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 \(\rightarrow\) 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