September 9

Different Languages

Tower of Babel

All the nations of the earth were descendants of Noah’s sons and thus all spoke the same language. In their wanderings they found this perfect plain of Shinar, that is Babylonia, they discovered how to make bricks and made tar to hold them together – Read: Genesis 11:4.

The Lord saw what these people were up to and if they accomplished this project, what might they try next?

So God had to do something to stop this project – Read: Genesis 11:7. The languages of the people were confused, they could not understand each other, and the project was abandoned. This is the origin of the many different languages now spoken in the world.

These people were building this city and tower to make a name for themselves, we too, ought to be careful not to become self-centered but to always thank the Lord and give Him the glory in all that he allows us to do.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 11:9

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord never to become self-righteous and think I have all the answers but to rely on You always and give You the honor and glory!

September 10

A Chosen Man

God Calls Abram

Abram, a descendant of Shem, son of Terah living in Haran when – Read: Genesis 12:1.

Abram followed the Lord’s instructions; he packed up his wife, nephew and servants and left for a land the Lord would show him. What faith!

When they arrived in Canaan – Read: Genesis 12:7.

The Lord promised Abram – Read: Genesis 12:2.

Even with this promise, how many of us would want to leave our home and strike off into the unknown? Would we have enough faith and trust in the Lord to know he would guide and guard us? That is the kind of faith we should strive for, complete and undying faith.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Hebrews 11:8.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help my faith to grow, O Lord, to a complete, trusting, undying faith. Help me to go where you send me and to know you will always go with me.

September 11

Abram

In Egypt

Abram and his family moved around in Canaan, working their way to the southern part, when a famine struck Canaan, they crossed over into Egypt.

As they were crossing the border Abram was afraid if the Egyptians thought Sarai was his wife they would kill him and let her live, because of her beauty, so he told them she was is sister. Under this deception they lived in Egypt until the Pharaoh’s officials saw Sarai and told the king of her beauty. The Pharaoh had her brought to the palace. The Pharaoh treated Abram well because of Sarai but things started going bad for the Pharaoh, the Lord sent terrible diseases to him and the people in the palace.

The Pharaoh finally learned the truth – Read: Genesis 12:18, 19. Abram was caught in his lie and was expelled from Egypt.

Lies never pay off, one lie usually leads to another and you get caught in the middle of a variety of consequences.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Proverbs 10:9

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to always tell the truth, lies lead to more lies and have no place in your kingdom. Have the truth always prevail in my heart and life.

September 12

Abram

The Separation

Abram and the family left Egypt and settled in the southern part of Canaan.

Lot, Abram’s nephew and Abram were both very rich men, with many cattle, sheep and goats and Lot had a large family with many servants. Quarrels broke out between Lot’s and Abram’s herdsmen, over the lack of pastureland.

It was time to part company – Read: Genesis 13:8, 9. Lot looked around and saw the whole Jordan valley spreading out beautiful and well watered before him, so he chose to go and live there, Abram stayed in Canaan.

When Lot had left – Read: Genesis 13:14-16.

What a grand promise, we all want land and family, Abram received his land and descendants through faith and obedience. We cannot earn eternal life but faith and trust in the Lord will not go unrewarded.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 13:17

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord to rely on your promises, the promise you have made to return again someday and take me to the place you have prepared for me in heaven.

September 13

Abraham

A New Name

Once again God comes to Abram, telling him of the covenant and the promise of many descendants – Read: Genesis 17:4, 5.

God went on the tell Abraham that there was to be a physical sign of the covenant – Read: Genesis 17:11-12. Circumcision is still practiced in the Jewish faith.

Not only was Abram’s name changed to Abraham but Sarai name was changed to Sarah – Read: Genesis 17:15-16.

God promises Abraham and Sarah a son, it is very hard to believe that at their ages, 100 and 90 that they could possibly have a child.

Do we really believe today that anything is possible with the Lord?

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 17:19

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to believe in modern day miracles, because anything is possible in you, O Lord.

September 14

Sodom and Gomorrah

The Destruction

The Lord had seen the sins of Sodom and told Abraham of the possible destruction, Abraham pleaded for the good people – Read: Genesis 18:32.

Two angels came to Lot and he talked them into coming to his house because he knew of the sinful nature of Sodom but even so – Read: Genesis 19:4, 5. Lot’s house was basically under siege by these men until – Read: Genesis 19:10-11. In Genesis 19:13 the decision to destroy was made and Lot and his family were told to leave – Read: Genesis 19:17. Lot and his family fled to Zoar and then the whole region was destroyed. Read: Genesis 19:24-25. The valley that Lot had seen as so beautiful was a den of sin and now was completely destroyed, looks can be deceiving.

There was only one hitch to the escape – Read: Genesis 19:26.

Lot’s wife just couldn’t resist taking one last look at her old life. When Jesus comes into our lives, we need to shed our old ways and turn completely, never looking back.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 19:29

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always look ahead in my new life in you, O Lord.

September 15

A Son

Isaac is Born

Sarah at a very old age did indeed get pregnant and have a son – Read: Genesis 21:6, 7.

Isaac in Hebrew means to laugh and that is what the baby was named.

Hagar, Sarah’s servant, had given Abraham a son; Ishmael before they knew Sarah would have Isaac. When Isaac was weaned, Sarah had Hagar and Ishmael sent away, this troubled Abraham, but the Lord told him to allow it to happen – Read: Genesis 21:12-14.

The water ran out – Read Genesis 21:17-19. Ishmael grew up in the desert, became and archer and his mother arranged for him to have and Egyptian wife.

God opens our eyes, to the living truths he has for us in Christ Jesus. God provided for Hagar and Ishmael just as he provides for our daily needs. We often forget who provides our food, we may purchase or grow food but God created and provides the food to be bought.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 21:13

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to always to remember that it is really you, O Lord, who supplies my needs and not me.

September 16

Isaac

The Sacrifice

Isaac grew into a fine young lad and God came to Abraham – Read: Genesis 22:2.

Abraham, the obedient servant of the Lord, packed up the wood, servants, his son Isaac and journeyed to the place the Lord would show him.

What a journey that must have been, Abraham thinking he would have to kill the son he loved and waited so long for – Isaac had a question – Read: Genesis 22:7. Abraham’s response – Read: Genesis 22:8 – Yet Abraham knew somehow the Lord would provide.

When they reached the assigned place, an altar was built, Abraham bound his son and raised the knife to kill him – Read: Genesis 22:11-12. Isaac was spared and Abraham sacrificed the ram that the Lord had provided – Read: Genesis 22:13.

We know that God loves us because he didn’t withhold his only son as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Obedience has its reward.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 22: 17-18

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to love you with all my being. Thank-you for the sacrifice of your Son for my eternal life.