

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

RELATIONSHIPS THAT PLEASE GOD

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PART 4B: THE FAMILY

A WIFE FOR ISAAC

Three years after Sarah's death when Abraham was 140 years old, God moved upon him to find a wife for Isaac. It is interesting that Abraham was not allowed to go back to Haran but had to send his chief servant. **Genesis 24:1-5**

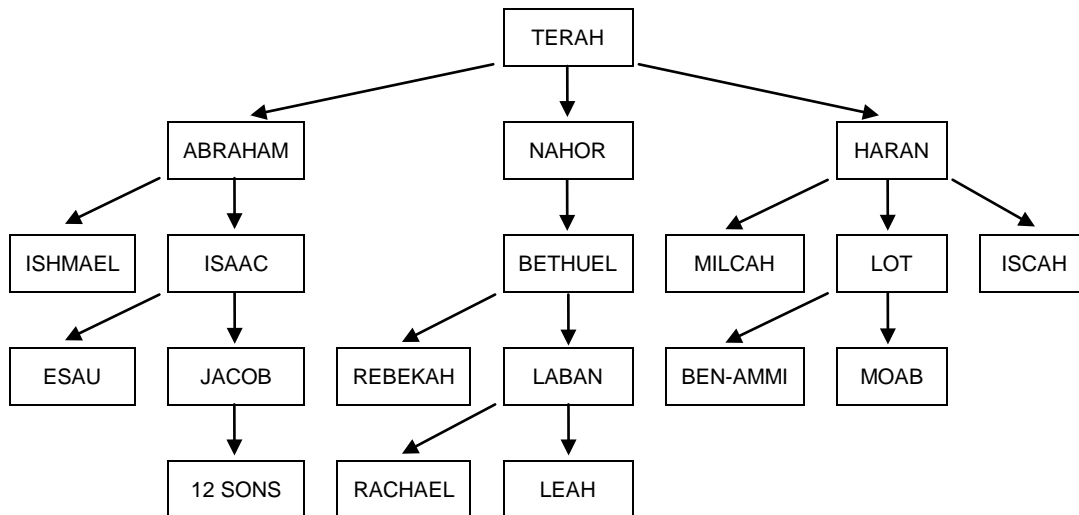
Abraham servant was forbidden to bring Isaac to Haran; Isaac was to stay in the Promised Land. **verses 6-8**

It was a miracle that Rebekah's family allowed her to go with strange men to marry Isaac, who was a cousin to her father. **Genesis 24:33-60**

The legal part of the marriage took place in Haran, and when Rebekah came to where Isaac dwelt, the marriage was consummated. **verses 61-67**

Looking at the genealogy, we can see that the children of Israel are the descendants of the family of Terah plus two slave women, Bilhah and Zilpah.

Terah was the father of Abram and Sarai. Bethuel was the son of Nahor and his cousin Milcah. Isaac married his cousin Bethuel's daughter. Jacob married his uncle Laban's daughters, Leah and Rachel.



ABRAHAM WALKING IN THE FLESH

Abraham at the age of 140 had faith in God but did not understand the ramification of his actions in the flesh. For some reason unknown to us and not recorded in the Bible, Abraham married again at the age of 140 and lived for another 35 years, before he died at the age of 175 years old. His third wife



Keturah gave him six children. None of these children received any inheritance from him and were sent away from the Promised Land.

Abraham also had a number of concubines (slave women) which also conceived children. They were sent away with gifts but received no inheritance. **Genesis 25:1-6**

It is interesting to note that when Abraham died, both Isaac (now 75 years old) and Ishmael (in his eighties) were in charge of the funeral. **verses 7-10**

SUMMARY

The family of Terah worshipped both the God of creation and idols. Abraham came out of idolatry, but when his wife Sarah wanted him to marry Hagar to bring a son into being, Abraham lost his morality and fathered a number of children, not understanding the grief he would cause to these children who could never become part of their father's inheritance.

Abraham's family was very dysfunctional and it perpetuated for generations to come.

God was able to build faith in Abraham but He was never able to bring Abraham into a moral life.

What we can learn from this is that there are no good people on this earth, there never have been and never will. Only Jesus, the Son of God is the perfect God/man.

Why did God select imperfect people like Abraham and Sarah? Because He loved them. **Deuteronomy 7:6-8**

The human heart is desperately wicked and we must come to term with the fact that all of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God. **Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23**

The good news is that God loves you and wants you to come to His son, Jesus, and be born again. He wants to spend eternity with you. **John 3:16**

Regardless how long you have been saved, all your righteousness is of Christ. **Romans 3:24-28**

Most people have put Abraham and Sarah on a pedestal, thinking that we can never live up to their reputation. However, when we read verse after verse in the Bible, we find that they had no reputation but were people just like you and me who have to struggle from day to day in our walk with Christ. Stop feeling guilty and start praising God that Jesus lives in you and that He loves you.

CONCLUSION

When I started this series my first sermon began with how a church member asked me to do a biblical teaching on how to live with a spouse that is not in

God's will. Let me answer this question in light what we have learned so far about the family of Terah:

1. We know that God told Terah to leave the city of Ur and move to the land of Canaan. When Terah stopped in the city of Haran, God transferred the call to his son Abram.

If you are walking with the Lord but your spouse is living in rebellion to God's will, there will come a time when you will have to move on to be obedient and fulfill the call of God in your life. A prime example of such a situation can be found with Moses and Zipporah. **Exodus 18:1-6**

Moses was pre-selected by God to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. God could not and would not let Zipporah stop this project and she was set aside because she was not willing to be a part of God's plan. **Exodus 4:24-26**

Zipporah refused to have their son circumcised, and when she was forced by God to do so, she became extremely angry and must have given Moses a very hard time.

2. If you do not have a specific call in your life, do the best you can to win your spouse for Christ. The apostle Peter wrote how this should be done. **1 Peter 3:1-7**
3. If your spouse demands that you join in their sin by taking drugs, drinking alcohol, watching ungodly television or movies, getting into pornography, having unclean sex, committing crimes, etc. it is your duty to say no and leave the house if there is violence. It is also sinful if you go out and rent or buy an ungodly movie, purchase alcohol or drugs or enable a sinful practice but don't participate in it. **2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:1**
4. Jesus would not be considered a good modern pastor because He was radical, to the point and demanded 100% loyalty. **Matthew 10:32-39**

Who is first in your life: Jesus or someone else? It is up to you to decide what you are going to do with your life! **Luke 9:57-62**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?