The real estate** (15:18–21): God reveals to Abram the boundaries of the Promised Land, from the border of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

VIII. **The Compromise by Abram** (16:1–16)
   A. **The rationale for his compromise** (16:1–3)
     1. **The problem** (16:1): Sarai is still unable to bear a son.
2. **The plan** (16:1–3): Sarai convinces Abram to marry Hagar, her servant, in order to have a son through her.

**B. The results of his compromise** (16:4–16)

1. **Hagar’s marriage to Abram** (16:4): After Hagar conceives, she begins to look down upon Sarai.

2. **Hagar’s mistreatment by Sarai** (16:5–6): After suffering harsh treatment from the frustrated Sarai, Hagar flees into the desert.

3. **Hagar’s meeting with the Lord** (16:7–14)
   a. The Lord advises her (16:7–9): The angel of the Lord comes to her by a well and tells her, “Return to [Sarai] and submit to her authority.”
   b. The Lord assures her (16:10–14): The angel of the Lord tells Hagar that she will have innumerable descendants through her unborn son, who will be called Ishmael (“God hears”).

4. **Hagar’s mothering of Ishmael** (16:15–16): She gives birth to Ishmael when Abram is eighty-six years old.

**IX. The Circumcision of Abraham (17:1–27)**

**A. God and Abram** (17:1–14)

1. **Abram’s new title** (17:1–8): God changes Abram’s name from Abram (“exalted father”) to Abraham (“father of many”).

2. **Abram’s new task** (17:9–14)
   a. The particulars (17:9–13): As a sign of the covenant, he is to circumcise himself, all males in his camp, and all baby boys eight days after their birth.
   b. The penalty (17:14): Those who refuse to be circumcised are to be cut off from the Israelites.

**B. God and Sarai** (17:15–19)

1. **The renaming of Sarai** (17:15): God changes her name from Sarai to Sarah (“princess”).

2. **The reassuring of Sarah** (17:16–19): God promises that this barren woman will indeed become the mother of nations.

**C. God and Ishmael** (17:20–27)

1. **Revealing the future of Ishmael** (17:20–22): God tells Abraham that Ishmael will become the ancestor of twelve princes and a great nation.

2. **Removing the flesh of Ishmael** (17:23–27): At age ninety-nine, Abraham circumcises himself, the thirteen-year-old Ishmael, and all the men in his camp.

**X. The Compassion of Abraham (18:1–19:38)**

**A. The tremendous news** (18:1–15)

1. **The reception by Abraham** (18:1–8)
   a. Meeting with his heavenly visitors (18:1–3): The Lord himself and two angels visit Abraham near Hebron.
   b. Ministering to his heavenly visitors (18:4–8): Abraham prepares a meal of veal, cheese curds, milk, and bread for his visitors.

2. **The reaction of Sarah** (18:9–15)
   a. The details (18:9–10): In her tent Sarah overhears the Lord’s promise concerning the birth of Isaac.
c. The declaration (18:13–14): “Is anything too hard for the LORD? … Sarah will have a son.”
d. The denial (18:15): In fear, Sarah denies that she laughed in unbelief.

B. The tragic news (18:16–19:38)

1. The indictment against Sodom (18:16–22)
   a. Abraham’s faithfulness (18:16–19): God determines to tell Abraham about his plan for the city of Sodom, since Abraham has been chosen to be the father of a righteous people.

2. The intercession for Sodom (18:23–33)
   a. Pleading for fifty (18:23–26): Abraham asks if the Lord will spare the city for the sake of fifty righteous people found there. The Lord answers yes.
   d. Pleading for thirty (18:30): For thirty? Yes.

3. The incineration of Sodom (19:1–38)
   a. Predestruction events (19:1–14)
      (1) Lot and the angels (19:1–3): Two angels visit Lot, and he invites them to spend the night in his home.
      (2) Lot and the Sodomites (19:4–11): The men of Sodom demand that Lot hand over the two angels so that they can sexually molest them.
      (3) Lot and his family (19:12–14): In vain Lot warns his daughters’ fiancéés to flee the city.
   b. Destruction events (19:15–29)
      (1) The firmness (19:15–17): Reluctant to leave, Lot and his family are led out of the doomed city by the angels.
      (2) The fear (19:18–22): Lot begs that they be allowed to live in Zoar, a small village near Sodom.
      (4) The fatality (19:26): Looking back to the burning Sodom, Lot’s wife becomes a pillar of salt.
   c. Post-destruction events (19:30–38)
      (1) The supposition of two sisters (19:30–31): Lot’s daughters fear they will never marry and raise children.
      (2) The sins of two sisters (19:32–36): They get their father drunk and sleep with him in order to become pregnant.
      (3) The sons of two sisters (19:37–38): Moab, father of the Moabites, is born to Lot’s older daughter, and Ben-ammi, father of the Ammonites, to Lot’s younger daughter.
XI. THE CARNALITY OF ABRAHAM (SECOND OCCASION) (20:1–18)

A. Abraham and Abimelech: round one—deceiving (20:1–8)
   1. The deception (20:1–2): Again, fearing for his life, Abraham introduces Sarah as his sister.
   2. The dream (20:3–8)
      a. God informs Abimelech (20:3–6): In a dream God warns Abimelech that Sarah is married.
      b. God instructs Abimelech (20:7–8): God tells Abimelech to return Sarah to Abraham and promises that the patriarch will then pray for him.

B. Abraham and Abimelech: round two—defending (20:9–13)
   1. The painful question (asked of Abraham) (20:9–10): “Why have you done this to us?”
   2. The pitiful answer (given by Abraham) (20:11–13): Abraham says he feared that Abimelech would have killed him to marry Sarah.

C. Abraham and Abimelech: round three—delivering (20:14–18): Abimelech returns Sarah and compensates Abraham for his trouble. Abraham prays for Abimelech, and God lifts the curse he has placed upon Abimelech’s household.

XII. THE CELEBRATION OF ABRAHAM (21:1–21; 25:12–18)

A. The fulfillment (21:1–7)
   1. The nature of the fulfillment (21:1–2): Sarah gives birth to the heir of the covenant!
   2. The name for the fulfillment (21:3–7): He is named Isaac, meaning “laughter,” because everyone who hears of this will laugh.

B. The feast (21:8): The purpose is to celebrate Isaac’s weaning.


D. The fury (21:10–11): Sarah demands that Abraham order Hagar and Ishmael to leave the camp.

E. The farewell (21:12–14): After Abraham is reassured by God that Hagar will be provided for, he sends her away with a supply of food and water.

F. The fear (21:15–16): In the wilderness Hagar fears both of them will soon die of exposure.

G. The faithfulness (21:17–21; 25:12–18)
   1. The deliverance and development of Ishmael (21:17–21): God provides food and water for Ishmael in the wilderness and later guides him into adulthood.
   2. The descendants of Ishmael (25:12–18): Just as God had foretold, Ishmael fathers twelve sons.

XIII. THE CONTRACT BY ABRAHAM (21:22–34)

A. The persons (21:22): Abimelech and his commander, Phicol, come to make a treaty with Abraham.

B. The plan (21:23–24): Neither Abimelech nor Abraham will harm each other.

C. The problem (21:25–26): Abraham complains that Abimelech’s servants have taken away one of his wells. Abimelech says he knew nothing about it.

D. The pact (21:27–30): A special peaceful covenant between the two men is ratified as Abraham gives Abimelech some sheep and oxen.

E. The place (21:31–34): This is done at Beersheba (“well of the oath”).
XIV. **The Command to Abraham (22:1–24)**

A. **Abraham’s sorrow (22:1–8)**
      a. Isaac’s question (22:7): “Father? … Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?”
      b. Abraham’s answer (22:8): “God will provide a lamb, my son.”

B. **Isaac’s submission (22:9–10):** He allows Abraham to bind him on the altar.

C. **God’s substitute (22:11–24)**
   1. *The nature of Abraham’s offering* (22:11–13): He is commanded to offer up a nearby ram instead of Isaac.
   3. *The number of Abraham’s descendants* (22:15–19): The angel of the Lord again promises Abraham that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore.
   4. *The news concerning Abraham’s family* (22:20–24): Abraham learns that his brother Nahor has had eight sons. One of them is Bethuel, who will become the father of Rebekah (Isaac’s wife).

XV. **The Cave of Abraham (23:1–20)**

A. **Abraham’s tears (23:1–2):** He weeps for Sarah, who died at age 127.

B. **Abraham’s testimony (23:3–13):** He describes himself as a stranger and sojourner in Canaan and asks Ephron the Hittite if he may buy the cave of Machpelah that he might bury Sarah in it.

C. **Abraham’s transaction (23:14–20)**
   2. *The place* (23:17–20): the cave of Machpelah, located in Hebron

XVI. **The Commission by Abraham (24:1–67)**

A. **The plan (24:1–4):** Abraham instructs his servant (probably Eliezer) to find a wife for Isaac from Abraham’s native land of Mesopotamia.

B. **The problem (24:5–6):** Even if Eliezer cannot find a willing bride there, he is not to take Isaac there to live.

C. **The promises (24:7–9)**
   1. *God’s promise to Abraham (24:7–8):* Abraham remembers the Lord’s promise concerning the land of Canaan.
   2. *The servant’s promise to Abraham (24:9):* He will do exactly as Abraham has instructed.

D. **The preparation (24:10):** The servant loads ten camels with gifts and departs.

E. **The prayer (24:11–21)**
   1. *The request (24:11–14):* The servant asks the Lord to cause the woman chosen as Isaac’s bride to volunteer to provide water for him and his camels.
2. **The results** (24:15–21): Even as the servant is praying, Rebekah appears upon the scene and fulfills the sign.

F. **The presents** (24:22–33)
   2. **Laban and the servant** (24:29–33): Rebekah’s brother invites the servant into his home.

G. **The proposal** (24:34–58)
   1. **The overview by the servant** (24:34–48)
      a. The servant’s conversation with Abraham (24:34–41): The servant recounts to Laban the mission Abraham has given to him.
      b. The servant’s conversation with God (24:42–44): The servant recounts how God has answered his prayer.
      c. The servant’s conversation with Rebekah (24:45–48): The servant recounts his initial meeting with Rebekah.
   2. **The offer by the servant** (24:49–56): He gives Rebekah more costly jewelry and clothing and invites her to accompany him back to Canaan to marry Isaac.

H. **The persuasion** (24:57–60): “Are you willing to go with this man?” And [Rebekah] replied, “Yes, I will go.”

I. **The pilgrimage** (24:61): Abraham’s servant and Rebekah and her servants leave Mesopotamia for Canaan.

J. **The presentation** (24:62–67): Isaac is walking through a field when he meets his new bride. They marry and provide each other with love and comfort.

XVII. **The Closing Years of Abraham (25:1–11)**

A. **Abraham’s family** (25:1–4)
   2. **Abraham’s last sons** (25:2–4): Keturah bears him six sons, including Midian.

B. **Abraham’s fortune** (25:5–6): He passes on his wealth to his sons, giving the greatest part to Isaac.

C. **Abraham’s farewell** (25:7–11): He dies at the age of 175.1

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