

GENESIS

part II: chapters 12-36
The Story of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, or
How Family is Everything

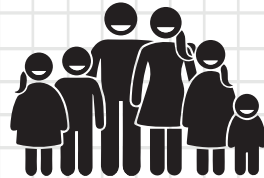
THE STORY OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB.



The key to understanding Genesis 12-36 is to see it as a story about the education of the patriarchs as patriarchs, that is as founders of a family that will be able to successfully pass on the covenant, generation to generation.

OR, TO PUT IT MORE SUCCINCTLY:

Genesis 12-36 is about what it takes to make family work.



WITH THE CALL OF ABRAHAM IN GENESIS 12,
WE LEARN SOMETHING ASTOUNDING:
FAMILY IS HOW GOD WILL SAVE HUMANITY.

- Through one family, all the nations of the earth will be blessed.
- The Patriarchs learn what it takes not just to give life to their children but how to give them a worthy way of life.

WHY DOES THE BIBLE PUT SO MUCH FOCUS ON MEN?

The reason these chapters focus on men is because for men even more than for women, family life requires education and formation—it doesn't seem to come naturally.



NOTES

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DIVINE ENCOUNTERS with ABRAHAM

1. COMMAND ("Go")
and PROMISE

2. PROMISE of land.

3. Increased
PROMISE of land/seed

4. Increased PROMISE
of seed; COMMAND &
Covenant

5. Charge & covenant:
increased PROMISE
and COMMAND
(Circumcise)

6. God appears as
strangers at tent

7. PROMISE (son to
Sarah); instruction
re political justice

8. COMMAND
("Banish Ishmael")

9. COMMAND
("Sacrifice Isaac")

10. Increased
PROMISE

ABRAHAM'S TRIALS

1. Called with a COMMAND
and a PROMISE. Abraham
answers the call.

2. Sarah in trouble in
Egypt.

3. Trouble w/ Lot;
Abraham parts with Lot

4. Lot in trouble; Abraham
(his brother's keeper) wins
victory for the king of
Sodom & rescues Lot, who
returns to Sodom

5. Hagar, the stranger
woman, as host mother;
trouble with Sarah

6. Enacts the covenant of
circumcision

7. Serves as hospitable
host to strangers

8. Lot (and all of Sodom)
in trouble; Abraham
argues the justice of
destroying Sodom but
eventually accepts it

9. Sarah in trouble in Gerar

10. Trouble with Ishmael;
Abraham parts with Ishmael

11. Abraham binds Isaac; puts
obedience to
God's COMMAND above
PROMISED rewards

OTHER DIVINE DEEDS (Not Known to Abraham)

1. Sends plagues
to Pharaoh;
rescues Sarah

2. Appeals to Hagar;
returns her to Sarah
(Ishmael born)

3. Destroys Sodom;
rescues lot

4. Sends dream to
Abimelech; rescues
Sarah; remembers
Sarah (Isaac born)

5. Calls to Hagar;
rescues Ishmael