

International Conversation Cafe

Old Testament: Abraham: an Example of Faith, Genesis 15

Every nation has leaders that people admire. In the United States, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln are esteemed as really great men. They guided our country through difficult times.

Name some great leaders from your country and explain why people respect them.



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The ancient nation of Israel also had great leaders that people still look up to today. Abraham was the “Father” of the Jewish nation. He lived around the year of 2091BC. He was from the area of present day Iraq but immigrated to the area of present day Israel, just as God directed him. God gave him some amazing promises when he was 75 years old. One promise was that he would become the head of a great nation and that God would bless this nation. However, Abraham was not perfect. He made some awful choices putting his own wife at risk. So why do people admire him? Abraham was known for his faith. He trusted God even though he could not see how God could fulfill his promise.

Abraham’s dilemma, Genesis 15

¹ Sometime later, Abram had a vision. The Lord said to him,
"Abram, do not be afraid.
I am like a shield to you.
I am your very great reward."

² But Abram said, "Lord and King, what can you give me? I still don't have any children. My servant Eliezer comes from Damascus. When I die, he will get everything I own." ³ Abram continued, "You haven't given me any children. So a servant in my house will get everything I own."

⁴ Then a message came to Abram from the Lord. He said, "This man will not get what belongs to you. A son will come from your own body. He will get everything you own."

⁵ The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can." Then he said to him, "That is how many children you will have."

⁶ Abram believed the Lord. The Lord accepted Abram because he believed. So his faith made him right with the Lord.

Discussion

1. *What was Abraham's dilemma?*
2. *What did God promise him?*
3. *How did Abraham react to that promise?*
4. *How would you react to a promise like that?*

Abraham's faith may not seem so amazing but continue to read what the New Testament says about Abraham in Romans 4.

¹⁸ When there was no reason for hope, Abraham believed because he had hope. He became the father of many nations, exactly as God had promised. God said, "That is how many children you will have." *Genesis 15:5*

¹⁹ Without becoming weak in his faith, Abraham accepted the fact that he was past the time when he could have children. At that time he was about 100 years old. He also realized that Sarah was too old to have children.

²⁰ But he kept believing in God's promise. He became strong in his faith. He gave glory to God. ²¹ He was absolutely sure that God had the power to do what he had promised. ²² That's why "God accepted Abraham because he believed. So his faith made him right with God.

Why do you think Abraham continued to believe God when physically it was impossible for Sarah to have a baby?

Why do you think faith is so important to God?

Romans 4:23-5:1

²³ The words "God accepted Abraham's faith" were written not only for Abraham. ²⁴ They were written also for us. We believe in the God who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. So God will accept our faith and make us right with himself.

²⁵ Jesus was handed over to die for our sins. He was raised to life in order to make us right with God.

We have been made right with God because of our faith. Now we have peace with him because of our Lord Jesus Christ.

According to verse 24, how does God make us right with him?

What does God ask us to believe?

Often we think that God accepts us if we try hard or do enough good things. How is faith different from doing good things?

Do you think this story has any application to your life? What might that be?