

Abraham The Leader

Lead 703 Biblical Leadership

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One of the greatest biblical leaders of all times is Abraham. Born Abram, also known as the Father or God is Exalted (Genesis 17:5), comes on the scene in Genesis 11:26. As time progresses, we see the destined leader, embark on his family journey to Ur of the Chaldees with his father, Terah, his nephew Lot, his barren wife, Sarai (Genesis 11:29). After the death of his father, Abram has an encounter with Lord who reveals to him the necessity to relocate into another land, where he would eventually become the founder of an entire nation, away from his kinsman so that he can receive all the blessings God wants to shower over him. God bestows his promises over Abram's life in Genesis 12:2 which states how God was going to make Abraham a great nation which was also going to afford him the opportunity to be so blessed that his name was going to represent the overflow of blessings. God wanted so for Abram to know how blessed he was that he reassured him how he would bless those who blessed thee and curse those that may attempt to curse him (Genesis 12:1-3).

Positioned for Leadership

In the attempts of being obedient to his master, Abram, at the ripe age of 75, did as he was instructed, moved his wife Sarai, Lot and all his livestock out of Haran into to the land of Canaan. God even choice the grounds upon which Abram was to build his home. God was so pleased with the Abram creation that he hand fed the awesomely structured leader however, as leaders do, Abram lost confidence in who he was. Upon his encounter with Pharaoh, he made Sarai lie about being his sister for he say the way in which man looked upon beautiful women.

In fear that Pharaoh may have sought to take his life for his wife, he chose to omit the fact that he traveled with an all powerful God. Genesis 2:16 elaborated on how Pharaoh grant Abram the gift of livestock and servants on behalf of Sarai however Abram's inherited blessings brought

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about plagues against Pharaoh's livelihood. Once approached about the curses, Abram informed Pharaoh how he lied for he feared for his life (Genesis 12:17-20).

Separation

Often times before elevation takes place, separation occurs. We see in the 13 chapter of Genesis where Abram was forced to journey opposite of his nephew. Prosperity and much fortune had overtaken the life of Abram and all that had accompanied him on his journey thus far. He especially made sure his nephew, Lot, was well taken care yet his generosity appeared to be overlooked. As the two grew older, their possessions also grew to the point where their combined possessions became far too much for the land in which they dwelt. At one point the Bible elaborates on how their became a disruption of peace between Abram's followers and Lot's followers. In light of the newly formed opposition, Abram decided it was best for he and Lot to part ways. He offered Lot land for his possessions in hopes their separation would be that of peacefulness and harmony however Lot wasn't as concerned with the harmony of the transition as he was with the opportunity of a life time. He wanted to make sure he had first choice in getting the best land. Abram agreed to allow Lot to choose which land he wanted first (Genesis 13:8-18). Subsequently Abram was given the best land. This is a great example of how when leaders lead with integrity, they always gain the best position and reap the best benefits.

War

Lot is now seen in need of Abram's assistance yet again. Being forewarned by a messenger, Abram that Lot has lost of his goods and has been captured. Abram, as great leaders do, found way to free Lot and recover not only all of Lot's earthly possession, he gained possession of all that dwelt within the land (Genesis 14:8-20). After Abram's victory, he was

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approach by the King of Salem, Melchizedek, also referred to as the high priest of God, in hopes to bring resolve to what had transpired. Melchizedek admired Abram as he acknowledged not only had great and noble he was, but how anointed and appointed he was. Under the circumstances, Abram offered the high priest 10 percent of all he had inherited from the war bound possessions however the high priest suggested he would just take the people that had been captured and that Abram could keep the rest. Graciously, Abram informed the kind gentleman how it was against his better judgment to conduct business in such a manner. He expounded on how his riches comes from God and how he didn't want to do anything that would taint his relationship with his most high priest (Genesis 14:17-20). The bible suggest followers not to get weary in well doing for blessing come if one refuses to give in (Galatians 6:9).

The Covenant

Genesis 15 reveals the dynamic dialogue between God and Abram. God is sharing the blessing that were about to overtake him yet Abram was focused on the fact that he wasn't going to have any heirs to leave his prized possessions. It was during this life changing dialogue that God reassured Abram he was not only going to have an heir of his own bowels, he was going to be a father of so many nations that the stars above couldn't even summarize in number what God was going to do in realty (Genesis 15:1-17)

Boers (2015) said it best , we appear to submit humbly to the Lordship of Christ and embrace his authority (Boers 2015), however when we as leaders get in a hurry, we exasperate the journey by leaning to one's own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). Abram is seen tampering with the will God has for his future. He has walked with this almighty, all knowing God yet he succumbs to Sarai's maternal emotions. Instead of summoning God on behalf of his fatherly

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quest, Abram allows Sarai to create an ungodly scenario where he is forced to choose a way that is not pleasing to God. Because Sarai had yet to have a child, she persuaded the situation by appealing to her husband to sleep with her maidservant, Hagar in the attempts to fulfill her maternal fantasies (Genesis 16:1-4). As Abram adhered to her request, Hagar became with child. Sarai was now more miserable for now there was a child but not actually her child. Her act of disobedience relentlessly caused Sarai to embrace an entirely new sense of resentment. She became furious with Hagar to the point that she drove the pregnant woman out of town. Abram also was witness to error however his obedience to his wife caused an uproar in his home which was not affecting more than just he and Sarai. In his efforts to keep a peaceful marriage, he allowed Sarah to mistreat this innocent young lady. As the lady attempted to escape her misfortune, an angel of the Lord, communed with her on how to successfully deal with her dilemma. Hagar was instructed to go back to the place she called home and that her and her seed were going to be blessed above her mind's greatest imagination (Genesis 16:1-15). Hagar's obedience allowed her person to be blessed and Sarai and Abram's disobedience caused turmoil within their relationship. As leaders, we must understand that when we have been given charge over the lives of others, we are going to be held accountable on how we treat our assignments.

Circumcision

Circumcision is a surgical procedure to remove foreskin from the penis. Medical professions believe circumcision can help eliminate phimosis, paraphimosis, and balanoposthitis. Some state this procedure can also assist in decreasing urinary tract infections, lower the risk of cancer in the penis as well as lower the chance of obtaining a sexually transmitted disease and HIV (Perstein 2018). The Bible shares how when one gives their lives to Christ, they are new creatures, all old things are passed away and all things become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). One

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must die daily in order to stay in God's glory (1Corinthians 15:31). In (Luke 9:23) Jesus informs followers that in order to follow him, one has to die daily. Mark 8:35 shares how those who loses their lives for Christ sake and the gospel will gain life.

When circumcision is discussed, many refer back to the covenant in which God made with Abraham. At 95, God established a covenant with then Abram. Not only did God establish a new thing with this amazingly awesome leader, God established a covenant and changed Abrams and his wife's name at the same time during the shifting phase. Now God was allowed to relinquish the secret of parenthood to the elderly couple. After the elevation had taken place, Abraham and those male followers and family members in which he was given charge, were circumcised (Genesis 17:1-27).

Interceding on behalf of Sodom

Being the great leader that God is, God wisely chose the manner in which he was about to redirect Sodom. Because he was aware of all the greatness in which Abraham stood, God didn't want him to become lost within the confound of Sodom's wickedness. Thessalonians (5:22) teaches for one to obtain from the presence of evil. Abraham being the leader God had created him to be gained knowledge of the present situation and pleaded with God to allow any who was willing to turn from their sinful ways, the opportunity to live life with the Father also known as God. Good leaders strive to spare the shortcomings and misfortunes of fellow colleagues. Even though God had already suspected Abraham would react as he did, God listened to his child's plea. Because Abraham, the leader, saw substance in the people, God adhered to is request and many were saved for destruction. (Genesis 18:16-33).

Deception

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Genesis 19 elaborates on how magnificent leader will warn their leader(s) when traps of failures and deceptions are present. It is in this chapter that we see God warning Abraham, through a dream, about a forthcoming deception. God informed Abraham that he understood how amazing of a person he was, therefore when the married lady attempted to seduce him, he would not let her succeed (Genesis 19:6). Such occurrence also alerted Abraham of all the evil that was surrounding him.

Birthing of an Heir

Abraham and Sarah , at the ripe old age of 99 and 100, the couple are now embracing their heir. Birthing of purpose will force one to shift away from old shortcomings in order to focus on the newness of God. This was also a time when Hagar and Abraham's son, Ishmael were giving their exit papers (Genesis 21:1-20).

Obedience

As great of a leader as Abraham had proven to be, God wanted to examine his devotion to his faith. God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, the one who heir he had been waiting for years. Abraham, who understood God to be the epitome of Leadership, trust God with all his being. The text states, Abraham gathered Isaac, his transportation, his two security guards, and all the tools needed to fulfill that which God had asked of him (Genesis 22:1-9). Once Abraham had proven his loyalty, God exonerated Abraham from his given task. As leaders, we must always understand loyalty, when loyal to upright leaders, usually breeds success.

Retirement

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After the death of his wife, Sarah (Genesis 23:2), Abraham prepares for retirement. He prepares Isaac for his future endeavors (Genesis 25:5), and then prepares for his last moments (Genesis 25:8).

Abraham is known to many as being one of the greatest leaders of all times. His disposition was so phenomenal that those in other countries held him in high esteem. Genesis (18:27), displays Abraham's humbleness. When asking for land to build burial grounds for his wife, Sarah, (Genesis 23:4), yet instead him using his political status and prestige, he offered to buy the land. While dialoguing with the Hittites, now only did Abraham bow, he refused to accept the land without payment (Genesis 23:6). As all good leaders, he was willing to sacrifice his son to the ultimate leader, God (Genesis 22:11). Abraham lead with courage. In spite of the difference he and his nephew, Lot, had encountered, Abraham still chose to risk everything to rescue family (Genesis 14:10). Abraham believed in justice and stood for change.

White (2008) refers to transformational leadership as being a leadership style where leaders inspire, motivate, and encourage their followers (White 2008). Bass (1985) created a transformational model which suggest transformational leaders are those who incorporate strong, authentic leadership skills which motivate and cultivate change. Characteristics which should be present are moral standards, ethics, motivates others in a positive manner (Bass 1985).

I think Abraham was so duly noted because he was wise in his decision making. Boers (2014) suggest great leaders are great decision makers since this is such a difficult process. Avolio and Gardner (2005), believe humans are flawed and inherently biased therefore many decisions result in failure (Nutt 2005). Abraham was an active listener who exalted integrity for he did what he said was important to do (John Maxwell 1993). I believe he lead with self

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awareness and self discipline for in many cases this was said to be one of the most important characteristics leaders should possess. Abraham seemingly had people skills for it was apparent that he inspired all he came encountered (Boers 2014). Even when he went to rescue his nephew Lot, the high priest humbly met with Abraham to negotiate fair business transactions (Genesis 14:8-20).

If I were to describe Abraham in terms of a specific leadership style, the one that comes to mind is transformational leadership. Black and Porter (2000) define transformational leadership as being the leadership style which motivates followers, ignores self-interests and works on behalf of the greater good of the people. They believed achievements and accomplishments should be mainly concerned with sharing the vision of the organization in the attempts of convincing others the necessity for change. According to Black and Porter (2000), transformational leaders have a positive influence on their followers and their belief regarding organizational values (Black and Porter 2000). Avolio (1994) also believed transformational leadership displays characteristics such as charisma, inspiration, compassion and intellectual stimulation (Avolio 1994). Trice and Beyer (1991) proclaimed charisma to be a characteristic which funds organizational change.

Clemens and Mayer (1999) believed the Bible displays to be a great example of effective leadership. They also expounded on the life and leadership of Abraham the great. They depicted how Abraham helped destroy paganism and is widely known for laying foundation for three major religions which include that of Christianity, Islam and Judaism (Genesis 17:5) Clemens and Mayer both agree Abraham possessed traits resembling those of transformational leadership (Clemens and Mayer 1999).

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According to Clemens and Mayer (2000, Abraham had a vision which included the creation of a new nation which would ensure the safe, unified and prosperous entity for all of his descendent who promoted the one God he so humbly served. in monotheism, concern for the helpless, and justice for all (Genesis 12:8; Genesis 13:4; Genesis 13:18). The two also elaborated on the fact that God referred to this magnificent leader as being a Prince of God (Genesis 23:6). They also believe Abraham to be as great a communicator as he was a visionary (Clemens and Mayer 2000).

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