
Abraham & God's Complex Plan

Lesson Four

Reading: Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-21

Introductory Thoughts

Before we were even created, God had already developed a plan for saving us from sin. The plan culminated in the death of Jesus on the cross, but it actually began much earlier. We begin to watch it unfold all the way back in Genesis 12. This is when God chose Abraham and Sarah to be the founders of a brand new nation.

God's plan of salvation takes years to develop. It involves many people and events and takes several twists and turns. It was a very costly and time-consuming process for God. He invested a great amount of time and thought, heartache and energy, and then ultimately the death of His Son to save us from sin.

- **Read 1 Peter 1:18-20.** When did God develop the Plan of Salvation?

God's Plan Of Salvation

- **Read 1 Peter 1:13-22.** This passages lists several things God wanted to accomplish through Jesus. Write down the ones you see.
- **God's Plan in a nutshell.** God's plan has two primary functions. The 1st is to free us from the punishment of sin, and the 2nd to teach us how to be holy again.

To accomplish this, God needed first to create His own nation to add to the world. He would create it through His miraculous power, leaving no doubt it originated from Him. Once He built them up, He would get the world's attention on them so that everyone could observe what it means to be God's people. He would then give this nation His rules and teach them how to be holy. He would show through them how to achieve forgiveness and draw near to God. Once the lessons were learned, God would then send to earth the sacrifice that would free men from their sins. All men would then be free to join His nation and forever be His Kingdom and His children.

2. The Beginning Of God's Plan Of Salvation

This section details the part of God's plan revealed in the book of Genesis. Read the following verses and answer the questions.

A. Abraham is chosen to be the father of God's miraculous nation.

- Read Genesis 12:1-3. What promises did God make to Abraham?
- Read Romans 4:18-20. Why was it a miracle that God created a nation from Abraham and Sarah?

B. Abraham is given a child, and his descendants begin to grow in number.

- What was the name of Abraham's son (Genesis 21:3)? And his grandsons (Genesis 25:24-28)?

The name of Abraham's grandson was Jacob. God later changed his name to Israel. Jacob had 12 sons. Their descendants were known as the 12 tribes of Israel.

- How many people made up the nation of Israel by the end of the book of Genesis (Genesis 46:27)?

c. Abraham's descendants are sent by God to live in the land of Egypt for a time.

Joseph, Abraham's great-grandson, says God sent them to Egypt to spare their lives (Genesis 50:20) from a famine. Egypt alone had enough food to sustain their family. But there was also another benefit to moving there. Israelites were detested by Egypt (Genesis 46:34). This is a benefit to God's plan because it would keep the nation of Israel pure. They would not intermarry with Egyptians and lose their identity as Israel.
