

GOD IN GENESIS

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Becoming a Friend of God

Friendship

□ Friend:

- Any associate or acquaintance.
- One with whom one is allied in a struggle or cause.
- One who supports, sympathizes with, or patronizes a group, cause or movement.
- A favored companion.
- A person whom one knows, likes, and trusts.

□ Friendship:

- The condition or relation of being friends

Abraham and God

- James 2:23
 - “So the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness,” and he was called **God’s friend.**”
- Isaiah 41:8
 - “But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham, My **friend—**”
- 2 Chronicles 20:7
 - “Are You not our God who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and who gave it forever to the descendants of Abraham Your **friend?**”

Note that it is God who calls Abraham His friend...

Why Be A Friend of God?

- Daniel 11:32b
 - ▣ “The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”
- A.W. Tozer:
 - ▣ “It is vitally important that we think soundly about God. Since He is the foundation of all our religious beliefs, it follows that if we err in our ideas of God, we will go astray on everything else.”
 - ▣ “We would do well to follow our old-fashioned forebears who knew what it was to kneel in breathless, wondering adoration in the presence of the God who is willing to claim us as His own through grace.”
 - ▣ “...if there is one terrible disease in the Church of Christ, it is that we do not see God as great as He is.”

Abram meets Jehovah

□ Genesis 12:1-8

- “The **LORD** said to Abram: ‘Go out from your Land, your relatives and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who treat you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’ So Abram went, as the **LORD** had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the people he had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the site of Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. But the **LORD** appeared to Abram and said, ‘I will give this land to your offspring.’ So he built an altar there to the **LORD** who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the **LORD** and worshiped Him (called upon the name of the **LORD**).”

Abram meets Jehovah

- “LORD” is our translation for Jehovah (Yahweh)
 - ▣ Yahweh is the covenant name of God
 - ▣ Yahweh means “the self-existent one”
- Abram came from a culture of moon worship.
 - ▣ Ur, in Iraq, and Haran, in Syria, were the two principal sites for worship of the moon-god Sin
- At the age of 75, he hears God speak to him, and he obeys.
 - ▣ Acts 7:2 “Brothers and fathers,” he said, “listen. **The God of glory** appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran”

Abram meets El Elyon

□ Genesis 14:17-24

- ▣ “After Abram returned from defeating Cherdorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley). Then Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was a priest to **God Most High**. He blessed him and said, ‘Abram is blessed by **God Most High**, Creator of heaven and earth, and give praise to **God Most High** who has handed over your enemies to you.’ And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, ‘Give me the people, but take the possessions for yourself.’ But Abram said to the king of Sodom, ‘I have raised my hand in an oath to the LORD, **God Most High**, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will not take a thread or sandal strap or anything that belongs to you, so you can never say, ‘I made Abram rich.’”

Abram meets El Elyon

- “El Elyon” is translated “God Most High”
 - ▣ Stresses God’s strength, sovereignty, and supremacy
 - ▣ Acknowledges that God is in control and exercises complete dominion over His creation
- Imagine the circumstances...
 - ▣ Abram, almost 90, takes 318 servants to recover Lot, taken prisoner in the battle of 5 great kings.
 - ▣ Abram brings back not only Lot, but also the other people and goods that were taken.
 - ▣ Melchizadek ministers to Abram and introduces him to El Elyon, God Most High.
- Abram is convinced, and promises God not to take any of the plunder but to rely on El Elyon for his care and provision.

Abram meets Adonai

□ Genesis 15:1-2, 7-8

- “After these events, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very great.’ But Abram said, ‘**Lord God**, what can You give me, since I am childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’”
- “He also said to him, ‘I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.’ But he said, ‘**Lord God**, how can I know that I will possess it?’”

Abram meets Adonai

- “Adonai” is translated “Lord and Master.”
 - ▣ Kay Arthur—”Lord is more than a word; it indicates a relationship. The lordship of God means His total possession of me and my total submission to Him as Lord and Master.”
- Knowing El Elyon precedes acknowledgement of Adonai
 - ▣ After God’s miraculous intervention, Abram places himself into slavery to God, recognizing His supreme power.
 - ▣ As Adonai, God expects obedience.

Hagar meets El Roi

- Genesis 16:13-14

- “So she named the LORD who spoke to her: **The God Who Sees**, for she said, ‘Have I really seen here the One who sees me?’ That is why she named the spring, ‘A Well of the Living One who Sees Me.’”

Hagar meets El Roi

- El Roi is translated “The God who sees”
- God saw Hagar in her desperation.
 - ▣ He knew what happened to her.
 - ▣ In His sovereignty, He allowed it.
- God sees us in every circumstance—when we hope He sees us and when we hope He doesn’t...
- Did Hagar remember this attribute of God when she was again cast out of Abraham’s household? Did Abraham remember? (see Genesis 21:14-21)

Abram meets El Shaddai

□ Genesis 17:1-3

- “When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to him, saying, ‘I am **God Almighty**. Live in My presence and be devout. I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you greatly.’ Then Abram fell to the ground...”

Abram meets El Shaddai

- El Shaddai is translated “God Almighty; the All Sufficient One”
 - ▣ The provider of blessings
 - ▣ The filler of our souls
 - ▣ The one who meets our every need
 - ▣ With the power and might to do so in miraculous ways beyond anything we can imagine
- Abram, at age 99, finally surrenders his efforts to help God fulfill His covenant and leaves the outcome entirely up to God the Almighty, All-Sufficient One.

Abraham meets Jehovah-Jireh

- Genesis 22:14
 - “And Abraham called the name of that place ‘The LORD will provide...’”
- Abraham is 100 years old when Isaac is born. He has walked with God since he was called in Haran 25 years before. He has come to know this God as:
 - Jehovah—the covenant keeper
 - God Most High—sovereign over circumstances
 - Lord and Master—demanding obedience
 - God who sees—...everything!
 - God Almighty—who pours out blessings when we are weak

Abraham meets Jehovah-Jireh

- Jireh is translated “to see”
 - ▣ Different in meaning from El Roi, The God who Sees
 - ▣ Implies an assessment of the situation and a provision of the need
- What did Abraham mean when he called God Jehovah-jireh?
- What did Abraham know about God?

Wrap-up

- The Bible is a progressive revelation, beginning with Genesis. We see God gradually reveal Himself to those whom He created.
- With the full record of Scripture before us, we can understand the amazing fullness of God's character.
- Since He is unchanging, we know that the God that Abraham came to know still invites us into His friendship today.

Get to Know God!

- E. M. Bounds
 - ▣ “Those who know God the best are the richest and most powerful in prayer. Little acquaintance with God, and strangeness and coldness to Him, make prayer a rare and feeble thing.”
- Sandy Mayle
 - ▣ “I’ve concluded that anyone who wants to plunge into the pleasures of praying for others should plunge into God. Who He is makes us want to pray, and what He’s like gives us confidence in prayer.”
- Hebrews 4:16
 - ▣ “Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.”