

February 7–13

Genesis 12–17; Abraham 1–2

“To Be a Greater Follower of Righteousness”



Abraham's History

Abr 1:5-7

Abraham's History

Abr 1:11-12,15-16

Why did they single out the three virgins to be sacrificed?

Neal A. Maxwell

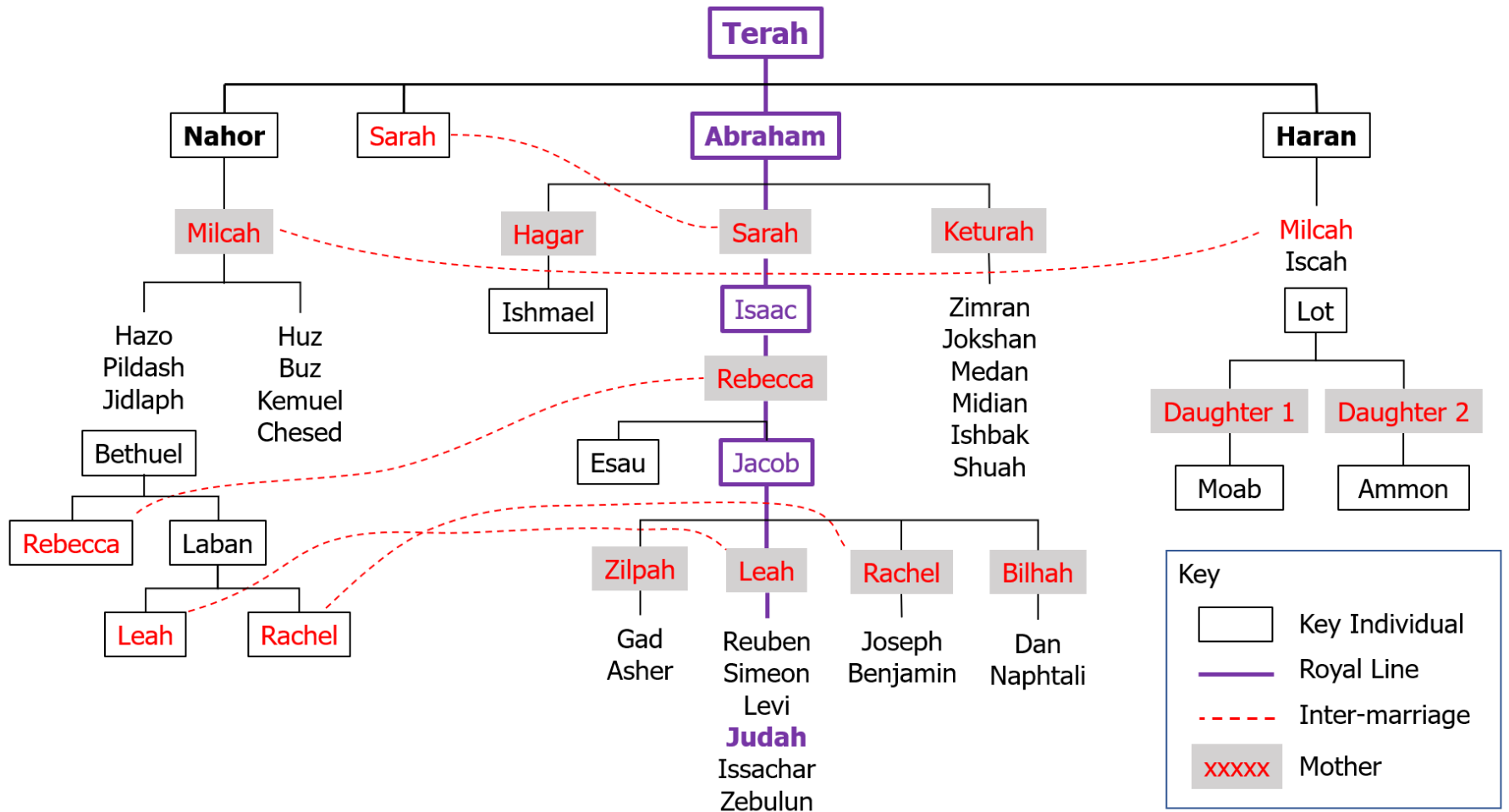
"The faithful will not be totally immune from the events on this planet.... Keeping the unfashionable but imperative first and seventh commandments can reflect the courage which three young women displayed anciently; they said no with their lives." (CR, Oct. 2002)

Abraham's History

Abr 2:1-5

After the famine had ended, what did Terah, Abraham's father, choose to do?

Abraham's History



Abraham's History

Gen 12:1-6

Who did Abraham take with him to Canaan?

What blessings was Abraham promised?

Abraham's History

Abr 2:7-11

What blessings were promised to Abraham and his seed?

Russell M. Nelson

"The covenant that the Lord first made to Abraham and reaffirmed to Isaac and Jacob is of transcendent significance. It contained several promises:

- Abraham's posterity would be numerous, entitled to eternal increase and to bear the priesthood;
- He would become a father of many nations;
- Christ and kings would come through Abraham's lineage;
- Certain lands would be inherited;
- All nations of the earth would be blessed by his seed;
- That covenant would be everlasting—even through 'a thousand generations'

"Some of these promises have been accomplished; others have yet to be. I quote from a prophecy given nearly 600 years B.C.: 'Our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham.'" (CR, April 1995)

Blessing of Land Inheritance

Gen 15:13-18

When would Abraham's seed begin to receive the land of their inheritance?

What is the reason for this timeframe?

John Taylor

"Abraham's day the Lord told that Patriarch that he should go to his fathers in peace, but in the fourth generation his posterity should come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full: by the days of Moses they appear to have filled the cup of their iniquity." (JD, 26:36)

Joseph Fielding Smith

“The Lord gave the promise to Abraham that he should have Palestine, or the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession. Yet, as Stephen said at the time of his martyrdom, Abraham never received as much as a foot of it as a possession while he lived.

“Then what did the Lord mean in making a promise to Abraham of that kind, giving him that portion of the earth as an everlasting possession for himself and his posterity, the righteous part of it, forever? Simply this, that the time would eventually come, after the resurrection from the dead, when Abraham and his children who have been faithful in the keeping of the commandments of the Lord, should possess that land, and they shall also spread forth as far as it is necessary for them to receive an inheritance.” (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:88)

Blessing of Numerous Posterity

Gen 17:1-6

How do you know that you are of the seed of Abraham?

How has, and how will, Abraham's posterity bless the families of the earth?

Monte S. Nyman

"The vast population of the Arab, Moslem and Jewish world, which claim to be descendants of Abraham, number more than one hundred million. When one adds to that figure, the deceased ancestors, and the estimated future posterities of those groups, plus other descendants of Abraham such as the past, present and future members of the Nephite-Lamanite cultures, the lost ten tribes, and the Latter-day Saints, he sees what the Lord meant by the blessing of an innumerable and unmeasurable posterity." (Sidney B. Sperry Lecture Series, 1975, pg. 13)

Joseph Fielding Smith

“Every person who embraces the gospel becomes of the house of Israel. In other words, they become members of the chosen lineage, or Abraham’s children through Isaac and Jacob unto whom the promises were made. The great majority of those who become members of the Church are literal descendants of Abraham through Ephraim, son of Joseph. Those who are not literal descendants of Abraham and Israel must become such, and when they are baptized and confirmed they are grafted into the tree and are entitled to all the rights and privileges as heirs.” (Doctrines of Salvation, 3:246)

Joseph Fielding Smith

“When the Lord called Abraham out of Ur, the land of his fathers, he made certain covenants with him because of his faithfulness. One promise was that through him and his seed after him all nations of the earth should be blessed. This blessing is accomplished in several ways.

“1. Through Jesus Christ who came through the lineage of Abraham;

“2. Through the priesthood which was conferred upon Abraham and his descendants;

“3. Through the scattering of Israel among all nations by which the blood of Israel was sprinkled among the nations, and thus the nations partake of the leaven of righteousness, on condition of their repentance, and are entitled to the promises made to the children of Abraham; and

“4. In the fact that the Lord covenanted with Abraham that after his time all who embraced the gospel should be called by his name, or, should be numbered among his seed, and should receive the Holy Ghost.” (Doctrines of Salvation, 3:246)

Ezra Taft Benson

"The responsibility of the seed of Abraham, which we are, is to be missionaries to bear this ministry and Priesthood unto all nations" (CR, Oct. 1923)

Blessing of the Priesthood

Abr 1:1-3

Why did Abraham want to receive the priesthood?

From whom did Abraham receive the priesthood?

Delbert L. Stapley

"I remember that the progenitor of the great Israelite family was not satisfied with the conditions found in his homeland, and said to secure happiness and peace it was necessary for him to seek for the blessings of the fathers, and the right to administer the same. He had been a follower of righteousness, desiring to receive instructions and to keep the commandments of God, and sought the great blessings of the priesthood, and to be a father of many nations.

"And as descendants of this great leader, we, too, should be followers after righteousness, and should seek to know the mind and will of God in order that our lives might conform thereto." (CR, Oct. 2002)

D&C 138:38,41

38 Among the great and mighty ones who were assembled in this vast congregation of the righteous were Father Adam, the Ancient of Days and father of all,

41 Noah, who gave warning of the flood; Shem, the great high priest; Abraham, the father of the faithful; Isaac, Jacob, and Moses, the great law-giver of Israel;

Descendants of Abraham

John 8:32-39

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

Descendants of Abraham

D&C 132:29-32

29 Abraham received all things, whatsoever he received, by revelation and commandment, by my word, saith the Lord, and hath entered into his exaltation and sitteth upon his throne.

30 Abraham received promises concerning his seed, and of the fruit of his loins—from whose loins ye are, namely, my servant Joseph—which were to continue so long as they were in the world; and as touching Abraham and his seed, out of the world they should continue; both in the world and out of the world should they continue as innumerable as the stars; or, if ye were to count the sand upon the seashore ye could not number them.

31 This promise is yours also, because ye are of Abraham, and the promise was made unto Abraham; and by this law is the continuation of the works of my Father, wherein he glorifieth himself.

32 Go ye, therefore, and do the works of Abraham; enter ye into my law and ye shall be saved.

Franklin D. Richards

"Let us humble ourselves before the Lord, let us keep His commandments and teach our children so to do. Let us teach them the principles of purity and righteousness, so that they may go to the house of the Lord pure as they were born, free from sin, and while there to enter into covenants with God.... For the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, have come down upon us. And they that are the children of Abraham will do the works of Abraham. Let us not forget it; that they that would inherit the blessings of Abraham, must do the works of Abraham, to entitle them to these blessings." (JD, 24:331)

Hagar and Ishmael

Gen 16:6-12

What did the angel command Hagar to do?

What did the angel tell Hagar about Ishmael and her posterity?

Abraham and Isaac

Gen 17:15-19

First, how does the JST clarify verses 17-18?

What promise was made about Isaac and his seed?

JST Gen 17:23-24

23 Then Abraham fell on his face and rejoiced, and said in his heart, There shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old, and Sarah that is ninety years old shall bear.

24 And Abraham said unto God, Oh that Ishmael might live uprightly before thee!

Bruce R. McConkie

“Why Isaac? Because he kept the commandments and did everything he was counseled to do by his father. And so, in due course the Lord came also to Isaac and renewed upon his head all the promises given to Abraham. 'I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven,' was the divine word to Abraham's son, 'and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.' (Gen 26:4.)" (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg. 37)

Next Week:

February 14–20

Genesis 18–23

“Is Any Thing Too Hard For the Lord?”

