

## ABRAHAM: “FATHER OF MANY NATIONS”

By Keith Greer

“...We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone... ”{John 8:33} Yes, the Jews were quite proud of their heritage, and, yet, Jesus reminded them that “ ... If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. ”{John 8:39}

When we are first introduced to this great patriarch, God told Abram to “ ... Get out of your country, from your family ... to a land I will show you ... ” {Genesis 12:1} Upon our initial meeting of this great Bible character, one thing that truly impresses one is his complete confidence and faith in God's words. He made four promises here to Abraham. He would become a father, through him a great nation would be born, and land would be given that nation, and **ALL** other nations would be from his seed. (Genesis 12:2-7) We don't see that Abraham asked why, for time to prepare, or even where he would be going, but rather, “... Abram departed as the LORD had spoken.” {Genesis 12:4} The Hebrew writer says “ ... and he went out, not knowing where he was going.” {Hebrews 11: 8} God had spoken it-that was enough for Abraham!

Abraham was a special man, but with the same shortcomings all men still have today. When he and Sarah went into Egypt, he feared he would be killed and she would be taken because of her beautiful appearance. So what did this great man do? He asked her to “Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, ...” {Genesis 12:14} Yet, by deceiving Pharaoh, his house was beset with great and terrible plagues by God. By bringing these things upon Pharaoh, God showed His displeasure for Abraham's actions, and lack of faith in God. All this shows us, is that Abraham was a man, and, yet God would use this man in a very special way to further His cause.

Many times, when we study these great Old Testament characters, we think they were some kind of “super humans.” Yet, they were simple men and women with great faith and determination to follow God's commandments. Why did God place them into inspired record? So we could learn from them, not only the good characteristics, but from their weaknesses also. God can use all of us if we will only place our trust in His hands and not our own! \*\*\*