**Survey of the Old Testament**

**The Call of Abraham Genesis 12-13**

1. It had been more than 300 years since the flood and the last recorded instance of God speaking to mankind.
2. God appeared to Abram (Acts 7:2) and said leave your land and family, and follow me to a land I will show you. Read
3. Obedience to God always arises out of trust in God. In other words, we obey God because we believe that he knows what is best.  For the Christian the problem is usually one of faith. We struggle to obey because we struggle to believe that God’s way will really work out for the best.
4. God will bless you and make you a blessing when you choose to follow Him.
5. Abram departed and began a journey of following the Lord by faith. Everywhere Abram went he built an altar to the Lord.
6. The Lord will test our faith to help us to grow in our faith.  Read James‬
7. The test of Abram’s faith came as a severe famine struck the land of Canaan.  Abram failed the test as he lied about his wife and got in a mess in Egypt. God rescues Abram and he returns to Bethel, then worships the Lord again there.  He never built an altar in Egypt. God can’t make you a blessing when you use other people for selfish reasons.
8. Abram and Lot separate and we see the impact the Egypt trip had on Lot as he chooses where to go based on what he saw in Egypt and not on trust in the Lord.

**Abram Meets Melchizedek Genesis 14**

1. Lot moves to Sodom and gets his family in a mess.  Abram rescues Lot and meets Melchizedek on his return home.  The Lord again is revealing to Abram who He is.
2. Melchizedek is the KIng of Salem (peace) and Priest of the Most High God and has the first communion in the Bible with Abram, then blesses him. Melchizedek is Jesus.
3. Abram responds by giving a tenth to Melchizedek of all the spoil.  This is the first time the Bible records someone tithing.
4. Abram also refuses the spoil from the King of Sodom. Read verses 21-23

**Abram Believed God Genesis 15**

1. This is the first recorded time that Abram speaks back to the Lord.  He also addresses the Lord as Sovereign Lord.  The Lord reaffirms the promise of a son and Abram believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness.
2. Then God enters a covenant with Abram through several animal sacrifices and reveals that Abram’s descendants will be in bondage in Egypt 400 years.  The smoking furnace signified the affliction of his seed in Egypt and the burning lamp reveals deliverance out of the furnace; their salvation was as a lamp that burneth.  The passing of these between the pieces was the confirming of the covenant.
3. It is worthy of remark that every animal allowed or commanded to be sacrificed under the Mosaic law is to be found in this list.
4. Please note verse 16 concerning the judgment of God on those in Canaan land.

**The Birth of Ishmael Genesis 16**

1. Abram and Sarai try to help the Lord and get in the flesh. Sarai gives Abram her Egyptian slave girl for wife, so she can have children by her.
2. Hagar become pregnant and the trouble starts. Hagar runs away and is met on her journey by the Lord. The Lord reveals to her to go back and submit to Sarai as she will have a son and tells her his name and character. Hagar is the first person recorded in the Bible to give the Lord a name, “You are the God who sees me.”

**Abram and Sarai Names Change Genesis 17-18**

1. God again appears to him, announces his name as God Almighty, and commands him to walk perfectly before him. Abram and Sarai had their names changed by God himself. Abram (“exalted father”) became Abraham (“father of a multitude”). And Sarai became Sarah, which means “princess.” Why did God change their names? As a symbol of their changed status! They had gone from barren to blessed.
2. God established the covenant of circumcision, this was a sign of God’s covenant with Abraham. It reveals to us the intimacy that God desires in our relationship with Him. Abraham laughs to himself thinking how can this happen. God also told him to name his son Isaac which means laughter. Abraham and all males of his house were circumcised.

**The Men Visit Abraham Genesis 18**

1. This time the Lord meets with Abraham in the form of a man. The Lord reveals the time the child will be born and Sarah laughs to herself.  The Lord asks her, “Is anything too hard for the LORD”?
2. After the meal the two angels got up and headed to Sodom.  The Lord reveals to Abraham what He is doing giving Abraham an opportunity to intercede.  Abraham begins to pray and intercede for Sodom where Lot lived.

**Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed Genesis 19**

1. We see the results of sin with the men wanting to have sex with the two angels who appeared to them as men.  Then we see the spiritual state of Lot as he offers them his two virgin daughters.
2. Also we see the power of intercessory prayer.  The angels tell Lot to get his family and leave because God is going to destroy the city with fire.  Lot tries to talk to his sons-in-law but he has lost his testimony with them so they will not listen.  As Lot hesitates the angel grabs Lot, his wife and daughters by the hand and takes them out of the city. V 14-17
3. The power of intercession is seen again as the angel says, “I can do nothing until you leave”.  V 22 At the end of the chapter we see the death of Lot’s wife and the perversion of Lot’s daughters, the results of living in a sinful place.

**Abraham Fails Again Genesis 20**

1. Abraham lies again about Sarah so God has to deliver Sarah again from a bad situation because Abraham didn’t trust God.

**The Promised Child Isaac Born Genesis 21**

1. God did exactly what He had promised and gave Sarah a son and they named him Isaac.  Sarah declared, “God has brought me laughter.” V 1 (Isaac means laughter)
2. Hagar and Ishmael are sent away because He is not the son of promise. As they journey they run out of water, God opened Hagar's eyes to see a well and cares for them as the child grows up.
3. Abimelech testified to Abraham and says “God is obviously with you, helping you in everything you do,” v 22 Abraham and Abimelech make a covenant together.

**Abraham’s Biggest Test Genesis 22**

1. The Lord tested Abraham by telling him to offer Isaac on the altar. Abraham obeyed the Lord - traveled to the place God showed him. A ram is offered in the stead of Isaac, ﻿and the place is named Jehovah-jireh.
2. Hebrews 11:17-19
3. There is more to this story than Abraham and Isaac. This story is one of the brightest, most colorful of all the Old Testament portraits of our Lord Jesus. Like Isaac, Jesus faced a sacrificial death at the hands of his own Father. Like Isaac, Jesus took up the wood on which he would give his life and carried it into the countryside of Moriah, around what we now know as Jerusalem. Like Isaac, Jesus had questions about his Father’s plan: “if you are willing, remove this cup from Me.” But, like Isaac, Jesus faithfully obeyed his Father: “yet not My will, but Yours be done” (Luke 22:42).  But that is where the similarities end. For Jesus, there was no ram in the thicket. For Jesus, there was no substitute. Jesus’ Father actually went through with what Abraham only contemplated: sacrificing his Son, his only Son, whom he loves—for the sake of sinners. Isaac was spared, but God “did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all”.

**The Burial of Sarah Genesis 23**

1. Sarah died at 127 years old. Abraham purchases burial property and they bury Sarah.

**Isaac and Rebekah Marry Genesis 24**

1. He prayed! “O Lord … please grant me success.” And notice that, not only did he pray, but he prayed specifically.  He asked God for a sign. And not just any sign, but a sign that accorded with biblical principles. He asked God, through the sign, to guide him to a woman of character—one who had a servant’s heart. V 12-15
2. The chapter ends with the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah.

**The Death of Abraham Genesis 25**

1. Abraham dies at 175 years old and is buried with Sarah.