

God's Purpose for Abraham

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By NEWMAN CAMPBELL
(The International Uniform Lesson on the above topic for July 15 is Genesis 11:26-12:20, the Memory Verse being Proverbs 3:6, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy path.")

COMPARED WITH the many chapters assigned to previous lessons, the assignment this time is very short. In view of that fact, we may just mention the beginning of the 11th chapter of Genesis, in which is described where the descendants of Noah lived, and how all spoke one language.

They said to one another, let us make some brick and let us build a city and a tower that will reach to heaven; and let us make a name lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

So they built a tower, but the Lord saw what they were doing, and He said, "Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language and this they begin to do, and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."

So God confounded their language so that they could not understand one another, and they were scattered over the face of the earth and they stopped building the tower and the city. Thus the tower was called Babel.

Terah, Father of Abram
Terah is said to be father of Abram, and his other sons were Nahor and Haran. Haran was Lot's father, Lot being Abram's nephew. Sarah, spelled Sarai at first, was Abram's wife, but she had no children. Haran died before Terah.

Terah took Abram, his son, Lot, his grandson, and Abram's wife, Sarai, and they went from Ur of the Chaldees, into the land of Canaan, and they lived at Haran, and there Terah died.

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing."

Abram had not done as he was told, when he took his father with him, but now he left Haran with his wife and Lot and all his possessions, and went to Canaan. The Lord appeared to Abram here

and said, "Unto thy seed will I give this land."

So Abram builded an altar, and then went to a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, and there he builded an altar to the Lord and "called upon the name of the Lord."

Some time after this there was a famine in the land, and Abram went to Egypt, where he thought they would have plenty of food. On the way he looked at his wife, Sarai, and thought what a beautiful woman she was. The rich Egyptians, he thought, even the Pharaoh, might want her and kill Abram so they could take her. Therefore, Abram told her that she should pass as his sister instead of his wife, so that his life would be safe.

Odd, wasn't it, that in spite of God's assurances to him, Abram was afraid to trust Him and so lied and deceived the Egyptians?

Find Sarai Fair
The Egyptians found Sarai very fair, and the prince recommended her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into Pharaoh's house. For her sake Pharaoh treated Abram well, giving him "sheep, and oxen, and asses, and menservants, and maid-servants, and she asses and camels."

But to Pharaoh's bewilderment, his house was afflicted with plagues because of Abram's deception—which hardly seemed fair—so at last Pharaoh called Abram to him and said, "What is this thou hast done unto me? Why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?"

"Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife, now, therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way."

Pharaoh gave his men orders concerning Abram, and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had."

It was the Egyptian, an idolater, who was the real man in this case. Even when he found he had been deceived, he did not punish the man who had lied to him, but merely reproached him, restored his wife to him and let him go on his way.

"The conduct of Pharaoh is upright and dignified. The silence of Abram seems to indicate his consciousness that Pharaoh had acted more righteously than he himself," a commentator says. And yet he repeated this offense later, as you may remember, so he really did not seem to be truly repentant.

Pfc. Glen Rathbone Now in Philippines

Private First Class Glen Rathbone, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Rathbone of Clyde is now in Luzon, Philippine Islands. He entered the army in September 1942, at Fort Bragg. Upon completion of his basic training at Camp Wolters, Tex., he was assigned to the 864th Engineer Aviation Battalion, and in August, 1943, his outfit was sent overseas.

Pfc. Rathbone has been operating a bulldozer, one of the most essential pieces of heavy equipment the engineers employ, for the last 22 months through many missions in the campaigns of New Guinea, New Britain, Dutch East Indies and Luzon.

He has been awarded three campaign stars for his Asiatic Pacific theatre ribbon and one campaign star for the Philippine Liberation ribbon.

Spends Furlough Here



PRIVATE JAMES ARRINGTON, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arch Arrington, reported to Fort George Meade during the week after spending a furlough here with his parents. Pvt. Arrington entered the service on January 22, of this year and was inducted at Fort Bragg. From the latter he was sent to Camp Croft, where he was stationed until he was ordered to report to Fort George Meade. At the time he entered the service he was from of Waynesville reported to

Aster Paul Rogers Serving On Cruiser

Aster Paul Rogers, of Clyde, who is now serving in the navy and is aboard a light cruiser in the Pacific theatre has recently been advanced to seaman first class.

He is serving on one of the nation's newest and most modern light cruisers. His wife resides on Route 1, Clyde.

Fort George Meade during the week after spending a 15-day furlough here with his parents. Pvt. Arrington entered the service on January 22 of this year and was inducted at Fort Bragg. From the later he was sent to Camp Croft where he was stationed until he was ordered to report to Fort George Meade. At the time he entered the service he was employed by the Davis Motor Company.

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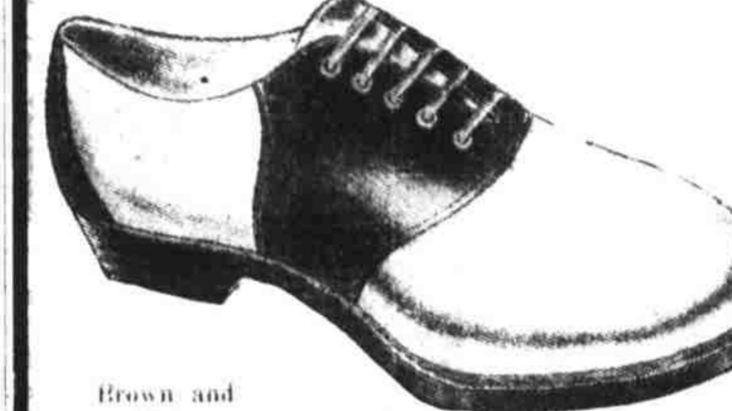
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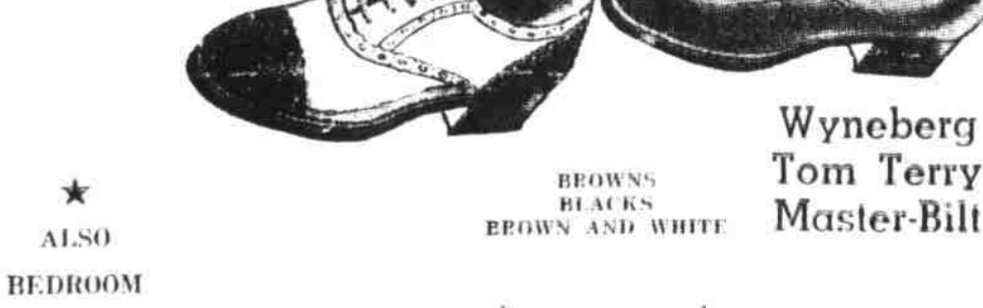
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