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**Abraham**

By Robert I. Bradshaw

**Summary and Time Chart of the Life of Abraham**

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| **Date** | **Datable Event** | **Age** | **Detail of Events** |
| 2166  | Birth of Abram  | 0-75  | Abram born in Ur of the Chaldeas, marries Sarai (SAY-ri) and migrates to Haran (HAY-run) with his cousin Lot and Father Terah (TEE-ruh). Terah dies in Haran (Gen. 11).  |
| 2091  | Abram’s departure from Haran / arrival in Canaan  | 75-85  | The Lord commands Abram to leave Haran and travel to Canaan. On arriving there he travels as far as Shechem (SHEE-kehm) in the centre of the land and is promised that the whole of the land will be his. From there he went to Bethel where he build a second altar. Because of famine he takes his family down to Egypt. Abram deceives Pharaoh by passing his wife off as his sister and as a result Abram becomes wealthy. When the ruse is discovered Pharaoh sends them away (Gen. 12). Abram returns to Canaan traveling from the Negev in the south as far as Bethel. There Abraham and Lot separate, Lot moving his flocks into the valley of the Jordan while Abram remained in the hill country. After Lot’s departure the Lord renews his promise of the land and Abram moves his camp to Hebron where he builds a third altar (Gen. 13). Lot, who has now moved into Sodom, is captured by the forces of four invading kings and carried off. Abram musters his household and some local allies, pursues and defeats the invading kings and rescues Lot. On returning he is met by Melchizedek, King of Salem who blesses him in the name of the Most High God. Abram accepts the blessing and gives Melchizedek a tenth of the plunder. Shortly afterwards the king of Sodom greets Abram, but Abram refuses to keep any of his property (Gen. 14). The Lord reassures Abram that the promises he has made will be fulfilled by means of a covenant ceremony (Gen. 15). |
| 2081  | Abram marries Hagar  | 85-86  | Sarai suggests that Abram take her maidservant Hagar and have children by her. Hagar conceives and Sarai becomes jealous of her. Fleeing from Sarai’s mistreatment Hagar meets the angel of the Lord at a spring in the desert and he persuades her to return, promising that she would have a son named Ishmael who would be the father of a nation (Gen. 16). |
| 2080  | Birth of Ishmael  | 86-99  | Scripture is silent about the events of Abram’s life for 13 years after the birth of Ishmael. When he was 99 years old the Lord gave Abram the covenant of circumcision and changed his name From Abram (*exalted father*) to Abraham (*father of many*). Sarai was now to be known as Sarah and would bear Abraham a son and heir (Gen. 17). |
| 2067  | Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah  | 99-100  | The Lord and two angels visit Abraham and tell him that Sarah would have a child within the next year. He also informed Abraham that Sodom and the other cities of the plain were about to be punished for their wickedness. Abraham pleaded for Sodom and the Lord promised to spare it if there were ten righteous men in the city (Gen. 18). The two angels go down to Sodom and are invited by Lot to sleep in his house. During the night the men of Sodom demand that Lot turn the angels over to them. The angels blind the attackers and take Lot, his wife and their two daughters out of the city just before the Lord destroyed it. Lot was the only righteous man in the city (Gen. 19). Abraham moved his camp into the territory of Abimelech king of Gerar (GE rar) again pretending that Sarah was his sister. Abimelech takes Sarah as his wife but is prevented from committing adultery by a dream. Abimelech summons Abraham and after receiving an explanation from him for his conduct he gives him gifts of money, sheep and cattle and returns Sarah to him (Gen. 20). |
| 2066  | Birth of Isaac  | 100-137  | After the birth of Isaac Sarah had Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael away. The Lord promised Abraham that he would take care of them and make Ishmael into a great nation. Abimelech and Abraham met and settled a dispute over a well that Abimelech’s men had seized and sealed their agreement with a covenant (Gen. 21). God tests Abraham by commanding him to sacrifice his son on Mount Moriah. Abraham obeys and at the last minute the Lord intervenes and provides his own sacrifice instead of Isaac. In response to Abraham’s obedience and faith the Lord repeats his promise concerning the great number of Abraham’s descendants (Gen. 22).  |
| 2029  | Death of Sarah  | 137-140  | Sarah dies at the age of 127 years and Abraham buys a burial site for her from Ephron the Hittite (Gen. 23). Unwilling to allow his son to marry a Canaanite woman Abraham sends one of his servants back to his relatives in Northwest Mesopotamia. The Lord guided the servant who brought back Rebecca, daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah who was the wife of Abraham’s brother Nahor (Gen. 24). |
| 2026  | Isaac Marries Rebekah  | 140-160  | Abraham takes another wife: Keturah, who bears him six more sons: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Dedan (Gen. 25). |
| 2006  | Birth of Jacob & Esau  | 160-175  |   |
| 1991  | Death of Abraham  |    | Abraham dies and is buried in the cave of Machpelah (Gen. 25).  |