

Saturday Study

7:00 -9:00 pm

Los Altos Grace
in Room 13

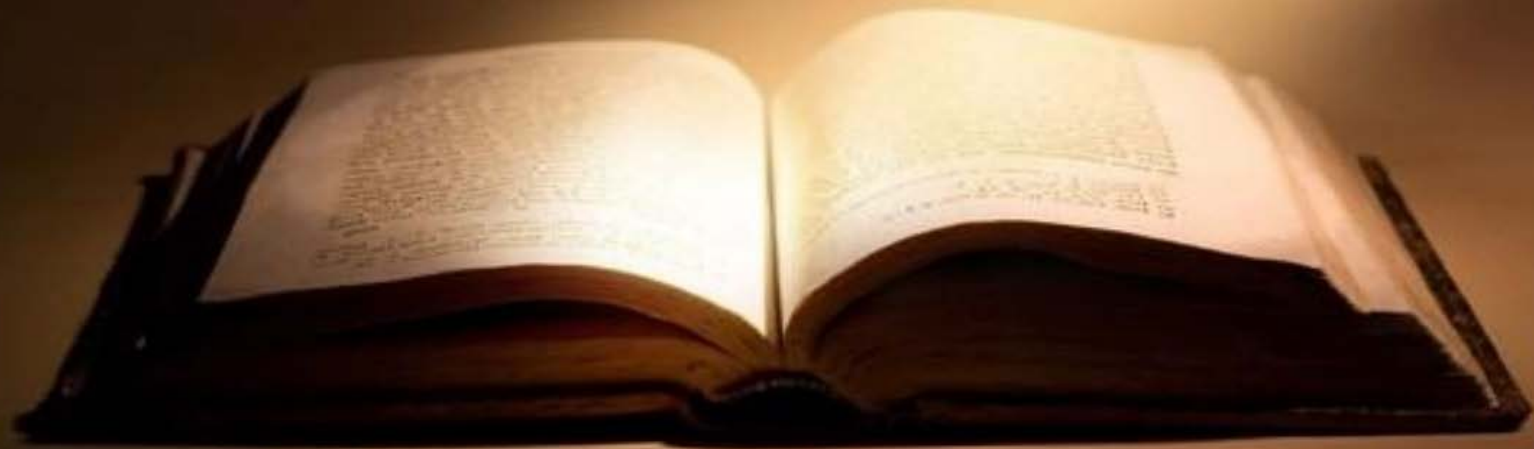
Guided by Lee Wadsworth

Week 2
Genesis 6-23

Study Details Online - LosAltosGrace.org/Saturday

Noah

Chapter 6



Who was Noah?

- 600 years old when he entered the Ark with his family (8 people), 950 years old when he died
- Noah was a preacher of God's righteous judgement (2 Peter 2:5)
- Obedient to God
 - Genesis 6:22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.
 - Genesis 7:5 And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him.
- Genealogies may have gaps – but if no gaps, then Noah lived until Abraham was 58

Sons of God / Daughters of Men

- Who are the “Sons of God?”
- V.4 - Results of union is something special – giants / mighty men of old
- **Numbers 13:33** There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.
- Source of Greek/Roman god myths?
- One common view is that “Sons of God” are from the line of Seth and “Daughters of Men” are from Cain – but this does not explain the “giants”

Angels Called “Sons of God”

- **Job 1:6** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.
- **Job 2:1** Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.
- **Job 38:7** When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Difficulty

- **Matthew 22:29-30** Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. **30** For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.
- But we are not talking about marriage or angels *in heaven...*

Angels Can Look Like Men

- The writer to the Hebrews mentions that angels can be entertained without man's knowing it (Hebrews 13:2). Surely angels must be convincingly like men.
- The homosexual men of Sodom were very capable of judging sexuality. They were attracted by the 'male' angels who came to destroy the city (cf. Genesis 19:1ff, especially verse 5).

Special Group of Bad Angels

- Passages following these verses mention Noah and Sodom
- **2Peter 2:4** For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
- **Jude 1:6** And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;
- Note that even Satan is not bound with a chain and put into the bottomless pit until the end of the tribulation

Can Explain Much

- Satan desiring to create an unredeemable race of half-breeds
- Interesting phrase in V. 4: “In those days, and also afterward”
- Can explain Goliath and God’s command to wipe out every man, woman, and child when Israel was retaking the land
- Can also explain Noah being described as a man “perfect in his generations”

Humankind, Completely Corrupted

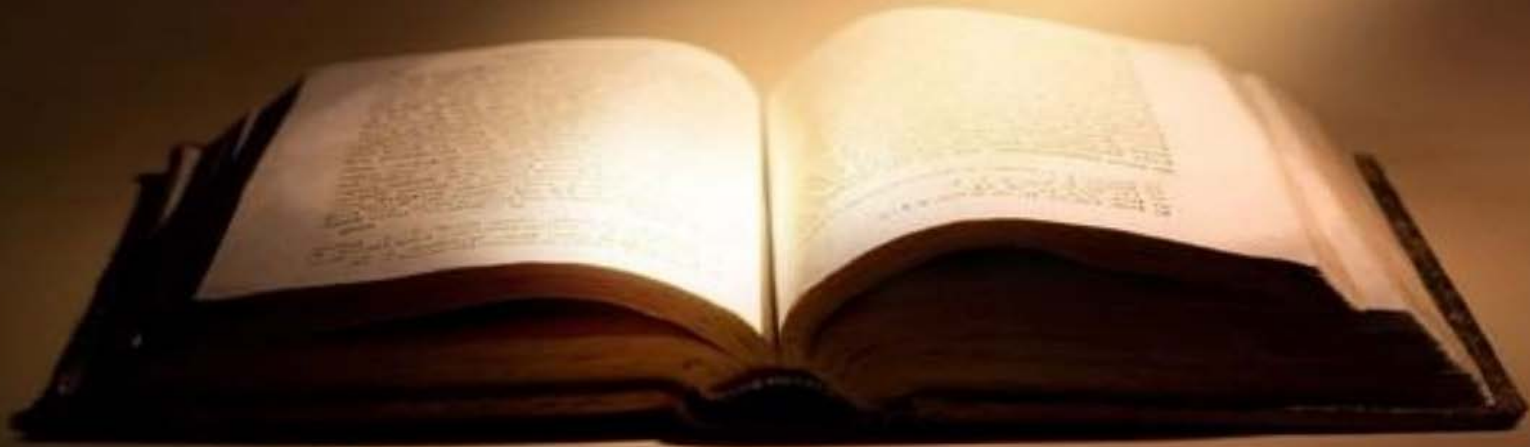
- Before the flood:
 - Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.
 - Genesis 6:11,12 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.
 - Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- After the flood: “The imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth” (V. 8:21)

Anthropomorphic Description

- **Genesis 6:6** And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.
- **Numbers 23:19** God *is* not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
- The Bible will often describe God in human terms to help our understanding of a God beyond our complete comprehension

The Flood

Chapters 7-9



Characteristics of the Flood

- Huge GLOBAL event
 - 15 cubits over highest mountain (but geography would have been different than today)
- Left massive evidence
- Huge variations throughout parts of the world
- Water released from below and above

Three Groups

1. Those who perished in the flood
2. Those who were preserved through the flood
(Noah and family)
3. Those who were removed before the flood
(Enoch)

The Ark

- HUGE boat – equivalent to 1000 train cars
 - Around 450 feet long by 75 feet wide by 45 feet tall
- Designed for great stability on high seas
 - 1:6 ratio of width to length
 - Used in modern ships
- Did not need to hold two of every animal, but two of every KIND of animal
- Could come aboard as juveniles
- Could be in suspended animation during voyage

How Long to Build the Ark?

- Genesis 6:3 – 120 year countdown until the flood begins
- Sons:
 - Noah had Japeth when he was 500 years old (100 years before the flood)
 - 2 years later he had Shem
 - Ham was the youngest, unclear by how much
 - Would need time for them to grow up and marry
- God told Noah to build an ark that would be used for himself, his wife, his sons and their wives, and the animals (6:18-20)
 - BUT... it is not clear that this command would require the sons to be born, raised, and married first. It could have been prophetic
- So the final timeline is somewhere between about 55 years and 120 years to build the ark

Application – the Will of God

- Noah was obedient to the call and will of God in building the ark
- When God asks us to do something, He will ALWAYS supply everything we need to do it
 - Time
 - Resources
- Noah was FULLY committed when he climbed into the ark – he had no way to turn back

Miscellany

- Loading:
 - 2 of every unclean animal
 - 7 of every clean animal and 7 of every bird
- 7 days after God shut them in before flood (but God told them in advance) (Could they have gotten out at that point?)
- Noah & company were in the ark about 378 days

Miscellany (2)

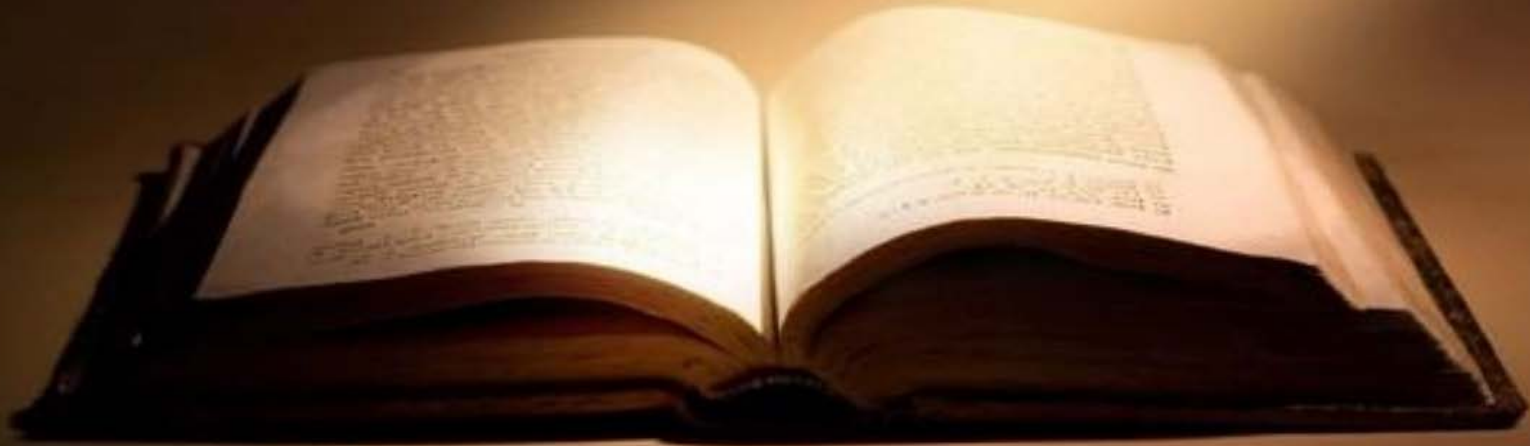
- Food
 - Before the flood – vegetarians
 - After the flood – Animals – but without the blood
- Rainbow, symbol of God's promise to never flood the earth again
 - No rainbows before the flood because no rain
- 8:4 – Ark rested on the 17th day of the seventh month – same day as Jesus' Resurrection
- 8:14-16 – Noah & co. came out on the 27th day of the second month – same day as Jesus' Ascension

Ham and Noah (end of Chapter 9)

- It is not clear exactly what Ham did
- Shem and Japheth were respectful
- Noah cursed Ham's son, Canaan
 - Prophetic, or perhaps Canaan was already acting like his father

The Tower of Babel

Chapters 10-11



Chapter 10 – Table of Nations

- Details are important – this is recorded history, not a fable or story
- Japheth fathered Caucasians who settled in Russia and the European continent
- Ham's descendants populated the African continent, and the "...ites" which plagued Israel
- Shem was the father of the Hebrew people and Oriental people

The Tower

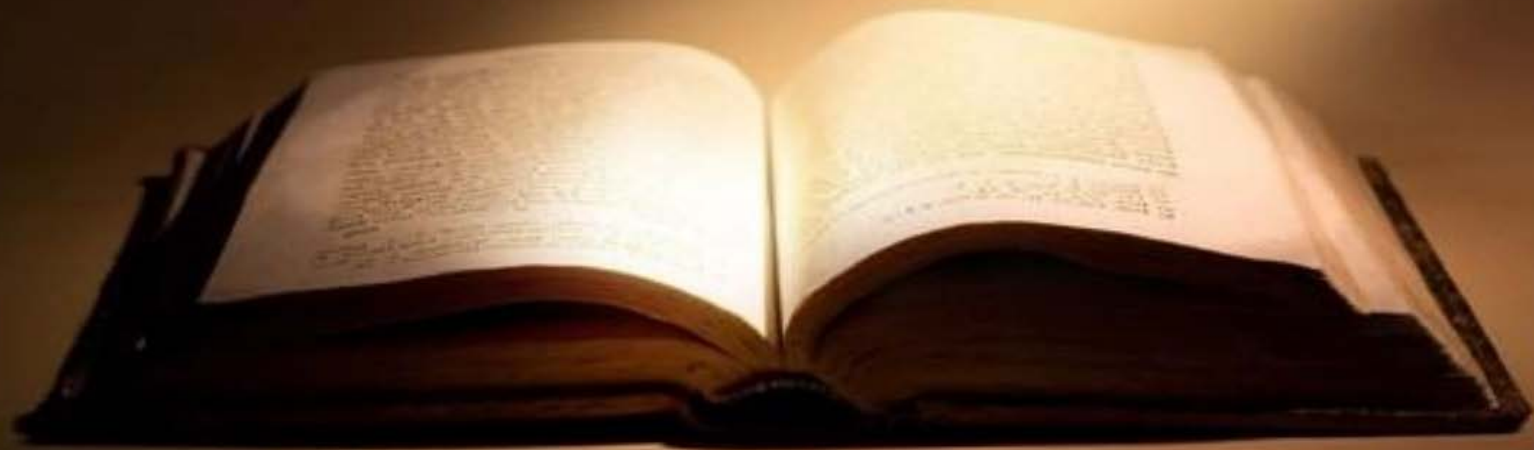
- The tower was likely a ziggurat, a temple designed to worship the stars
 - Astrology / Zodiac is a corruption of the original Mazzaroth
 - **Job 38:31-32** "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion? 32 Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?"
- It was dangerous for humanity to all stay in one small area

Peleg

- “in his days the earth was divided” (v. 10:25)
- It has been speculated that this refers to the splitting of the continents
 - This would help issues like animals and humans being across the whole earth after the flood
 - But the best research right now seems to indicate continental drift is better associated with the flood
- Likely it refers to the splitting of the nations at the tower of Babel

Abraham

Chapters 12-18



Abraham, Man of Faith

- Key verse: **Genesis 15:6** And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.
 - Quoted in Romans 4:3-6, 9, 20-25, Galatians 3:6-14, James 2:23
- Paid tithes to Melchizedek
- Took no spoils from the battle (15:1) so God told Abraham that He would be his shield and reward
- 12:7 Order is generally – 1. calling, 2. obedience, THEN revelation

Four Keys to Abraham's Faith

Romans 4:

1. Not considering the human limitations
2. Not staggering at the promises of God
3. Giving glory and thanks to God for what He will do
4. Knowing that God can fulfill His promises

Abraham, Flawed Man

(20:12 Sarai/Sarah was the half-sister of Abram/Abraham)

- 12:11-20 Tells Pharaoh that Sarai was his sister
- With Sarai, tried to fulfill God's promise through Hagar
- Laughed at God's promise (17:17)
- Chapter 20 Told Abimelech that Sarah was his sister

Abram Versus Lot (Chapter 13/14)

- Both were very rich, with huge flocks
- The land could not handle all of the animals
- Abram let Lot select the land he wanted
- Lot picked it based on sight, not faith
 - Lot located himself near Sodom
 - Then we see him living IN Sodom
- Lot was captured / Abram rescued

Melchizedek

- Psalms 110:4 NKJV - The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."
- Hebrews 5,6,7 makes much of Melchizedek
 - Abram payed tithes
 - Before Levitical priesthood, and therefore superior
 - Lesser (Abram) blessed by greater (Melchizedek)
 - Christophany – communion elements, Jesus: "Abraham rejoiced to see my day and saw it."
 - Priesthood of Jesus

God's Covenant

- Chapter 15 – unilateral covenant from God to Abram
 - Abram was asleep, unable to contribute to the covenant
 - God had burning torch pass between pieces of the offering – symbolic of way covenants were sealed in those days – but usually BOTH parties passed through

Discussions and Visits

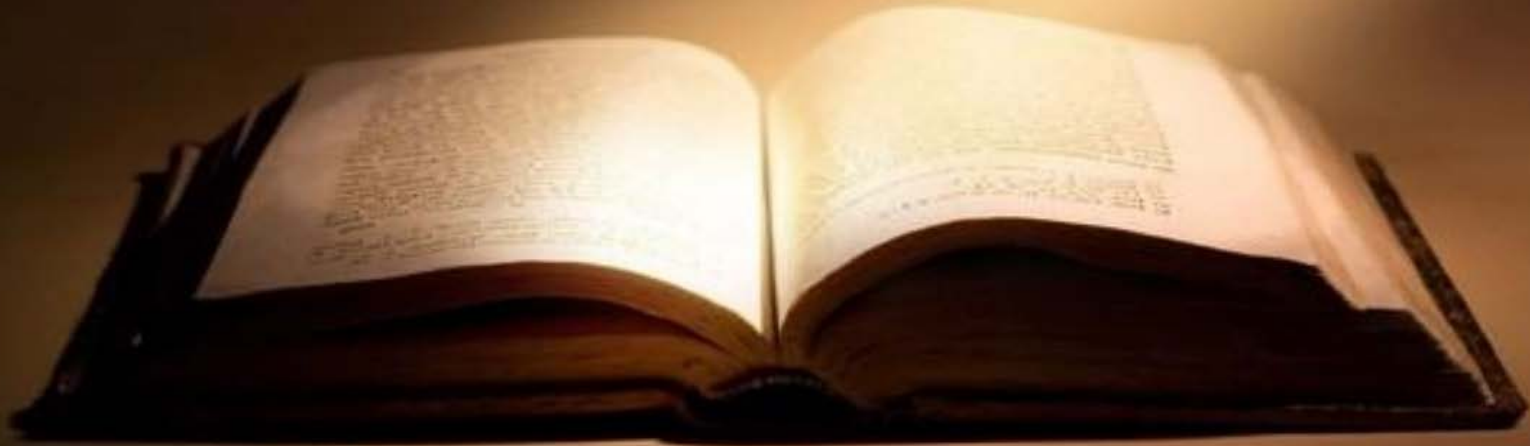
- Covenant of Circumcision
 - Bilateral covenant
- Verse 15:1 God reveals Himself as El Shaddai – The almighty God
- Abraham is visited, bargains for Sodom and Gomorrah

What's in a Name?

- Abram → Abraham
 - “High Father” → “Father of Many Nations”
- Sarai → Sarah
 - “Contentious” → “Princess”
- The difference is the tiny symbol “heh” – representative of the Spirit of God

Lot and Sodom

Chapter 19



Comments

- Lot was sitting in the gate – among the rulers of the city
- The angels visited, undoubtedly looking like VERY attractive men
- Angels visited Lot's house, ALL of the men surrounded the house, demanding to be able to rape the angels
- Lot offered his daughters – women did not have the status as today, they were considered property
- Note the persistence toward evil of the town – even after being blinded, they wore themselves out trying to find the door

Comments (2)

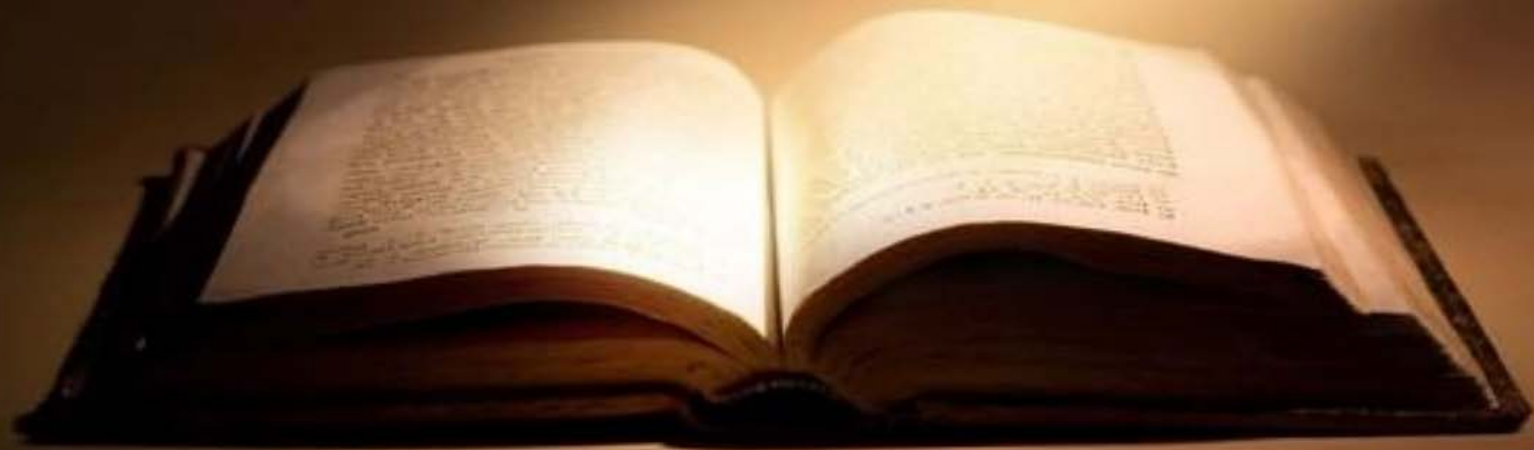
- Lot could not convince anyone outside his immediate household to escape with him – not even his sons-in-law
- God needed to remove Lot before destroying the city (19:21) – symbolic of pre-tribulation rapture?
- Jesus in **Luke 17:32** “Remember Lot’s wife” – i.e., having begun, don’t look back

Lot's Daughters

- Lot's daughters probably thought they were not ever able to get a husband, so they acted to preserve their family line – the result was the Moabites and the Ammonites who gave Israel continual problems
- Interesting note: Edom, Moab, and Ammon are the only areas that the Antichrist will not control (Daniel 11:41)

Isaac

Chapters 20-23



Chapter 20

- Abraham moved into the area of Gerar, where Abimelech was the king
- Sarah would have been about 90 years old
- Repeated error – sometimes if we don't suffer consequences, we don't learn

Abraham and the Fellowship of His Suffering (from Chuck Smith)

1. Fellowship of the discontent of God with the worldly society (Genesis 12:1).
2. Fellowship with the plans and methods of God (Genesis 13:14-18).
3. Fellowship with the patience of God (Genesis 15).
4. Fellowship of the hope of God (Genesis 15:12-21).
5. Fellowship of the sufficiency of God (Genesis 17).
6. Fellowship with the justice of God (Genesis 18:23-33).
7. Fellowship of His suffering (Genesis 22).

Chapter 21

- Sarah bore Isaac, became jealous of Hagar/Ishmael
- Hagar and Ishmael sent away – God provided for them – they are revered in Islam
- Ishmael (old covenant) was sent away after Isaac (new covenant) was there
- Disagreement with Abimelech over a well that shows how they got along with each other

God Tests Abraham (Chapter 22)

- Abraham did not understand the test, but obeyed anyway
- Calvary is located on Mount Moriah
- (Verse 5) WE will come back to you
- **Hebrews 11:17-19** By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, 18 of whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED," 19 concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.
- Like Jesus, Isaac was about 30 and carried the wood

God Tests Abraham (2)

- **Genesis 22:7-8** But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.
- While Isaac undoubtedly came back with Abraham, the Holy Spirit only records Abraham coming back (verse 19)
- God greatly rewarded Abraham for his faith and for not holding anything back

Chapter 23 – Sarah Dies and is Buried

- Only reference in Scripture where a woman's age at time of death is given
- Standard bargaining...until Abraham cuts it short
- Looks like Abraham bought two tomb properties.
 - **Acts 7:15-16** So Jacob went down to Egypt; and he died, he and our fathers. 16 And they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem.