

ABRAHAM—GOD'S KIND OF FATHER

DISCUSSION

One of the most outstanding “fathers” of the Old Testament was ABRAHAM.

1. His name includes the idea of “fatherhood.”
 - a. He was first named “Abram”, which means “exalted father.”
 - b. His name was changed by the Lord to “Abraham”, which meant “father of multitudes.”
2. Abraham was the father of Isaac through whom the Israelites descended.
3. Abraham was the father of Ishmael, through whom the Arabs descended.
4. Abraham is called “father” in his position over the Hadean world, in Luke 16.
5. Abraham is identified as father with reference to being justified by works.
6. Abraham is the father of the faithful, in that we may follow his example of obedience. Rom. 4:1, 12

Now, there is one reference to Abraham, from which we glean many lessons, which portrays him as the *kind of father God wants today*. Gen. 18:19 (Read or quote). From this passage we shall consider (1) The **Preliminary** Acquaintance, (2) the **Presenting** of Commands, (3) the **Power** of an Example, and (4) the **Purposes** of his fatherhood.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the PRELIMINARY ACQUAINTANCE.

Gen. 18:19. “For I have known him.....”

- A. God had already “called” Abraham to leave Ur of the Chaldees, and Abraham obeyed. Acts 7:1-3; Heb. 11:8
 1. God said He had “known” Abraham, so He would reveal His plan to punish Sodom for its homosexuality.
 - a. Abraham tried to bargain with God to spare the city if enough righteous people were there.
 - b. James describes Abraham as God's friend. Jas. 2:23
 2. Today, those “known” of God are those who begin and continue obeying the will of God.
 - a. God does **not** “know” some religious people. Mat. 7:21-23
 - b. Those who once know God, but leave Him, are no longer recognized as His people. Rom. 1:21, 28; Gal. 4:8-9; 1 John 2:4; 5:3
- B. So, a good acquaintance with God is essential to the obtaining of His blessings.

II. 2nd, the PRESENTING OF COMMANDS.

Gen.18:19. “For I have known him, in order that he may **command** his children and household....”

- A. Abraham's devotion to God compelled him to direct his **children**, then all his **household**, to respect God's commands.
 1. Israel was later instructed to urgently instruct children in the right way. Deut. 6:4-9
 2. Children today need to be instructed (from childhood) to know God's will. Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; cf 2 Tim. 3:14-15
 - a. When children enter the world, their minds are clean, and parents need to see that they learn the right things.
 - b. The word of God will guide young people through life, guiding

them toward heaven. Psa. 19:9-11; Eccl. 12:1

B. We too need to realize the importance of commands in relation to our eternal destiny. Rev. 22:14; 1 John 5:3

III. 3rd, the POWER OF EXAMPLE.

Gen. 18:19. "...that he may command his children and household **after him**...."

A. Abraham's life and commands were reinforced by his own **example**, as his children and household could SEE how to follow God.

1. Children do not always follow instructions, but they most always follow the example set before them.
2. Children usually do what they **see** their parents do.
3. The way they see parents treat each other (and other people) is imbedded in their minds as the way THEY should behave.
 - a. If a father abuses one's mother, sons are likely to do the same in their own marriages in years to come.
 - b. If a mother does not respect the leadership of one's father, daughters are likely to do the same in their marriages later.
 - c. The use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages is most often prevalent when practiced by one or both parents.
 - d. A true story exists about a man who was awakened one night by a police officer to inform him that his daughter had been drinking, and had been killed in a car accident; so the father went to his liquor cabinet to get a drink to settle his nerves, and observed that his bottle was missing.

B. A sad story was observed on a recent Dr. Phil show, about an 18 year old boy who had raped his own sister repeatedly, to get what his body needed, as he had learned by watching pornography with his father (who also practiced cross dressing), and had been doing so since he was a boy of 7.

1. It would be much better for a father to lead in Bible reading and prayer and instill within the desire to inherit eternal life.
2. Sadly, with many young people, the **only** knowledge they have of the Bible is the reference to a few passages from the preacher on Sunday morning, with no guidance and reading of the Bible at home.

IV. 4th, the PURPOSES OF GOOD FATHERHOOD.

Gen. 18:19. "...**that** they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice....**that** the Lord may bring to Abraham what He hath spoken to him."

A. Two reasons are given in this text for God's willingness to confide in Abraham, and the both begin with the word "**that**", and both are connected, for God could not have fulfilled His promise to Abraham **if** Abraham had not taught his children and household in the right way.

1. 1st, "that" they would keep the way of the Lord to do righteousness and justice.
2. 2nd, "that" God would then be able to bless all nations spiritually through Jesus Christ. Gen.12:3; Gal. 3:16

B,. Who knows how many generations and thousands of people will enter heaven through a father's faithful example?

1. The late brother Gus Nichols of Jasper, Alabama obeyed the gospel as a young man, and soon began preaching, and reared several sons who also preached, and through their influence, literally thousands have been saved, many of whom also became gospel preachers, and in turn have converted thousands.
2. I began to preach because of this influence, as well as the fact that my ancestors had been faithful members of the Lord's church for three generations before me, and had not even **one** of these generations failed to set a good example, I might not ever have even **become** a Christian and given the hope of heaven.

CONCLUSION

- I. True, Abraham made some mistakes in his life, but he overcame them and became a worshiper and servant of God.
 - A. As he journeyed toward the land of Canaan, he would always erect altars so he could worship God the God of heaven.
 1. As he journeyed from place to place, he **could** have "reasoned" that since no one in each place believed in God, he could just live like everyone else and not worship God.
 2. But, as a believer in God, he was different, and saw to it that he did worship God, and spread his influence **for** God.
 - B. Father's today need to always provide the opportunity for children to become true worshipers of God for time and eternity.
- II. Fathers, mothers, children, do you need to obey the Lord today?

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