



PASTOR JOE IS THE SENIOR PASTOR AT SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH IN RENO, NEVADA • FEBRUARY 18, 2024
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

A. Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael

Meet Abraham

1. His name means “The Father of Many.”
2. The first of the Hebrew patriarchs and a figure revered by the three great monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
3. He lived in Ur, on the Euphrates, in Iraq.
4. When he was 70, God told him to “go”—and he did. (Canaan; Gen. 12)
5. God promised him he would become the father of a great nation.
7. Abraham set up camp in Shechem and God said, “I am going to give this land to your offspring.” (Gen. 12:7)
8. Issue: Abraham (75 yrs.) and Sarah (66 yrs.) had no offspring.

Meet Ishmael

1. Because Sarah was old, she instructed Abraham to conceive a child with her servant Hagar.
2. Though not in keeping with God’s plan, it was an acceptable practice for infertile couples in this culture.
3. Ishmael was born as the offspring of Abraham and Hagar.
4. God made a promise to Ishmael in Gen 21:31, that he would “...make a nation of the descendants of Hagar’s son...”
5. Ishmael is considered the father of the Arab people.

Meet Isaac

1. A decade and a half after Ishmael was born, Isaac was born.

2. Abraham was 99 yrs. old and Sarah was 90 yrs. old.
3. God sealed his promise with Abram (Abraham) and Sarah (Sarai).
4. Genesis 17: 5-6 (“...for you will be the father of many nations...”)
was not just a promise but a covenant.
5. The Jewish custom of circumcision began (Gen. 17:13ff).
6. “Isaac” means “laughter” because Sarah laughed when she was told she would bear a child in her old age.
7. Sarah wanted Hagar and Ishmael sent away so that Isaac would receive a bigger inheritance—which broke Abraham’s heart.
8. The biggest test in scriptures—for a man, specifically, Abraham, came when God called him to sacrifice Isaac. With faithful obedience that seems incomprehensible, Abraham builds an altar and raises his knife. Only then did God stop him. Most biblical scholars see this as a foreshadowing of another Father-Son story. (Gen. 22; LESSON: What Abraham was willing to do—sacrifice his son—God did!)
9. Abraham and Sarah; and Isaac and Rebekah are buried in the cave of Machpelah near Hebron in a huge mosque called the *Tomb of the Patriarchs*. Herod the Great built the site more than 2,000 yrs. ago.

B. Conflict in the Middle East?

Why is there conflict in the Middle East? Religion? Land? Politics? Hate?

My answer is this: _____



Compromise

Our English word denotes “giving in” to make peace.
The Greek word, *συμβιβαστεί*, means “to pervert.”
The Hebrew word, *להתפשר*, means “invert.”
The word *compromise* is not specifically used in the Bible.

The Chair of Moses

PICTURED ON THE RIGHT

This chair is from the synagogue in the city of **Chorazin**. It is located on the most important wall of the synagogue, which faces Jerusalem.

This seat is a model of the original seat that is now located in the Israeli Museum in Jerusalem. It was found, inverted, in an archaeological dig in 1926.

The teacher of the synagogue would sit in this seat when the Word of God was taught.



C. Compromise in the Middle East?

Genesis 22:1, 10-12, NASB95 -¹ Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am!”² He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you...”¹⁰ Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”¹² He said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”

Surah 37:101-107, Koran: And, when he, his son, was old enough to walk with him, he said: “Oh my son! I have seen and dreamed that I am slaughtering you. So look what you think!” He said: “Oh, my father! Do that which you are commanded, if Allah wills, you shall find me of the patient.” Then, when they had both submitted themselves, and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead, he (a force) called out to him: “Oh, Abraham, you have fulfilled the dream, verily, thus do we reward the doers of good. Verily, that indeed was the manifest trial period and we ransomed him with a great sacrifice.” [NOTE: Nowhere is “Ishmael” named in the Koran as being the sacrifice. It is the tradition of Islam but not specifically stated that Ishmael was the one sacrificed. A concern for Arab scholars is that, according to Mohammed, Abraham dumped Hagar and Ishmael in the desert region of what would one day become Mecca in the 4th Century AD when Ishmael was a baby. According to Mohammed, he did not see him again until his second marriage. (Surah 11:71ff)].

Galatians 4:21–23, NASB95 -²¹ Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. ²³ But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise.

BRIEF OBSERVATIONS:

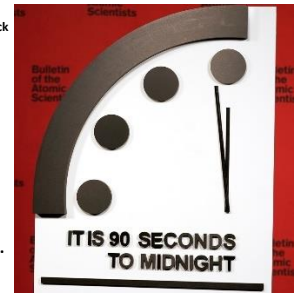
- 1. Abraham, Esau, King Saul and many others “compromised.” It has left us in a terrible predicament.**
- 2. Man’s way always leads to bondage; God’s way leads to freedom.**
- 3. We must not compromise our theology for anybody, anytime. (Chorazin is a picture of what happens when we reject or devalue God’s standard.)**
- 4. “I am not fretful because I know God has a plan and He is working His plan. My goal is not to *scare*, but to *prepare*.”** - Pastor Joe

D. The Most Dangerous Time in History.

I. UPDATE on Israel/Hamas War

- Today is Day 141 of the War (Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024)
- Death rates are heartbreaking.
- Stories of abuse are shattering.
- Hamas started this current conflict.
- Israel may be too ferocious for “optics” for me.
- Hamas tunnels are under key structures.
- Evidence points to the UN’s direct support of Hamas.
- The mood in Gaza is very tense—most are scared.
- The mood is Israel is tense over Hamas and Hezbollah (the next phase of the war).
- Israel seems driven to succeed is destroying Hamas and Hezbollah—at all costs.
- How do you negotiate with terrorists that have one goal—**Israel’s elimination?**
- The whole world is fearful as the IDF approaches Rafah.

Doomsday Clock



2. UPDATE on Israel and the United States

- The Biden administration showed its hand on Israel last Tuesday when USSOS Anthony Blinken gave Israel an ultimatum to “...support Palestinian Statehood or risk demonization by the United States.” (Source: Caroline Glick, JNS, “360 Degrees of Hostility: The Biden Administration and Israel, Feb. 5, 2024)
- The Biden administration also said it would “cut back” on delivering arms and military supplies to pressure PM Netanyahu to stop the war in Gaza.
- Israel has God on its side—it does not need the US; the US needs Israel (Gen. 12:3).
- I am broken that pulpits are basically hushed, and our churches are basically prayerless on this matter.

Three Times Paul Warned Us to “Not be Unaware”:

Second Coming (1 Thess. 4)

Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor. 12)

The Mystery of Israel (Rom 11)

- US Morality, Wokeness, DEI (Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion), and CEI (Corporate Equality Index) IS putting our country in a position to receive God’s harshest judgment (and obviously threaten our stock markets and retirement accounts)
- Our musicians, sports figures, movie stars and social media influencers are the primary change catalyst in our younger culture.
- Most older Americans are afraid and paralyzed in a post pandemic world.

3. UPDATE on Israel and the World.

- North Korea and Kim Jung Un – Nuclear Threats.
- Russia’s Yarovaya Law adds provisions to prosecute foreign Christian missionaries.
- Ratification of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), a complex agreement between Russia, China and Iran to lead the world to a *new multipolar world order*, intended to replace the current *unipolar American-led order*. It includes a military and mutual-defense agreement. It was ratified July 4, 2023, but publicized February 1, 2024. (Liberal US media outlets did not carry the story.)
- I do believe the world, as we know it, is in the beginning of “birth pains” of the last days.