

Abraham: God's Friend



Three Cuts

Cutting family ties (Gen 12:2f)

- Why is it that when God calls there is often a “leaving” involved?
- Did only the Jews know God? Melchizedek king of Salem (Gen 14:17ff)

Cuts the animal (Gen 15:10, 17) Why?

- Union symbolized: as animal was one now we are one
- Acting out the curse: Jer 34:18f --solemnizing/ratifying the covenant

Cut flesh (Gen 17) On circumcision; Unconditional covenant (berit)—ratifying the covenant

- Abrahamic Covenant:

Land --promised land (Canaan; Palestine)

Seed (stars, sand, dust),

Blessing—all nations→ Jesus

3 Problems:

- 1) *Camels and critics: Gen. 12:16;*
- 2) *Hittites/Philistines and critics Gen. 15:20; 26:1 [2 Abimelek's of Gerar; cf. Jabin]*
- 3) *Gen. 14:14 talks of "Dan" can't be Dan—anachronism (Josh. 19:47; Judg. 18:29)*

Three Kids

- 1) *Eliezer of Damascus: adopted son (Gen 15:2)*
- 2) *Hagar-Surrogate Wife, Gen. 16 --Hammurabi's code*
 - *Caution on Criticizing patriarchs—telling/teaching or description/prescription or normative/non-normative distinction*
 - *How badly does God get on Abraham's case*
- 3) *Isaac: son of the promise -- laughter*

4 Abraham Questions: 1) Well ah...she's my sister?

Why do they always want to marry his sister? (Gen. 12, 20, 26 – 3X)

Custom: adopting sister -- protection -- marry her off

Bible and flawed heroes

2) Does God really interact with man?

Gen 18:26ff: Bartering with God

Is this real? Does foreknowledge really solve the problem?

Is this just anthropomorphic or anthropopathic speaking—so we can understand?

Can a human have impact on God?

3) Are all sins the same? Gen 18:21

Hospitality issue at Sodom.. the real issue?

- *On recontextualizing the messages of Scripture*

Is this homosexual rape? Lot's daughters

Are homosexual acts sin? Lev. 18:22; Rom 1:26f; 1 Cor 6:9, 1 Tim 1:10

How should Christians react to homosexuals? --loving the sinner, hating the sin

4) How does God's role toward Abraham change in Gen 22 (Akedah)? 3 levels of faith

Struggle for a son—Akedah (binding)

Rapid fire ... why no emotions shown? on good literature: God blesser → tester

Painful obedience

Levels of faith

- *Easy Faith*
- *Resignation faith*
- *Unreasonable pure faith—the precious*
- *God's friend*