

### **Walking in the Steps of that Faith of our father Abraham**

In our Bible study, one of the most important principles is context. The Lord is emphatic about not adding to or subtracting from His Word in the Old and New Testament ([Deuteronomy 4:1-2](#); [Revelation 22:18-19](#))

Even the best known verse's meaning ([John 3:16](#)) can easily be twisted if we neglect or forget the context. The verse is quoted often, but do you know what the two verses after this verse are? How about the two verses before it? How does it fit in the context of the book of John? How about the context of the Bible as a whole? Do we know what chapter 3 of John is teaching or its theme? In our age, some of the most twisted verses of Scripture are listed here:

[Ephesians 2:8](#) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:  
**Ephesians 2:9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.

[Romans 3:27](#) Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

**Romans 3:28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

[Romans 4:1](#) What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

**Romans 4:2** For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.

**Romans 4:3** For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

**Romans 4:4** Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

**Romans 4:5** But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

[James 2:23](#) And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

**James 2:24** Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

The aim of our study today, is to follow the life of Abraham in the Bible because Abraham is a type of God's servants today, in fact, the Bible teaches us by explanation and illustration that the pattern of Abraham's walk, justification, sanctification, and vision is the pattern for us to follow today.

**The major divisions of today's study is as follows:**

**I. The Call of Abram – Call demands obedience**

**II. Abram goes through a trial**

**III. Abram is Sanctified (separation)**

**IV. Abram the hero in World War I**

**V. Abram is Justified by Faith**

**V. Abraham is justified by works – Context: Faith without works is dead**

**In addition to the notes we will add:**

**I. Abraham's walk before God** ([Genesis 17:1-2](#))

**II. Abraham's vision** ([Hebrews 11:8-10](#))

[Hebrews 12:1](#) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

**Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### God Calls Abraham – Genesis 12-13 – [Isaiah 48:1](#); [II Chronicles 20:7](#)

While we have come to the end of the first major division of Genesis, we have in no way come to the end of God's scope. God weaves His scope by revealing His Son throughout the entire Bible. You may remember that two names stood out of the seventy proceeding from Noah's three sons. There are two names in the table of the Nations, each having commentaries which the others do not have, Nimrod and Eber. The first, Nimrod, in direct defiance of God's Words, ([Genesis 10:6-10](#)) gathered people to do just the opposite of God's command to "replenish the earth". Nimrod's commentary reads that he was a "mighty hunter" before the Lord, and nothing is said about him after the confusion of the language, except in history of the Pagan religions that were scattered around the world. Eber, on the other hand, has a son named Peleg, in whose time the earth was divided. Eber seemed to have a Word from God in naming his son, because Peleg means "divided". But, more importantly, just like from Adam's son Seth a genealogical line proceeds ([Genesis 11:16-26](#)), out of Shem which will ultimately come the "Seed of the woman" prophesied in [Genesis 3:15](#). Eber's genealogical line will produce Abraham, which we will see becomes a type of God's people in all ages of history. We find that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, ([Hebrews 13:8](#)), and we will find that Salvation, justification, sanctification, and walking by faith, is all taught in Abraham's life. Abraham is a type of the servant of God today, In fact, Abraham is used as an illustration of justification in [Romans 4](#) and [James 2](#), and the Gentile today has his inheritance from the blessing part of the Abrahamic covenant as stated in [Galatians 3](#).

### The Generations of Terah – (Proceeded from Eber [Genesis 10:21-22](#); [11:16-32](#))

[Genesis 11:27](#) Now these *are* the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot.

**Genesis 11:28** And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees.

**Genesis 11:29** And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife *was* Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah.

**Genesis 11:30** But Sarai was barren; she *had* no child.

**Genesis 11:31** And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

**Genesis 11:32** And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

### I. The Call – Call demands obedience

[Genesis 12:1](#) Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto **a land that I will shew thee:**

**Genesis 12:2** And **I will make of thee a great nation,** and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and **thou shalt be a blessing:**

**Genesis 12:3** And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

God had called Abram before he went to Haran – Out of Idolatry: [Joshua 24:1-2](#)

[Acts 7:2](#) And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,

**Acts 7:3** And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.

**Acts 7:4** Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

**Acts 7:5** And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not *so much as* to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when *as yet* he had no child.

### God demands obedience just like today

[Genesis 12:4](#) So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram *was* seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

### Look who went with Abram

[Genesis 12:5](#) And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

### The Canaanite was in the Land

[Genesis 12:6](#) And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite *was* then in the land.

### The Lord appears to Abram after his obedience

[Genesis 12:7](#) And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

### Abram worships God – Builds and altar

[Genesis 12:8](#) And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, *having* Beth-el on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

## II. Abram goes through a trial

### Abram's faith is tested – A Trial for Abraham [James 1](#)

[Genesis 12:9](#) And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

[Genesis 12:10](#) And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine *was* grievous in the land.

### Abram gives Sarai bad advise

[Genesis 12:11](#) And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou *art* a fair woman to look upon:

[Genesis 12:12](#) Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This *is* his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

[Genesis 12:13](#) Say, I pray thee, thou *art* my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

[Genesis 12:14](#) And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she *was* very fair.

[Genesis 12:15](#) The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

[Genesis 12:16](#) And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

[Genesis 12:17](#) And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.

### Abram faces a Canaanite King about Abram's folly

[Genesis 12:18](#) And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What *is* this *that* thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she *was* thy wife?

[Genesis 12:19](#) Why saidst thou, She *is* my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take *her*, and go thy way.

[Genesis 12:20](#) And Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

### Abram goes into the South – Notice no altar built during this test?

[Genesis 13:1](#) And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

[Genesis 13:2](#) And Abram *was* very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

**Yes, Abram had to return to the first place He worshipped God and build an altar**

**Genesis 13:3** And he went on his journeys from the south even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Hai;

**Genesis 13:4** Unto the place of the altar, which he had made **there at the first**: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

**III. Abram is Sanctified (separation)**

**Genesis 13:5** And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

**Genesis 13:6** And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

**Genesis 13:7** And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

**Genesis 13:8** And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we *be* brethren.

**Abram is the eldest, does he tell Lot to "get lost"? – Abram's treasure is in God**

**Genesis 13:9** *Is* not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if *thou wilt take* the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if *thou depart* to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

**Where is Lot's treasure of his heart?**

**Genesis 13:10** And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

**Genesis 13:11** Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

**Genesis 13:12** Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and **pitched his tent toward Sodom**.

**Genesis 13:13** But the men of Sodom *were* wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

**God re-appears and re-affirms the promise to Abram after his sanctification**

**Genesis 13:14** And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

**Genesis 13:15** For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

**Genesis 13:16** And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered.

**Genesis 13:17** Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

**Abram worships God**

**Genesis 13:18** Then Abram removed *his* tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which *is* in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

**IV. Abram the hero in World War I**

**Genesis 14:1** And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations;

**Genesis 14:2** *That these* made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar.

**Genesis 14:3** All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea.

**Genesis 14:4** Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

**Genesis 14:5** And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that *were* with him, and smote the Rephaims in Ashteroth Karnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim,

**Genesis 14:6** And the Horites in their mount Seir, unto El-paran, which *is* by the wilderness.

**Genesis 14:7** And they returned, and came to En-mishpat, which *is* Kadesh, and smote all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that dwelt in Hazezon-tamar.

**Genesis 14:8** And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same *is* Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim;

**Genesis 14:9** With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nations, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings with five.

**Genesis 14:10** And the vale of Siddim *was full of* slimepits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain.

#### **The city of Sodom is sacked – Who was now living in Sodom?**

**Genesis 14:11** And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way.

**Genesis 14:12** And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

#### **Abram hears the bad news**

**Genesis 14:13** And there came one that had escaped, and told **Abram the Hebrew**; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these *were* confederate with Abram.

#### **Abram raises an army out of his own house**

**Genesis 14:14** And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained *servants*, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued *them* unto Dan.

#### **Abram's battle plan – "Divide and Conquer"**

**Genesis 14:15** And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which *is* on the left hand of Damascus.

**Genesis 14:16** And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

#### **Abram stands before two kings**

**Genesis 14:17** And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that *were* with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which *is* the king's dale.

**Genesis 14:18** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God.

#### **The King of Salem**

**Genesis 14:19** And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

**Genesis 14:20** And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

**Genesis 14:21** And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.

#### **The King of Sodom**

**Genesis 14:22** And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,

**Genesis 14:23** That I will not *take* from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that *is* thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

**Genesis 14:24** Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

#### **V. Abram is Justified by Faith**

**Genesis 15:1** After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I *am* thy shield, *and* thy exceeding great reward.

**Genesis 15:2** And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house *is* this Eliezer of Damascus?

**Genesis 15:3** And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

**Genesis 15:4** And, behold, the word of the LORD *came* unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

**Genesis 15:5** And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

**Genesis 15:6** And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

**Genesis 15:7** And he said unto him, I *am* the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

**And the commentary in Romans – (Romans 3.27)**

**Romans 4:1** What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

**Romans 4:2** For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.

**Romans 4:3** For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

**Romans 4:4** Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

**Romans 4:5** But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

**Romans 4:6** Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

**Romans 4:7** *Saying*, Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

**Romans 4:8** Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

**Romans 4:9** *Cometh* this blessedness then upon the circumcision *only*, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

**Romans 4:10** How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

**Romans 4:11** And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had yet* being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

**Romans 4:12** And the father of circumcision to them *who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had* being yet uncircumcised.

**Romans 4:13** For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, *was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but* through the righteousness of faith.

**Romans 4:14** For if they which are of the law *be* heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

**Romans 4:15** Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression.

**Romans 4:16** Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

**Romans 4:17** (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

**Romans 4:18** Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

**Romans 4:19** And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

**Romans 4:20** He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

**Romans 4:21** And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.



**Romans 4:22** And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

**Romans 4:23** Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

**Romans 4:24** But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

**Romans 4:25** Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

### **V. Abraham is justified by works – Context: Faith without works is dead**

**James 2:1** My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.

**James 2:2** For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

**James 2:3** And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

**James 2:4** Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

**James 2:5** Harken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

**James 2:6** But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

**James 2:7** Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

**James 2:8** If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

**James 2:9** But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

**James 2:10** For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

**James 2:11** For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

**James 2:12** So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

**James 2:13** For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

**James 2:14** What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

**James 2:15** If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

**James 2:16** And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit?

**James 2:17** Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

**James 2:18** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

**James 2:19** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

**James 2:20** But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

**James 2:21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

**James 2:22** Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

**James 2:23** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

**James 2:24** Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

**James 2:25** Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way?

**James 2:26** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.