

God Makes a Promise to Abraham

Many years went by after the great flood. Again there were people living everywhere on earth, and again many of them forgot about God who had made the world and everything in it. They said they could not see God and instead they would pray to the sun and to the moon, which they could see. They made gods out of stone and clay and wood and prayed to them. Without God's help these people became wicked and did many bad things. Still there were some people who remembered God and loved Him.

The Holy Bible tells us many stories about such men. The first story is about Abraham.

Abraham lived in a city called Ur of Chaldee. It was an old city with beautiful buildings. All of Abraham's family - his wife Sarah, his father, mother, uncles, and cousins - lived there with him. They had large flocks of sheep and goats.

One day Abraham heard God's voice speaking to him:

"Go out of this country to a new land that I shall show you. I shall be with you and shall bless you always. Your children and your children's children will make a great country and to them will come the Savior of all people on earth."

So Abraham gathered his belongings and all his family and left the city of Ur. They went along a great river, where many people worked in the green fields. They went past crowded cities. At last the road led them into an empty desert. All day long the hot sun beat down, for there was no shade. Abraham was sometimes afraid, but on and on he went. He knew that he was doing only what God told him to do.

God then spoke to Abraham again and said: "Look all around you - all the land that you can see shall belong to your children and your children's children. They will become a great people and have mighty kings. They will obey My law and I shall be their God forever and ever."