

# **HARVEST ROCK CHURCH**

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## **OUR FATHER ABRAHAM FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SERIES**

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**TEXT: Genesis 17:4 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.”**

**Matthew 1:1 The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

**Isaiah 51:1 “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, Who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were hewn And to the quarry from which you were dug. 2 Look to Abraham your father And to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; When *he was but one*, I called him, Then I blessed him and multiplied him.”**

**Galatians 3:6 Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, *saying*, “ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.” 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer...**

**Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us — for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE” — 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

**Galatians 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.**

**INTRO: Abraham is a very significant biblical character in my life. Cindy Jacobs gave me a prophetic word in December 1995 that I “would be like Abraham, a**



father of multitudes.” The Bible encourages us all to look back into biblical history to the life of Abraham. We are children of Abraham through Jesus Christ, and by studying Abraham’s life, we will see that the covenant that God made with Abraham is now ours through Yeshua, our Messiah. There is a saying that goes, “Like father, like son.” God wants us to emulate the faith and obedience of Abraham, and we too will come into the blessings of Abraham.

Abraham is called the father of our faith. We are to look to him as an example of a great father, not a perfect father (e.g. he lied about his wife twice, had sex with Hagar, etc.) but the father of the nation of Israel, Islam, and Christianity.

**Purpose Statement: I want to talk about five aspects of Abraham. 1) Abraham was a blessed man. 2) Abraham was a man of faith. 3) Abraham was a generous man. 4) Abraham was radical in his obedience. 5) Abraham was a friend of God.**

## **I. ABRAHAM WAS A BLESSED MAN**

**A. Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families [*mishpecho*] of the earth will be blessed.”**

**1. I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION (v. 2a)**

**2. I WILL BLESS YOU (v. 2b)**

**3. I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT (v. 2c)**

**4. YOU WILL BE A BLESSING (v. 2d)**

**5. I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU (v. 3a)**

**6. I WILL CURSE THOSE WHO CURSE YOU (v. 3b)**

**7. ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU! (v. 3c)**

## **B. THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM INCLUDES FINANCIAL PROSPERITY**

**1. Genesis 13:2 Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.**

**2. In Genesis 24:35, Abraham’s servant, who was looking for a wife for Isaac, says, “The Lord has blessed my master greatly,” and then enumerates the blessing that God had given to Abraham.**

3. Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” 14 He redeemed us in order that the *blessing* given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.
4. Of course, this begins with being born again, but God wants to bless us spiritually, emotionally, physically, mentally, relationally, and financially. We don’t have to apologize for the fact that prosperity is included in the Abrahamic blessing. God is blessing you to be a blessing. The key, though, is to be a blessing to the families of the earth. God picked a family—Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac—to be a blessing to the families of the earth. Throughout Scripture we will see the priority of family.

## II. ABRAHAM WAS A MAN OF FAITH

### A. FAITH IS A GIFT THAT COMES FROM AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

1. Acts 7:2 To this he replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.” (NIV)
2. Romans 10:17 So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
3. God begins to speak to Abram to leave his family and his country and go to the land that God would show him.
4. We are seeing this right now as Muslims are having dreams of Jesus in Iran. One Bible smuggler had his car break down in an obscure village in Iran. People came out of their cars to meet him. They all had a dream that a stranger would be coming to their town and give them the book about life and would explain Isa (Jesus) to them.
5. God gave me a number of encounters of Jesus before I gave myself to Him. E.g. The Sand Sculptures.

### B. FAITH IS TRUSTING WITH PERSEVERANCE IN GOD’S PROMISES

1. ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD – Genesis 15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” 2 But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my



heir.” 4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” 5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars — if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

2. **Genesis 15:6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. (NIV)**
3. Faith is persevering even when you don’t see the promises coming to pass. Abraham receives this word that he will become a father at age 75. He becomes the father of Isaac at 100. 25 years of persevering!
4. **1982: “COME TO LOS ANGELES FOR A GREAT HARVEST.”**
5. **ROE V. WADE OVERTURNED AFTER 49 YEARS OF CONTENDING**
6. In 1982, God gave me a dream to come to LA and there will be a great harvest and a great revival. It has been 40 years, one generation. I believe that the harvest is coming in. We see it with Let Us Worship and Mario Murillo’s ministry.

### C. FAITH IS DECLARING GOD’S WORD

1. Genesis 17:1-5 – Changing his name from “exalted father” (Abram) to “father of many,” Abraham. He was declaring what God gave to him.

## III. ABRAHAM WAS A GENEROUS MAN

### A. ABRAHAM GAVE A TITHE TO GOD

1. We could talk about how generous Abraham was to his nephew Lot, giving him the choice land to graze and also sacrificing his household to rescue Lot when he and his family were captured by a pagan King. But because we are on a stewardship series, I want to focus on Abraham’s giving a tithe to Melchizedek.
2. **Genesis 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.**
3. The writer of Hebrews gives us a revelation of who this Melchizedek is.
4. Abraham tithed to Melchizedek. He is a type of Christ. He had no beginning and no end. His name means “King of Righteousness,” “King of Peace” (Salem).



5. Melchizedek is either the Lord Himself or at the very least a type of Christ, and we see Abraham, the father of our faith, tithing to him.
6. **Abraham is the father of us all who believe (Romans 4:11)**, and the book of Hebrews states that we are priests under the order of Melchizedek.
7. When people say tithing is under the Law and that I am not under the Law, what are they saying?
8. Abraham tithed 430 years before the Law. Then tithing was incorporated into the Law.
9. There are transcending truths that are true in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament. Did you know that murder was under the Law? Do we say because it is under the Law, can we murder? Stealing is under the Law; so now that I am under grace, can I now steal? I am under grace; does that mean we throw out the Old Testament? Which of the Ten Commandments do you want to throw out because we are under grace? Grace gives us the power to obey the commandments.
10. **Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (NIV)**
11. People have told me that Jesus was part of the old order until after His resurrection and the birth of the Church. After His death and resurrection, Jesus gave the Great Commission, so what do we do with these verses? Matthew 28:19-20 “Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... teaching them to obey everything that I commanded you.”
12. **How are we to exceed what the Pharisees had done? By not stopping tithing? Absolutely not, but we are to tithe motivated out of grace and love, not out of duty.**
13. God gave us the gift of righteousness by grace. Grace demands more than the Law. Jesus is full of grace and truth. He is saying, “I am requiring more than the Law.” The standards are not lower but higher, but God gives us the power to do so. The ordinances of not committing murder or adultery have

not changed. Tithing has not changed. There is grace not to commit adultery and murder. There is grace to tithe.

14. Billy Graham, who passed away in 2018 and was the most respected leader in our time: **Billy Graham said, “The Bible says that it was Christ’s love for the church that caused him to go to the cross. If Christ loved the church that much... I must love it too. I must pray for it, defend it, work in it, pay my tithe and offerings to it, help to advance it, promote holiness in it, and make it the functional, witnessing body our Lord meant it to be.”**

**B. JESUS TAUGHT TITHING: Matthew 23:23 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill, and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.” (NIV)**

1. If I said that Jesus taught tithing and it is in the Bible, would you do it?
2. Tithing is one of the principles that 10% belongs to God. This was true before the Law and affirmed in the Law, and Jesus affirms it in the New Testament.
3. Jesus is saying that justice, mercy, and faithfulness are the Law. Do we say that because we are under grace and not Law, we don’t have to be just and merciful and faithful? Jesus said that you should do the justice, mercy, and faithfulness and without ceasing tithing.
4. The two institutions that God established before the Law were tithing and the Sabbath.

**C. SOME OF THE OTHER ARGUMENTS: “WE ARE CALLED TO BE FREE. ISN’T GIVING VOLUNTARY IN GOD’S KINGDOM?”**

1. Yes, it is voluntary. You don’t have to obey anything that Jesus asked you to do. But a sign of being born again is that you want to do what God wants you to do. But our freedom is not to feed our flesh and do what we want to do.
2. **Galatians 5:13** For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

**D. “IT IS MY MONEY. I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT TO DO.”**

1. This is what we are covering in our stewardship series. Everything belongs to God; we are just stewards.
2. **Psalm 24:1** The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof, the world and all those who dwell within.
3. **Haggai 2:8** “The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,” says the Lord of hosts!

**E. “I MUST PAY OFF MY DEBT FIRST”**



1. My debt is first to God. The tithe belongs to Him. I must not rob God to pay others. God will help you get out of debt, but we must first obey God. When you tithe, He shows Himself strong. He will provide.

#### **F. “I CAN’T AFFORD TO TITHE”**

1. You cannot afford *not* to tithe. It is better to have God’s blessing on the 90% than to have all without the blessing of God. Giving is not a financial issue; it is a Lordship issue. People under the Lordship of Jesus should stop quibbling about tithing and rationalization. When the firstfruits is set apart and holy, the rest becomes holy. **Romans 11:16 If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.**

#### **G. “MY LITTLE WON’T MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE”**

1. It has nothing to do with the amount but has everything to do with obedience. The poor widow could only give two small coins (Luke 21:1-4).

#### **H. “WHEN I MAKE MORE, THEN I WILL START TITHING”**

1. The Bible says that if you are faithful with little, then you will be faithful over much. If you are not doing it now, you won’t tithe when more income comes in.

#### **I. “YOU DON’T KNOW MY FINANCIAL PROBLEMS”**

1. I know what they are saying. “Pastor, I will not be able to meet my budget.” The day that we allow our financial problem to color our giving is the day we stop trusting in God, thus limiting Him from providing for us supernaturally. People do whatever they have to do to adjust. It is usually the argument that I don’t want to lower my standard of living and tithe.

#### **J. “I MAKE A LOT OF MONEY. IF I TITHE, I WOULD BE GIVING AWAY AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF MONEY AND I DON’T KNOW IF THE PASTOR CAN HANDLE THAT.”**

1. This argument came from a person I know.
2. You are not God. You don’t know if the money is going to corrupt the pastor. Don’t judge your pastor. You obey God, and God, out of love, knows how to correct His leaders.
3. People do that all the time. Major Christian athletes made headline news when the media found out that they tithed on their multimillion-dollar contract.

### **IV. ABRAHAM WAS RADICALLY OBEDIENT TO GOD**

#### **A. ABRAHAM RADICALLY OBEYED GOD.**

1. Abraham traveled 1500 miles from Ur to Canaan.
2. **Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed, and went, even though he did**



not know where he was going. **9** By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. **10** For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

3. Abraham begins his journey with obedience.
  4. Can you imagine him telling Sarah they were moving? "I have good news and bad news. The good news, the Eternal God revealed Himself to me and told us to leave our country. The bad news is that He didn't tell us where we are going, and I have no idea where we are going."
  5. Obedience pleases God. There is something that happens to our heavenly Father's heart that brings joy and delight to Him.
  6. **1 Samuel 15:22** But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. **23** For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."
  7. Obedience is better than sacrifice. Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft. When you disobey the Lord, the sin is as bad as witchcraft. And when you rebel, you open the door to the curse of witchcraft (Deuteronomy 18:9).
- D. ABRAHAM AND ISAAC: Genesis 22:1** Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. **2** Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." **3** Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. **4** On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. **5** He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." **6** Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, **7** Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" **8** Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering,



my son." And the two of them went on together. 9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." 15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

1. "Sometime later..." Isaac is now a teenager, or young man. Near the end of his life, he is obeying God. God will test us to establish and confirm our faith and develop character.
2. "Take your son, your only son, whom you love..." is for emphasis of how much Abraham loved and cherished his son. "Go to the region of Moriah," which is Jerusalem today. Mount Moriah is where the Dome of the Rock is located, the Muslim mosque. Jerusalem is the most strategic city in the world. When Jerusalem experiences revival, the end will come.
3. "Early the next morning..." – No hesitation. Prompt obedience.
4. I love the movie *The Bible*, where Abraham is struggling all night. It shows his humanity. But it is only a movie. It's Hollywood. The greatest demonstration of his obedience was when he was told to offer up his son.
5. **Hebrews 11:17** **By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, 18 even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." 19 Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.**

6. Abraham would sacrifice Isaac, and then he believed that God would raise him from the dead and fulfill the promise that through his descendants all nations would be blessed.
7. “God Himself will provide the lamb.” Abraham is prophesying that God will ultimately provide the sacrifice of Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
8. Abraham is being led by God. You see his intimate relationship with God. He laid his son on the wood, just like Jesus was laid on the cross. Isaac is a type of Christ.
9. God revealed Himself to Abraham as Jehovah Jireh, “the Lord provides,” when he offered up what he loved.
10. We don’t know what verbal exchange is going on with Abraham and Isaac, but there is radical obedience taking place here. He wants you to surrender your Isaac on the altar. The time God called me to San Diego to give everything up, and then the call came for TheCall. There have been times where God has told me to give up the things I love.

## V. ABRAHAM WAS A FRIEND OF GOD

**A. James 2:23** And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend.

1. **ABRAHAM’S FAITH PLEASED GOD:** Hebrews 11:6 You cannot please God without faith.
2. **ABRAHAM WORSHIPED GOD:** Genesis 12:8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD
3. **ABRAHAM KNEW GOD:** He considered God faithful. Hebrews 11:11 “By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.” He knew God’s character and he knew that God would not ask him to sacrifice Isaac without God raising his son from the dead. The posture of faith, even if you don’t receive the promise of God. Conversely, Jesus could not do many miracles because of the people’s unbelief. Abraham had extraordinary faith, but his faith was one of obedience.
4. **ABRAHAM WAS BROUGHT INTO GOD’S COUNSEL CONCERNING SODOM AND GOD RESPONDED TO HIS INTERCESSORY CRY:** Abraham had such an intimate relationship with

God that God brought him into his counsel. Genesis 18:17 “The LORD said, ‘Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, 18 since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? 19 For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.’”

5. In God’s economy He has ordained prayer to grow in intimacy with God. Communication is the key to any relationship. In the home, the church, or a company, if there is no communication, there is no relationship. Heart-to-heart communication. God wants to be intimate with you.
6. In Abraham’s life you see him growing in the knowledge of God. When he is interceding for Sodom, you hear this incredible dialogue going on. If there were ten righteous. Among the pagan religions during Abraham’s time, he knew God.
7. **THE GOAL IN LIFE IS TO KNOW GOD, TO BE INTIMATE WITH GOD:** Paul’s deepest desire was to know Him. All the success of being the greatest apostle, church planter, teacher, and worker of miracles springs from this intimate relationship. **GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW HIM AS HIS FRIEND.** John 15:15 “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

**CONCLUSION:** God is asking us to step out in faith and purchase a building that we don’t know about or can disclose to you except for our board members. This is where God is leading us to be like a corporate Abraham to trust. He wants us to be obedient when He tells us what we are to give. Because it may not make sense, but He will show Himself as Jehovah Jireh, the Lord our Provider.