

## Worksheet 3

### Abraham

### Answer Sheet

#### How does God's promise to Abraham relate to Babel and Eden?

- In Genesis 12:2, God tells Abraham:
  - "I will make of you a great nation"
  - "I will bless you"
  - "I will make your name great"
  - "You will be a blessing"
- This contrasts with the Tower of Babel:
  - At Babel, people tried to make a great name for themselves
  - They relied on human pride and power
  - They sought greatness apart from God
- Abraham is different:
  - He does not seize greatness for himself
  - He receives blessing and a great name as a gift from God
  - His response is one of faith and trust
- This also connects back to Eden:
  - God originally blessed Adam and Eve
  - Sin damaged that original blessing
  - Through Abraham, God begins restoring what was lost
- **Key point:**
  - **Human beings cannot save themselves**
  - **God's blessing is received through faith and obedience**

#### Why does God bless Abraham?

- God blesses Abraham so that:
  - All the families of the earth may be blessed through him
- This becomes a major theme of the whole Bible:
  - God chooses one man
  - Then one family
  - Then one people
  - This is done in order to bring salvation to all nations
- Israel's mission:
  - To belong to God
  - To show the world what God is like
  - To prepare the way for the Messiah
- This promise reaches fulfillment in Jesus Christ:
  - Jesus is the promised Messiah
  - Through him, God's blessing reaches all nations
  - Through him, the Kingdom of God is revealed

#### How should we understand the command to sacrifice Isaac?

- Genesis 22 can seem shocking at first but important points to remember:
  - This was not Abraham's first experience with God
  - Abraham had already learned that God is faithful

- Abraham trusted that God would remain true to his promises
- Signs of Abraham's faith:
  - He tells his servants, "We will come back to you"
  - He tells Isaac that God will provide the sacrifice
  - Hebrews 11:19 says Abraham believed God could even raise the dead
- God does **not** allow Isaac to be killed
  - God stops the sacrifice
  - God provides a ram
  - This shows that God does not delight in human sacrifice
- This story points forward to Jesus:
  - Isaac is the beloved son - Jesus is the beloved Son
  - Isaac carries the wood for sacrifice - Jesus carries the Cross
  - Isaac is spared - Jesus is truly offered for our salvation
- **Key point:**
  - **God provides the true sacrifice in Jesus, the Lamb of God**

### **How did Abraham and his descendants fail to keep covenant faithfulness?**

Briefly read or skim some of the following Bible passages for answers: Gen 12, Gen 20, Gen 27, Gen 29, Gen 30, Gen 32:23-33, Gen 37, Gen 41, Gen 45

- Abraham shows weakness:
  - He twice says that Sarah is his sister rather than his wife
- Jacob sins through deception:
  - He cheats Esau out of his blessing
  - He deceives his blind father Isaac
- Jacob is later humbled:
  - Laban deceives him
  - His family becomes marked by rivalry and conflict
- Joseph suffers because of his brothers:
  - They sell him into slavery
  - He is taken to Egypt
- God still works through all this brokenness:
  - Joseph rises to power in Egypt
  - He helps save many people during famine
  - He even saves the brothers who betrayed him
- Joseph's insight is important:
  - "You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good"
- **Key point:**
  - **God remains faithful even when his people fail**
  - **God can bring good even out of sin and suffering**

### **What is the significance of Jacob becoming Israel?**

- Jacob wrestles with God during the night
- After this struggle:
  - God changes his name from Jacob to Israel
- Why this matters:
  - In the Bible, a new name often means a new mission
  - Jacob's new name marks a turning point in salvation history

- Israel becomes:
  - The name of Jacob's descendants
  - The name of God's covenant people
- **Key point:**
  - **God works through weak and imperfect people**
  - **His plan continues even through struggle and failure**

#### **How do these stories prepare for Christ?**

- Abraham's blessing points forward to Christ:
  - Through Christ, all nations are blessed
- Isaac points forward to Christ:
  - Beloved son
  - Carries the wood
  - Associated with sacrifice
- Joseph also points forward to Christ:
  - Rejected by his own
  - Suffers unjustly
  - Later becomes the means of saving others
- **Key point:**
  - **The Old Testament prepares the way for Jesus**
  - **God's covenant plan finds its fulfillment in Christ**

#### **List the mediator, role, form, and sign for the following Covenants (see chart above):**

##### Land Covenant (Mosaic Covenant)

- Mediator: **Moses**
- Role: **Deliverer, lawgiver, covenant mediator**
- Form: **Holy nation**
- Sign: **Passover / covenant worship**

##### Nation-Kingdom Covenant (Davidic Covenant)

- Mediator: **David**
- Role: **King**
- Form: **Kingdom**
- Sign: **Throne / royal dynasty**

##### Worldwide Blessing (New Covenant in Christ)

- Mediator: **Jesus Christ**
- Role: **Messiah, Priest, King, and Son of God**
- Form: **Universal People of God, the Church**
- Sign: **Eucharist**