

FREE

The
**TWELVE TRIBES
FREE PAPER**

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet,
and on her head a crown of twelve stars... Revelation 12:1

**The faith
of
Abraham**

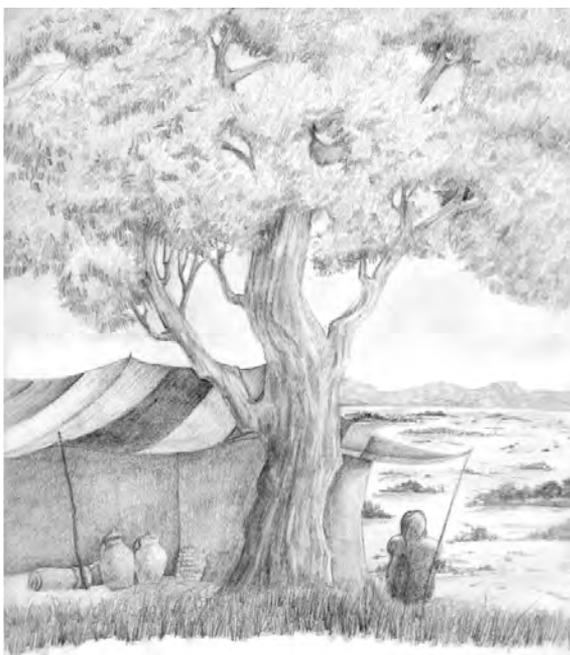


THOUSANDS OF YEARS ago a man sat near his tent deeply burdened in his heart. It would not have been obvious why to others, since he seemed to have all that anyone could desire. Yet he lacked the one thing he wanted most. This lack made everything else he had seem without value. This desire in him was a godly one; he wanted a son. There was something good and true in his heart, at times it was as if he was walking not on this cursed land, but back in the garden.

This evening was like that, and our Father spoke to his heart. It could truly be said of him that he lived to hear that voice. "Do not fear, Abram," he heard his beloved God speak, "I am a shield to you; your reward shall be very great."

Abram almost seemed to contend with the One speaking to him when he pleaded, "O Lord God, what will you give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" As if to explain himself, Abram continued, "Behold, You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir."

God told him that, no, that would not be the case — he would have a son. Then He took him outside, under the brilliant cloudless sky, and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them. So shall your descendants be."



Abram looked at the stars as he was commanded to. He knew this was what his whole life had been leading to, and *he believed*.¹ Years before, in obedience to his God, he had left the land of his birth. Now he was being called to trust God with his entire being. He knew this to be a commitment he could never back out of. God, who knew his heart, acknowledged Abram's faith, and he accounted it to him as righteousness.

He commanded Abram to slay and split animals in half because He wanted to enter into a covenant with him. Our God saw that He had a man to whom He could commit *Himself*, and He did. As His presence walked through the animals, He covenanted Himself to Abram and his descendants. He promised to give them all the land from the Euphrates River to the River of Egypt.² If He could not, He would have to be split in two like those animals.

That is the significance of the blood

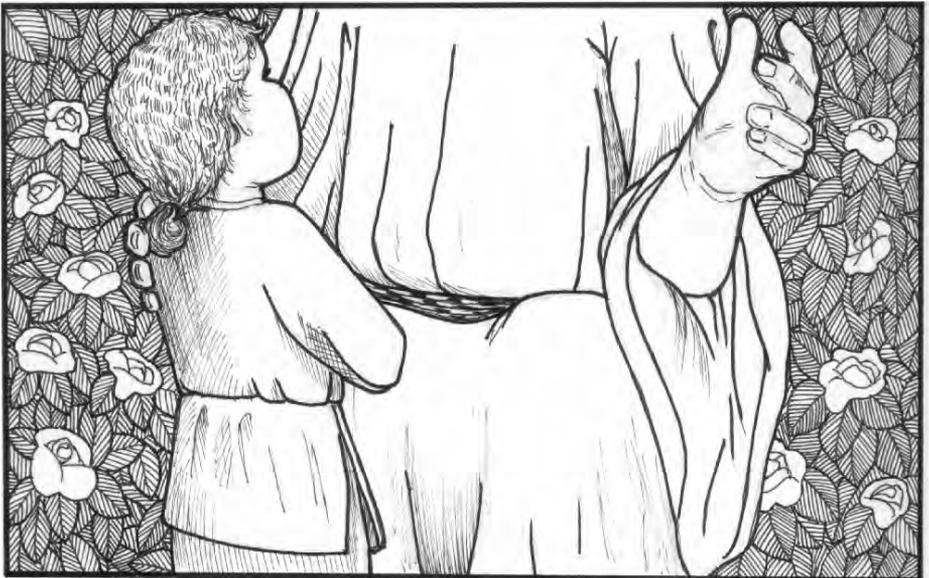
shed when a covenant is made — “May what was done to the sacrifice be done to me if I do not keep it.” Keeping it is more important than the covenant partner’s own life. This is the nature of love, the nature of God. Had God found a man who would respond to such steadfast, covenant love with a corresponding devotion of his own? God staked everything that He had. He had faith His love would reach that man’s heart, and through him, his descendants.

Abram lived in a wicked world, much like today, and many men lived in the deepest moral darkness. They would even take their own sons, and in gruesome ritual, take their lives. The fathers experienced the profoundest of religious feelings at the agony and bitterness of their sacrifice, and they would be forever affected by what they had done. This behavior persisted throughout the ancient world. The reality of Abram’s faith would be demonstrated to such a world, and our God prepared him many years for that test. He had to know He had a man after His own heart.

This was the only way for the world to know what He was like.

Before God gave the son He had promised him, He gave Abram a new name. It was Abraham, meaning father of a multitude. At the command of his God, Abraham circumcised his whole household and even himself, at 99 years of age. He did it the same day God had commanded him to because he truly had believed God that starry night. The faith he had caused him to be obedient. He knew his God as El Shaddai, the mighty God, the One who is able to do what He promises.³ On his part, Abraham walked before God blameless in all his ways.

He raised his son Isaac with diligence, disciplining and training him in love, because his heart was turned toward him. His innermost being, his will, his secret thoughts and intents, all that Abraham was, was focused on raising up this son to be the kind of man God could use. Everyone could see that it wasn’t just Abraham’s



flesh that had been circumcised — it was his heart. Isaac made the natural response to such love: he turned his heart towards his father so completely that pleasing him was more important than anything. Abraham honored the words of his God every day, “For I have chosen him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice in order that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”⁴

There was a final bonding to take place between father, son, and their God. Testing him one day, God called out, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” God said to Abraham, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” What a test this was; his beloved son, and the seed through which the promise was to come about. This act took the utmost faith, and because *Abraham had faith, he immediately obeyed*. It was no principle or fear of punishment that compelled Abraham, it was his faith.

A

BRAHAM KNEW THE
REALITY OF SACRIFICE.

He knew exactly what to expect. He was keenly aware of the great mercy of God in the provision of sacrifice. He knew a life had to be offered as a substitute for the sinner's life. Many times he had leaned his entire weight on the sacrifice he was offering, the best, most precious lamb in his flock. He had often nearly fallen with it

when its life was spent; its blood spurting out with each heartbeat, splattering him, and slowly soaking into the ground. It was a *blood sacrifice*.

Isaac was surely that lamb, and now it was time for the supreme sacrifice. Would he serve His God with the same zeal as other men served their fallen gods? He thought of the many times he had taken the finely honed knife in hand and slit the animal's throat. This time it would be his own son's throat he would lay hold of, to steady it for the deadly blow. His precious faith, which had endured many trials, did not waver when he went up the mountain with his son. He believed in his heart that God would raise him from the dead.⁵ That was his hope for his son and for the promise, for there was no doubt that he would do exactly as he had been commanded.

We can but wonder what went on in Abraham's heart when his son asked him, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” The Spirit of God was on him, in his moment of purest suffering and purest faith, when he said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” In this he prophesied, but in his heart he knew God had given him this life and this promise, and God could take it away.

His son willingly submitted to being bound and placed on the altar like the helpless lamb he was. His love towards his father did not falter, even when he stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay him. The highest, purest sacrifice was already accomplished in their hearts, and it was a sweet aroma in heaven. As Abraham raised his knife for the slashing

blow that would rip his son's throat apart, the angel of the Lord cried out in an urgent voice, "Abraham, Abraham!"

And as he had all his life, Abraham answered with faith, saying simply, "Here I am." And he stayed his hand, to see what his God would say to him. "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

Abraham looked up, gratitude nearly bursting his heart, tears coursing down his face, and taking the ram caught in the thicket, the substitute for the life of his son, he received Isaac back as though from the dead. His joy was that great because God, the great God, had united the hearts of father and son in an unbreakable bond, greater than death itself. The love of God had changed a man's heart, and through him, his son's. On that day the true nature of faith was established. And for all time it was established what the seed of Abraham would be like. So God renewed and ex-

panded His covenant with Abraham, and He swore by Himself to bring it about. God had been touched by the heart of a man.

Two thousand years later, at that very spot, another sacrifice took place. Just like Abraham and Isaac, the father and son involved were totally willing. This Father had to look on while cruel, mocking hands, prepared His son for slaughter, as Abraham had once lovingly prepared Isaac. But this time there was no substitute because this sacrifice was *the substitute* for all men. This Father had to look away and He had to endure a keener pain than Abraham could know. His son took the sins of the whole world upon Him, and actually became detestable to His Father. The righteousness of God demanded that He turn away, and His son died of a broken heart.

Their suffering could not end at death either, for the Son had to endure the agony of death for three days and three nights.⁶ But at last the ransom for all men was paid, and God, His Father, had to righteously raise Him from the dead, for it



was impossible for death to hold Him any longer. The power of death had been broken. What joy there was in heaven!

What Abraham and Isaac had given as a type, God the Father and the Son had to fulfill. For without this sacrifice, the promise to Abraham could not be fulfilled. God needed a people whose hearts He could inscribe with His laws, especially that they would command their children after them, just as Abraham did. The New Covenant, initiated in the blood of Christ, made this possible. But the goal is unchanging, that the hearts of the fathers would be so turned towards their children that they would be just like Abraham and Isaac, as they were just like the Father and the Son. This is what it means to be in the covenants of promise Paul spoke of.⁷

What has to be understood is that this bond will only happen in the same way it did for Abraham and Isaac — by sacrifice. Not the literal sacrifice they were called to, but the spiritual sacrifice that is as real as what they did, and what the Father and the Son did. The Son made this abundantly

clear, but only the sheep see it. Sheep go willingly to the sacrifice; it is their nature, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.”⁸

THE SEED OF ABRAHAM, wherever they are, will hear the voice of their Master in these words, and willingly lose their lives for His sake, and for the sake of His gospel.⁹ Something deep in them understands sacrifice. And in this wicked day where discipline is called evil, and permissiveness is called good, they are the only ones who will be able to raise up children like Isaac. They will not fear the disapproval of a wicked society, for the God of Abraham will be their shield and their very great reward.¹⁰ 🍀

¹Genesis 15:1-6 ²Genesis 15:7-18

³Genesis 17:1-27 ⁴Genesis 18:19

⁵Hebrews 11:19 ⁶Acts 2:24 ⁷Ephesians 2:12

⁸Luke 9:23-24 ⁹Mark 8:35; 10:29-30

¹⁰Genesis 15:1



What We Believe

WE BELIEVE IN THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH of the Word of God as it is recorded in the Bible. We have come to understand that, just as Peter proclaimed in Acts 3:21, Messiah cannot return until the time comes for all things to be restored as the prophets have foretold. And our Master Himself, in Mark 9:12, made it very clear that there is a restoration that must come first, in this age. Many things must be restored in our personal lives and relationships — especially the proper understanding of marriage and of how to raise our children in obedience and in the fear of God. But beyond this, the faith of the first Church (or, more accurately, the first *Community*) has to be restored. In other words, there must be a restoration of *Israel*, the *nation* that is God's treasured possession and that will be light to all the other nations. We believe that in these last days the prophecy of Isaiah 49:5-6 is being fulfilled. We see that God is beginning to raise up the twelve tribes of Israel again on the earth — not of the physical seed of Abraham, but the spiritual seed — a people composed of those who truly believe and put their trust in Yahshua, the Messiah.¹

This new spiritual Israel will be established as twelve distinct tribes in twelve different locations — a light to those around them² so that Matthew 24:14 can be fulfilled. The gospel of the Kingdom must be preached as a *witness* in order for the end to come, and we believe that this witness will be the restored tribes of Israel,³ a people with whom God has made a new covenant. This restored house of Israel will fulfill all that was on His heart.⁴ It will fulfill the whole law and the prophets.⁵

In this house, His people will keep the Sabbaths and all His appointed times; they will not eat the unclean things that the nations eat, but will eat what their God created to be eaten; they will not give their children to be raised by the unbelieving world, but will rather be the seed of Abraham, commanding their household after them to keep the way of the Lord.⁶ They will be His people, ruled by Him⁷ and they will do only what pleases Him. They will be the Bride that is being prepared for Him, otherwise known as the Holy City with its twelve gates, each tribe being one of the gates by which the City can be entered.⁸ We believe this preparation is in process.

As the scripture says, there is also another woman.⁹ She is described in Revelation 17 as an unfaithful woman. She had been betrothed to Him once, but she *became* a harlot, having compromised (fornicated) with the world. We understand that the one who became a harlot was the first community of believers, who lived together and shared everything, but then drifted away until they *became* the state religion called *Christianity*, established by Constantine. They lost their first love for their Savior, but continued as a religion of traditions and rituals.

In Revelation 18 it continues on talking about this woman, *Babylon*. She is not the house of Israel, or house of God,¹⁰ but she is the other house mentioned in Matthew 7:26-27, built upon the traditions of the fallen-away community. This religion has *become* a dwelling place of every unclean spirit, tolerating all the perversions that the world's society promotes. It is built on the sand¹¹ because it is not based on absolute obedience to His Word. But the voice of His people, speaking with angelic authority, will call out of her¹² all the sincere ones — those who are actually His people, chosen to be part of the true woman and Bride of Messiah, His wife-to-be.¹³

We do not want to have anything to do with this false religious system known as Christianity. We believe that this system is the harlot spoken of in Revelation 14:8, 16:19, and 17:1 - 19:4. We are convinced that, as the Scriptures say, any who remain *in her* will share in her judgment. We want to be in that new house that the God of Heaven is establishing,¹⁴ outside of the ranks of Christianity. Just as our Master Himself took His stand outside the false religion of His day¹⁵ and was crucified outside the city walls,¹⁶ so we, too, want to be pure and undefiled by the harlot.

We hope that what we shared here will help you to know us better. We look forward to hearing from you, and you are welcome to contact any of our communities. 🍷

¹Gal 3:29; 6:16 ²Isa 49:6; Mt 5:14 ³Eph 2:12-14; James 1:1; Acts 26:7; Rev 21:21 ⁴Heb 8:10; Mt 5:17; Rev 1:6; 5:9-10; Mt 21:43; 1 Pet 2:9 ⁵Rom 13:10 ⁶Gen 18:19 ⁷Luke 1:33 ⁸Rev 21:9-12; 19:7-8; Luke 1:17 ⁹2 Cor 11:3-4 ¹⁰Heb 3:6; 8:10; 10:21 ¹¹Mt 7:26 ¹²Rev 18:4-5 ¹³Rev 12:1

¹⁴Eph 2:19 ¹⁵Mt 21:43 ¹⁶Heb 13:13

WHO WE ARE

THERE IS A PEOPLE who woke up this morning with one thing on their minds — to love their Creator with all their heart, mind, and strength, and to love one another just as He loved them. Being just ordinary human beings, we are far from perfect in our love, yet, in hope, we persevere. Our goal? That the kingdom of God would come on earth as it is in heaven, so that love and justice can rule on the earth.

Sound impossible? It would be, were it not that the Son of God came to earth to redeem mankind, to set us free from the curse of sin, and to enable us to love. Because we have come to see His worth and our own desperate need, we have surrendered everything in order to follow Him. Our hearts and our homes are open night and day to any who are interested in our life or are weary of their sin and want to know the purpose for which they were created.

Some of Our Communities in the United States

Stepping Stone Farm

Rt. 2, Box 55, Weaubleau, MO 65774
☎ (417) 428-3251

Community on the Lake of the Ozarks

1140 Lay Ave, Warsaw, MO 65355
☎ (660) 438-4481

Community in Manitou Springs

53 Lincoln Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829
☎ (719) 573-1907

Community in Vista

2683 Foothill Drive, Vista, CA 92084
☎ (760) 295-3852

Morning Star Ranch

12458 Keys Creek Rd, Valley Center, CA 92082
☎ (760) 742-8953

Community in Pulaski

218 S. Third St, Pulaski, TN 38478
☎ (931) 363-8586

Community in Chattanooga

316 N. Seminole, Chattanooga, TN 37411
☎ (423) 698-6591

Community in Hillsboro (D.C. Area)

15255 Ashbury Church Rd, Hillsboro, VA 20132
☎ (540) 668-7123

Community in Asheville

9 Lora Lane, Asheville, NC 28803
☎ (828) 274-8747

Hiddenite Conference Center

[Between Statesville and Taylorsville]
471 Sulphur Springs Rd, Hiddenite, NC 28636
☎ (828) 221-0232

Community in Savannah

223 East Gwinnett Street, Savannah, GA 31401
☎ (912) 232-1165

Community in Brunswick

927 Union Street, Brunswick, GA 31520
☎ (912) 267-4700

Community in Arcadia

601 W. Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266
☎ (863) 494-3305

Community in Island Pond

P. O. Box 449, Island Pond, VT 05846
☎ (802) 723-9708

Basin Farm

P. O. Box 108, Bellows Falls, VT 05101
☎ (802) 463-9264

Community in Rutland

134 Church Street, Rutland, VT 05701
☎ (802) 773-3764

Community in Boston

92 Melville Ave, Dorchester, MA 02124
☎ (617) 282-9876

Community in Hyannis

14 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601
☎ (508) 790-0555

Community in Lancaster

12 High Street, Lancaster, NH 03584
☎ (603) 788-4376

Community in Coxsackie

5 Mansion St., Coxsackie, NY 12051
☎ (518) 731-7711

Oak Hill Plantation

8137 State Route 81, Oak Hill, NY 12460
☎ (518) 239-8148

Common Sense Farm

81 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY 13820
☎ (607) 267-4062

Community in Oneonta

119 Third Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
☎ (607) 272-6915

Community in Ithaca

119 Third Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
☎ (607) 272-6915

Community in Hamburg

2051 North Creek Rd., Lakeview, NY 14085
☎ (716) 627-2532

For information about our communities in Europe, South America, Australia, and Canada, please visit our web site.

Call us toll-free 24 hours a day:

1-888-TWELVE-T

1-888-893-5838

or visit our web site at:

www.twelvetribes.org