

## The Gospel According to John

3-25-2020

1. Last week I taught Joh 8:31-38, and the *Doctrine of Slavery* and *Doctrine of the Will of God*. When the clock tolled 7:45 P.M. we were about to begin an analysis of Joh 8:39-47 by way of the *Doctrine of Abraham*.
2. Before we continue our study, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.
3. If you want to hear an audio presentation of this lesson please go to *westbankbiblechurch.com* and click on *streaming audio of services*.
4. Now let's see what we can learn from Joh 8:39-47.

KJV

Joh 8:39 They answered and said unto him, **Abraham** is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were **Abraham's** children, ye would do the works of **Abraham**.

Joh 8:40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not **Abraham**.

Joh 8:41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

Joh 8:42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

Joh 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Joh 8:45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

Joh 8:46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

Joh 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

NIV

Joh 8:39 "**Abraham** is our father," they answered. "If you were **Abraham's** children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things **Abraham** did."

Joh 8:40 As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. **Abraham** did not do such things.

Joh 8:41 You are doing the things your own father does." "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

Joh 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.

Joh 8:43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.

Joh 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Joh 8:45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

Joh 8:46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

Joh 8:47 He who belongs to God hears what God says. **The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."**

### ***Doctrine of Abraham***

#### Background

1. Sumerian Myths teach that: just after the flood in about 5000 B.C. during the time of Nimrod-bar-Cush, idolatry was born. The worship of multiple gods soon spread from Babylon throughout the world.
2. Satan unveiled a facade of much of God's reality to come. For example, an essential part of the Sumerian Myths involved a cross, a virgin birth, and a resurrection. All of this was done in hopes of confusing mankind in order to obfuscate the reality when it came.

Gen 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:

3. God did not choose Abram because of anything he was then doing, but because of what God in His omniscience saw Abram later do - faith in the Messiah to come. The Lord distinctly declares: "For when he was but one (*man*) I called him." (Isa 51:2)

3.1 There were others just as needy and some perhaps morally better but God in his sovereignty chose Abraham. He saw this man's choices and called Him. He received the imputed righteousness of God by means of faith in the Christ to come.

Jam 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.

3.1.1 The reason for God's command to leave Babylonia was the failure of mankind at the tower of Babel. The best was to cure this failure: God decided to create nations. From His sovereignty God also decided to select a people, which would later become the promised nation, the one and only Priest nation--Israel.

3.2 By sovereign grace, God set up one man, Abram, as the head of one of those nations through whom righteousness would one day come. From the loins of Abram would come not only a Savior but a righteous King Who would rule the earth.

3.3 It seems heartless to ask a son to leave his father and family, but God was asking the son to leave a godless father, a godless family and move to a land God would show him. (Jos 24:2, 14)

3.4 It makes no difference where it is or how appealing or unappealing. If the Lord leads us there, it is the land for us.

3.4.1 We find the will of God (certainly to include His geographical will) by the use of the two power options. (Rom 12:1-2)

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3.4.2 Literally, Abram was being led out of the land of Ur into the land of Canaan. Spiritually, Abram was being led to a heavenly country. He thus confessed that he was a stranger and a pilgrim in the earth.

Gen 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:

4. The only possible way in which a man, who is of the lost race of Adam, can be a blessing to another is to become a channel through which God will pour Himself.

4.1 God used Abram as a nest in which to hatch-out all the divine principles of salvation by grace and thus Abraham and his family could become a blessing.

Gen 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.

5. Only eternity will reveal how true this has been in the history of the nations. I believe that the Lord has blessed the United States because this nation is a haven for Jews.

6. When a man dies, a physician has to write on the death certificate the cause of death. When a nation dies, more often than not, the cause of death is that the nation has mistreated the Jews.

6.1 When Ham rebelled against Shem, one-by-one, the tribes of Ham were destroyed or reduced to a minor state: Egypt, North Africa, Iran, Iraq, the Turks, Palestinians, etc.

6.2 When the Greeks overran Palestine and desecrated the altar in the Jewish temple in c. 168 B.C., they were soon conquered by Rome. When Rome killed Paul and destroyed Jerusalem, the fall of Rome began.

6.3 Spain was reduced to a fifth-rate nation after the Inquisition against the Jews; Poland fell after their pogroms against its Jewish citizens.

6.4 Hitler's Germany went down after its orgies of Anti-Semitism; Britain lost her empire when she broke her faith with Israel by rejecting the Balfour Declaration. "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Gen 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.

6.5. So, Abram departed from Haran as the Lord had spoken unto him. I would be remiss if I didn't note his interlude with reversionism. Against the instructions of the Lord he at first took his family and has to wait in Haran for a certain period.

6.6 Genesis chapter eleven provides insight into the event.

Gen 11:27 Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot.

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

Gen 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.

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

Gen 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.

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

7. It is a great thing to obey God, and to obey Him meticulously. The fact that Abram allowed his old father to cross the river with him was an act of disobedience.

7.1 Only the obedience of faith is in view here. When the Lord tells the story in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, there is no hint of a delayed obedience, it is one straight account of *Abram's* travels, and it reads, "By faith *Abraham* obeyed, when he was called to go out." Heb 11:8

Heb 11:8 By faith *Abraham*, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

**Footnote: In the above two paragraphs I have used italics to briefly note: Abram means "father of wind or nothing." Abraham means "father of many people." Abram will not become Abraham until he believes God's promise to provide a special son Isaac from whom all the world would be blessed.**

7.1.1 Of all the idolaters of the land of Ur, it would seem that only Lot caught the same vision given to Abraham and Sarah. Lot believed God. Something in the faith and life of his uncle Abraham showed him the glory that had been revealed to Abraham.

8. Lot was not as strong as Abraham; he would cause Abraham a lot of trouble. Lot was not able to save his wife and children, but he himself would be justified, and reach the promised land of Canaan.

Gen 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.

8.1 "They went forth ... they came ..."

8.1.1 There was no dallying. They started, and they arrived. The life of faith consists in pressing on to the end of the road and the goal of salvation.

8.1.2 God had given the promise, "I will ... I will ...." and these promises were unconditional. When Abram stepped out and traveled, it was the proof that he believed the "I will" of the promise. See 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel chapter 18 for examples of the many "I wills."

8.1.3 The Holy Spirit, in the New Testament, teaches us that the Gospel was preached to Abraham when God said, "In thee shall all nations be blessed." (Gal 3:8)

Gal 3:8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."

Gal 3:9 So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

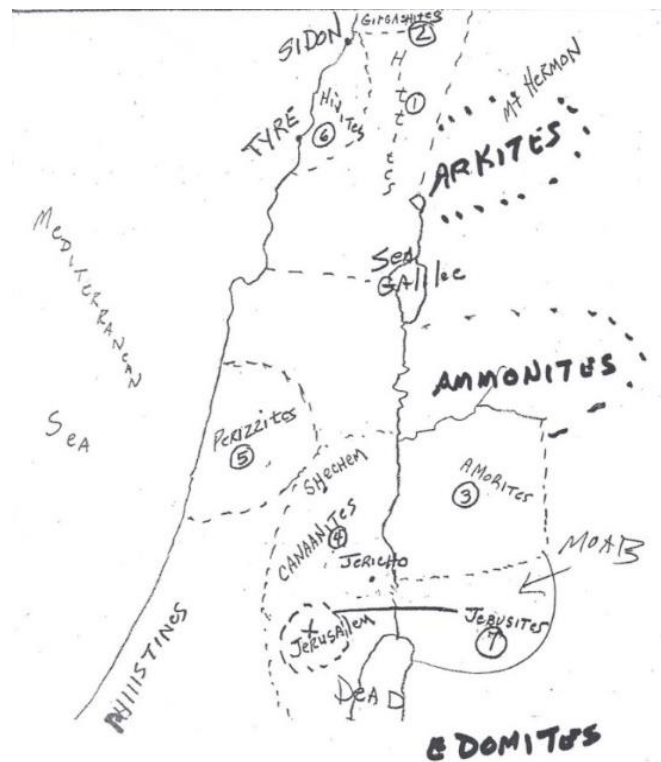
Gal 3:10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

Gal 3:11 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."

Gen 12:6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Shechem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

9. "The Canaanites had settled the land of promise ..."

Gen 9:18 And the sons of Noah, that went forth from the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan.



9.1 These were the sons of Ham, and they intended to oppose the way of God's people at every step. The Canaanites were in the main demon possessed peoples; Satan made sure his people would do everything possible to block the way of God's promise.

10. Frequently the Old Testament speaks of the gods of the various nations surrounding Israel.

10.1 The Amorites had Molech.

1Ki 11:7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

10.1.1 The worship of Molech included child sacrifices and sexual perversion.

2Ki 23:10 And Josiah defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.

10.1.2 Topheth was an area in the valley of Hinnom, just south of Jerusalem, where child sacrifices were made to Molech.

Jer 7:30 "The people of Judah have done evil in my eyes, declares the LORD. They have set up their detestable idols in the house that bears my Name and have defiled it.

Jer 7:31 They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in the fire -- something I did not command, nor did it enter my mind.

Jer 7:32 So beware, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when people will no longer call it Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter, for they will bury the dead in Topheth until there is no more room.

Jer 7:33 Then the carcasses of this people will become food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away.

Jer 7:34 I will bring an end to the sounds of joy and gladness and to the voices of bride and bridegroom in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem, for the land will become desolate.



10.1.3 There is evidence the Amorites also worshiped Hadad and Anath; it would seem the Amorite deities were forced upon the Canaanites by the invading Amorites.

10.2 Much of the information about the gods of the Canaanites come from ancient records found in various digs located in Syria at an ancient site called Ugarit.

11. Now let's continue the study by analyzing Gen 12:7.

Gen 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.

11.1 "And the Lord appeared unto Abram ..."

11.1.1 There were to be great trials, great struggles and great blessings. The Lord who called Abram at the beginning now appears to him as he enters the land. With God such is always the case. His grace meets us at every point in our journey.

11.1.2 A nation may put soldiers on the field of battle without sufficient ammunition and supplies; but not so with God, there is always enough of His grace to go around. The battle recall is the Lord's.

11.2 God has never required anything of a believer that He has not already furnished.

11.2.1 God demands righteousness and provides Christ. God demands conflict and He, Himself, comes to fight for His own.

Exo 14:13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

Exo 14:14 The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Exo 14:15 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.

Exo 14:16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

11.2.2 The New Testament tells us God was not promising something solely to the physical descendants of Abram, but He was promising it to Christ and His descendants.

11.2.3 "Now the promises were made to Abram and to his offspring." It does not say, 'And to off-springs,' referring to many; but, referring to one, And to your offspring,' which is Christ" (Gal 3:16, RSV).

Gal 3:16 The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.

Gal 3:17 What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise.

Gal 3:18 For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

11.2.4 In modern language it would be: God, party of the first part, makes a promise to Abraham and Christ, joint parties of the second part ... But suppose that Abraham goes bankrupt? That makes no difference as long as Christ remains solvent.

11.2.5 The promises are sure because they were made between God the Father and God the Son.

11.2.6 The New Testament quotes this passage in order to make clear that God knew the difference between one and more than one, and that He used the singular here and not the plural because He was talking about Christ.

11.2.7 This is great teaching on the nature of the Bible. Some insist that the thoughts and not the words are inspired. Satan hates the doctrine of verbal inspiration because he knows that such a belief is the true point on the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Eph 6:18 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

11.2.8 If he can break off the point of the Word of God, he will save himself many a riposte. Everyone who denies the inspiration of the Word plays into the devil's hands. God indicates in Heb 4:12 that He is quite capable of providing in writing exactly what He means.

2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

11.3 "There built he an altar ..."

11.3.1 In the place of the appearance of the presence of God, stood the altar which signified sacrifice, worship and communion. Back in Ur God had told Abram ... to go "to a land that I will show you."

11.3.2 Now Abram has seen it and God says, "this land I will give to your descendants." Abram builds an altar, for there is worship and communion that goes with the gifts and promises of God.

Gen 12:8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel 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.

12. Verse 8: "He removed from thence ..."

12.1 Abram by now was learning that the life of faith is a life of pilgrimage. From Ur to Haran, from Haran to Shechem and then to Bethel--from plain to mountain and mountain to plain. God may call some of His children to settle down, but others He calls to a life of pilgrimage.

12.2 Even though we have homes, remember in this the devil's world we are pilgrims. The only land Abram ever bought was a burying place. He looked for a city which had foundations, whose builder and maker was God. (Heb 11:10).

Heb 11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

Heb 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

12.3 The believer should never have his heaven in a bank; he should in fact always have his bank in heaven. Stocks, bonds, and deeds may be possessed, but they should never possess the believer.

12.4 "And pitched his tent ... he builded an altar ..."

12.4.1 Abram was what men call a nomad but he had his tent and his altar and he was walking with God; as with us, God had a way of teaching Abram that the life of faith is subject to change without notice.

12.4.2 Back in the land of the Chaldee, his brother Nahor built a city and called it after his own name (Gen 24:10). The world might have considered Nahor a success and Abram a failure, but with God it was the other way around.

Gen 24:2 Abraham said to his chief servant ...

Gen 24:3 I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living,

Gen 24:4 but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

Gen 24:5 The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to Ur?"

Gen 24:6 "Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said.

Gen 24:7 "The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'-- he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son near Haran ...

Gen 24:10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and left, taking with him all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor.

Gen 24:11 He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water.

Gen 24:12 Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

Gen 24:13 See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water.

Gen 24:14 May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'-- let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."

Gen 24:15 Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor.

Gen 24:16 The girl was very beautiful ...

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