

**THE
TRUE STORY
OF THE
OLD
TESTAMENT**

Responding to God's Revelation and Redemption

Responses to God's Revelation and Redemption

2

1. Value a study of the Old Testament. 8.
2. Respond to God as your creator. 9.
3. **Live in light of God's judgment and mercy.** 10.
4. 11.
5. 12.
6. 13.
- 7.

Reve

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

Today: Lesson 4a

A. God's call of Abraham (Gen. 11:27-31)

B. God's promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)

C. Abraham's faith in God (Gen. 15:1-6)

D. God's unconditional covenant with Abraham (15:7-21)

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God Deals with Abraham's Descendants

A. With Isaac (Gen. 21 – 27)

B. With Jacob (Gen. 28 – 36)

C. With Joseph (Gen. 37 – 50)

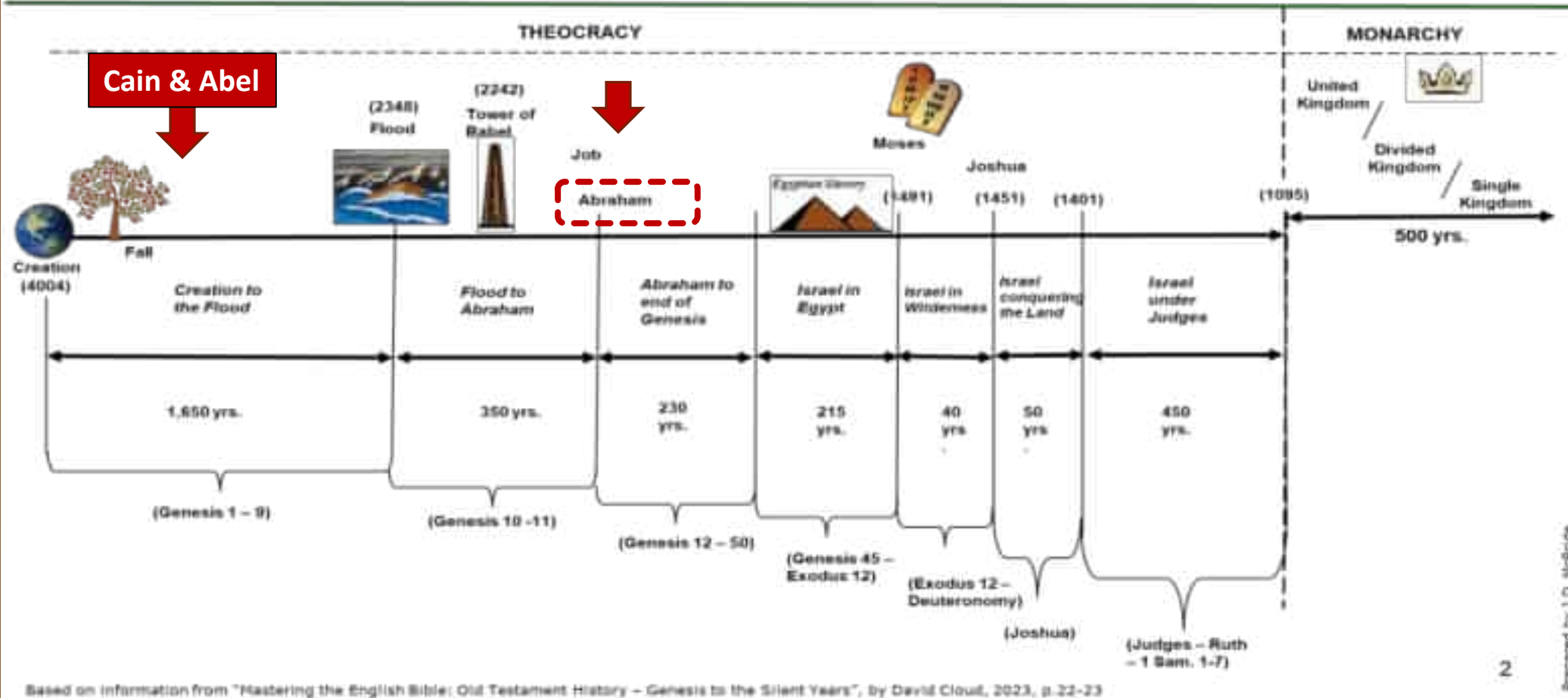


Next Lessons

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

A Timeline Overview of the Old Testament

NOT TO SCALE



Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

OPENING

Tower of Babel Aftermath – Abram (Gen. 11:27-32)

“In the divine providence, this scattering of families became the first step in the plan of God to call apart a particular people.



The genealogy of the family of Shem leads to the first mention of Abram, and serves to reveal the immediate parentage and family connections of this man who is to be the leading character of the narrative to follow.”

“The Pentateuch”, L. Thomas Holdcroft, Western Book Company, 1966, p.21

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

OPENING

Beginning of a Nation

“With Abraham begins the account of God’s creation of Israel. Israel is a major part of God’s plan. Israel is God’s chosen nation.”

De 32:8 When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

De 32:9 For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

God devotes one chapter of the Bible to the beginning of the universe, but 39 chapters to the beginning of Israel.”

“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.87

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

OPENING

Beginning of a Nation

“God created the nation Israel through Abraham to accomplish four things:

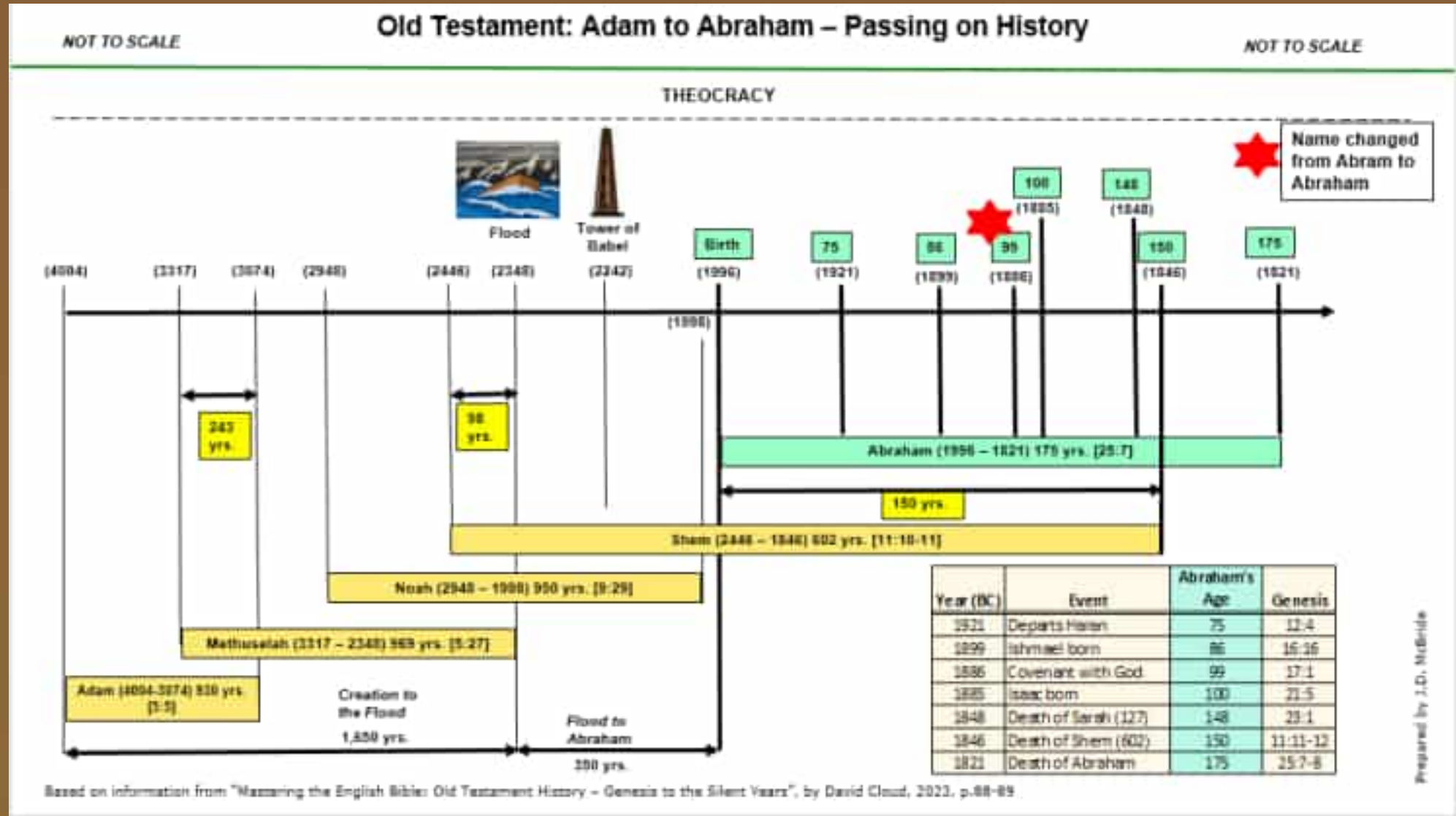
1. To give the Scriptures to the world (Rom. 3:1-2)
2. To give the law to the world (Rom. 3:19; Gal. 3:24)
3. To give the Saviour to the world (Rom. 9:4-5). Jesus said that salvation is of the Jews (John 4:22)
4. To establish God’s eternal kingdom through Jesus Christ, the Seed of Abraham and David (Isaiah 9:6-7)...”

“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.87

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

BACKGROUND

9



Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

Lesson 4a

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

A. God's call of Abraham (11:27-31)

Acts 7:2-4

And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,

And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.

Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.



Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

A. God's call of Abraham (11:27-31)



Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

A. God's call of Abraham (11:27-31)

“Ur of the Chaldees was a city of about 150 acres with an estimate population of some 24,000. It included two-story houses, a city sewer system, and neatly laid out streets...



In spite of the advanced civilization and many worthy insights, Ur remained basically idolatrous and polytheistic. The very name ‘Ur’,..., was also the name of the moon-god.”

“The Pentateuch”, L. Thomas Holdcroft, Western Book Company, 1966, p. 21-22

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

B. God's promise to Abraham (12:1-3)

“It was a covenant of grace.

God made the promise and there were no conditions that Abraham had to fulfill.”

- *“And I will make of thee a great nation”*

“God's covenant with Abraham was inherited by his son Isaac (Gen.26:1-4) and through him it passed to Jacob (Israel) (Gen. 28:12-14), and to the nation Israel which came from Jacob's 12 sons.”

“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.91-92

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

B. God's promise to Abraham (12:1-3) [continued]

- *“And I will bless thee, and make thy name great”*

“ Abraham was given great wealth and prominence. He is mentioned over 300 times in the Bible.

Through Isaac, Abraham is the father of Jews and the Christians, and through Ishmael, he is the father of the Arabs. He is the father of all who believe (Rom. 4:11).

Heaven is even called *‘Abraham’s bosom’* because he is the father of all of the saved (Luke 16:22).”

“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.91-92

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

B. God's promise to Abraham (12:1-3) [continued]

- *“And thou shalt be a blessing”*

“to all that knew him and conversed with him, they receiving spiritual light and knowledge by means of his instruction, and to all that should hear and read of his faith and piety, being encouraged by his example:...”

“Exposition of the Old and New Testaments” , by John Gill , (1697-1771), from SwordSearcher 9 software

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

B. God's promise to Abraham (12:1-3) [continued]

- *“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee”*

“ God’s promise....is fulfilled on Abraham’s physical seed Israel and in his spiritual seed the church, and it is still in force... God has blessed and cursed nations for how they have treated Israel... ”

(Examples on next two slides)

“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.91

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

B. God's promise to Abraham (12:1-3) [continued]

- *“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee”*

“After Russia persecuted the Jews in the pogroms of the late 1800s and early 1900s, she endured a half century of turmoil, devastation, and oppression. There was the great famine in 1891, the Russian-Japanese War of 1905, the Communist Revolution of 1917, almost continual civil wars from 1917-1920, the loss of massive amounts of territory to the Ottomans in 1918, the Red Terror and Ukraine anarchy of 1918, the Polish-Soviet War of 1920, the famine of 1921, the Stalinization of the 1930s with its great purges, assassinations, labor camps, and general terror, and the vast destruction of Russia by the invading German armies of 1941-1942.”

“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.91

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

B. God's promise to Abraham (12:1-3) [continued]

- *“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee”*

“When Great Britain refused to help Israel establish her new nation in 1948 and instead helped the Arabs, the British Empire was lost shortly thereafter. We do not believe that this a coincidence

On the other hand, America blessed the Jews. Between 1880 and 1924, two million Jews were allowed to immigrate to America, most coming from Eastern Europe where they were oppressed and persecuted. America has not been a perfect friend to Israel, but America has stood with Israel as no other nation has, and there can be no doubt that God has blessed America because of this.”

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

B. God's promise to Abraham (12:1-3) [continued]

- *“And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”*

“Abraham was promised UNIVERSAL blessings (Gen.12:3).... This aspect of the Abrahamic covenant is also fulfilled through Abraham's Seed Jesus Christ.



“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.92

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

C. Abraham's faith in God (Gen.15:1-6)



“At this juncture, possibly in response to Abram’s personal discouragement, the Lord granted to him a special revelation. God described Himself as *‘thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward’* and Abram addressed Him as *‘Adonai Elohim’*, that is *‘LORD GOD’* or *‘Master God’*.

In this visitation, God reaffirmed the promise of innumerable seed, and assured him that his lineage was to be by way of a natural born heir rather than through Eliezer, his servant.”

“The Pentateuch”, L. Thomas Holdcroft, Western Book Company, 1966, p. 26

Illustrations from “Free Bible Images”, by Jim Padget

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

C. Abraham's faith in God (Gen.15:1-6) [continued]

“In this passage is the first Scriptural mention of the doctrine of justification, and the first use of the words: believe, impute (‘counted’), and righteousness.

It was upon this incident that St. Paul based his exposition found in Romans 4 of the doctrine of justification of faith.”

Romans 4:3 *For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*

“The Pentateuch”, L. Thomas Holdcroft, Western Book Company, 1966, p. 26

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

D. God's unconditional covenant with Abraham (15:7-21)

“In order to confirm the covenant, and to reveal something of the future, God made use of certain sacrifices.

The five creatures offered spoke in various ways of Christ:

- Heifer – fruitfulness and faithful work
- She-goat – sacrifice for sins
- Ram – meek surrender
- Turtle dove – sorrow and love
- Pigeon – life of faith on earth



In Oriental symbolism, the pieces of the divided animals represented the covenanting parties and the act of passing between them implied the establishment of unity.”

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs



Covenants in the Old Testament

1. Noahic (Gen. 9:8–17)

- Unconditional.
- God promised never again to destroy the earth by water.

2. Abrahamic (Gen. 12:7; 13:14–17; 15:5, 16–18)

- Unconditional.
- God promised to . . .
 - Make Abraham a great nation.
 - Bless Abraham and make his name great.
 - Bless and curse those who do the same to Israel.
 - Bless all the families of the earth through Abraham.

CONCLUSION

24

Abraham: “Friend of God”

“Apart from Jesus Christ, Abraham is in many respects the greatest man in Scripture. Moses, David, and Paul would certainly be recognized as great in the minds of those who know their stories, yet all of those would point to Abraham as their father and speak his name with respect.

Christians, Muslims, and Jews identify Abraham with the coveted title, ‘*Friend of God*’ (2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8, James 2:23).”

“History Makers of the Old Testament”, Elmer Towns, Victor Books, 1989, pg.54

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

Lesson 4a

CONCLUSION

25

Abraham: Man of Faith

“While the life of Abraham teaches many important principles, his life is above all else the story of a man who lived by faith.

He did not have Scripture to guide him, nor did he have the examples of others who lived for God, yet Abraham walked by faith.

Abraham learned experientially that even when he failed God, God was faithful. The story of Abraham is the story of a man who experienced the growing pains in a life of faith until the times of his greatest testings when he demonstrated he was not *‘weak in faith...but was strengthened in faith’* (Rom. 4:19-20).”

“History Makers of the Old Testament”, Elmer Towns, Victor Books, 1989, pg.55

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

Lesson 4a



Responses to God's Revelation and Redemption

1. Value a study of the Old Testament. **8.**

2. Respond to God as your creator. **9.**

3. Live in light of God's judgment and mercy. **10.**

4. Trust God for He is faithful. **11.**

5. **12.**

6. **13.**

7.