Different Languages September 9

Babylon

 All the nations of the earth were descendents of Noah's sons and all spoke the same language. In their wanderings they came up on the plain of Babylonia, they dried bricks and had tar keep them together – They said, "Now let's build a city with a tower that reaches to the sky, so that we can make a name for ourselves and not be scattered all over the earth." Genesis 11:4.

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

 The Lord said, – "Now, then, these are all one people and they speak one language;…let us go down and mix up their language so that they will not understand one another." Genesis 11:6a, 7. The languages were mixed and the people were scattered and the tower was never finished. 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 also, ought to be careful not to become self-centered but to always thank the Lord and give him glory in all that he allows us to do.

A LINGERING THOUGHT: How often do you give God the glory?

VERSE FOR TODAY: The city was called Babylon, because there the Lord mixed up the language of all the people, and from there he scattered them all over the earth. Genesis 11:9.

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

A Chosen Man September 10

God Calls Abram

 The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your native land, your relatives, and your father’s home, and all to a country that I am going to show you" Genesis 12:1.

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

 When they arrived in Canaan – The Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "This is the country that I am going to give your descendents." Genesis 12:7a. Abram knew he had arrived where the Lord wanted him.

 The promise the Lord gave Abram – “…I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing…” 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 be able to trust the Lord enough to know he would guide and guard us? That is the kind of faith we should strive for; complete, undying faith.

A LINGERING THOUGHT: Is my faith strong enough to face the next test?

VERSE FOR TODAY: It was faith made Abraham obey when God called him to go out to a country which God had promised to give him. Hebrews 11:8a.

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.

Abram September 11

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 his sister. They lived under this deception in Egypt until the King’s officials saw Sarai and told the King of her beauty, he had her brought to the palace. All went well for Abraham because of Sarai, but things started going bad for the King, the Lord sent terrible diseases on him and the people in the palace.

 The King finally learned the truth and called Abram to him and asked – "…Why did you say that she was your sister, and let me take her as my wife? Here is your wife; take her and get out!” Genesis 12:19.

A LINGERING THOUGHT: Lies only bring trouble.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Honest people are safe and secure, but the dishonest will be caught. 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.

Abram September 12

The Separation

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

 Lot and Abram were both very rich men, with many cattle, sheep, 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.

 -Then Abram said to Lot, "We are relatives, and your men and my men shouldn't be quarreling. So let's separate. Chose any part of the land you want. You go one way, and I’ll go the other. Genesis 13:8, 9.

 Lot looked around and saw the whole Jordan Valley spreading out beautiful before him, so he chose to go and live there, Abram stayed in Canaan.

 When Lot had departed the Lord spoke to Abram, reaffirming his promise – “From where you are, look carefully in all directions. I am going to give you and your descendents all the land that you see, and it will be yours for ever.” Genesis 13:14b, 15.

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: "…Now, go and look over the whole land him because I am going to give it all to you.” Genesis 13:17.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to rely on your promises, the promise that you will return someday to earth and take me to the place you have prepared me heaven.

Isaac September 13

Finding a Wife

 Once again God comes to Abram, telling him of the covenant and the promise of many descendents – “I make this covenant with you: I promise that you will be the ancestor of many nations. Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham, because I'm making you the ancestor of many nations" Genesis 17:4, 5.

 God went on to tell Abraham that there was to be a physical sign of the covenant – “…From now on you must circumcise every baby boy when he is eight days old, including slaves born in your homes and slaves brought from foreigners. This will show that there is a covenant between you and me…" Genesis 17:11 – 12. From that day to this male all Jewish male babies are circumcised. Not only was Abram’s name changed but Sarai’s was changed to Sarah, because of the promise that she would become mother of nations, she would have a baby! Abraham and Sarah both laughed when they heard the news that they would be parents at their age!

 Today as well, anything is possible in the Lord!

A LINGERING THOUGHT: Do we really believe anything is possible in the Lord?

VERSE FOR TODAY: But God said, “No. Your wife Sarah will bear you a son and you will name him Isaac. I will keep my covenant with him and with his descendants forever. It is an everlasting covenant…” Genesis 17:19.

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

Sodom and Gomorrah September 14

The Destruction

 The Lord had seen the sins of Sodom and told Abraham of the possible destruction, Abraham pleaded for the good people – Abraham said, “Please don't be angry, Lord, and I will speak just once more. What if only ten are found?”

He said, “I will not destroy it if there are ten.” Genesis 18:32.

 Two angels came to Lot in Sodom and after dark the men of Sodom came to Lot’s house and wanted indecent sex with the men guests. That was the deciding factor, Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed.

 Lot and his family were told by one of the angels –“Run for your lives! Don’t look back and don’t stop in the valley. Run to the hills, so that you won’t be killed.” Genesis 19:17. Lot did as he was told although the destination was changed to the town of Zoar.

 As the sun rose and Lot entered Zoar – Suddenly the Lord rained burning sulphur on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah 25and destroyed them and the whole valley, along with all the people there and everything that grew on the land. Genesis 19:24, 25. The valley that Lot saw so beautiful was a den of sin and now was completely destroyed.

 Lot was safe in Zoar with his daughter – But Lot’s wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. 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: But when God destroyed the cities of the valley where Lot was living, he kept Abraham in mind and allowed Lot to escape to safety. Genesis 19:29.

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

A Son September 15

Isaac is Born

 Sarah at a very old age did indeed get pregnant and have a son – Sarah said, "God has brought me joy and laughter. Everyone who hears about it will laugh with me." Genesis 21:6. 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 grew big enough to play with Ishmael, Sarah had Hagar and Ishmael sent away, this troubled Abraham, but the Lord told him to allow it to happen.

 When the water and food ran out, Hager left Ishmael under a bush and went off a distance and began to cry herself. Then an Angel of the Lord spoke to her –"…Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy crying. Get up, go and pick him up, and comfort him." Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. Genesis 21:17b, 18a, 19a.

 God opens our eyes, to the living truth he has for us in Christ Jesus. God provided for Hagar and Ishmael just as he provides for our daily needs.

 Ishmael grew up in the wilderness of Paran and married an Egyptian woman.

A LINGERING THOUGHT: We really realize it is God who provides?

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…I will give many children to the son of the slave woman so that they will become a nation. He too is your son.” Genesis 21:13.

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

Isaac September 16

The Sacrifice

 Isaac grew into a fine young lad and God came to Abraham –"Take your son," God said, "your only son, Isaac, whom you love so much, and go to the land of Moriah. There on a mountain that I will show you, offer him as a sacrifice to me." Genesis 22:2.

 Abraham, the obedient servant of the Lord that he was, packed up the wood, servants, his son Isaac and journeyed to the place that 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, but nonetheless Abraham bound his son and raised the knife to kill him – But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!”

He answered, “Yes, here I am.”

 “Don't hurt the boy or do anything to him,” he said. “Now I know that you honour and obey God, because you have not kept back your only son from him.”

 Genesis 22:11, 12.

 We know that God loves us because he didn't withhold his only Son as the ultimate sacrifice for our sin!

 Isaac was spared and God provided a ram caught in the bushes to be used as the sacrifice.

A LINGERING THOUGHT: Do we have enough love make a living sacrifice of ourselves to God?

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…All the nations will ask me to bless them as I have blessed your descendants - all because you obeyed my command.” Genesis 22:18.

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.