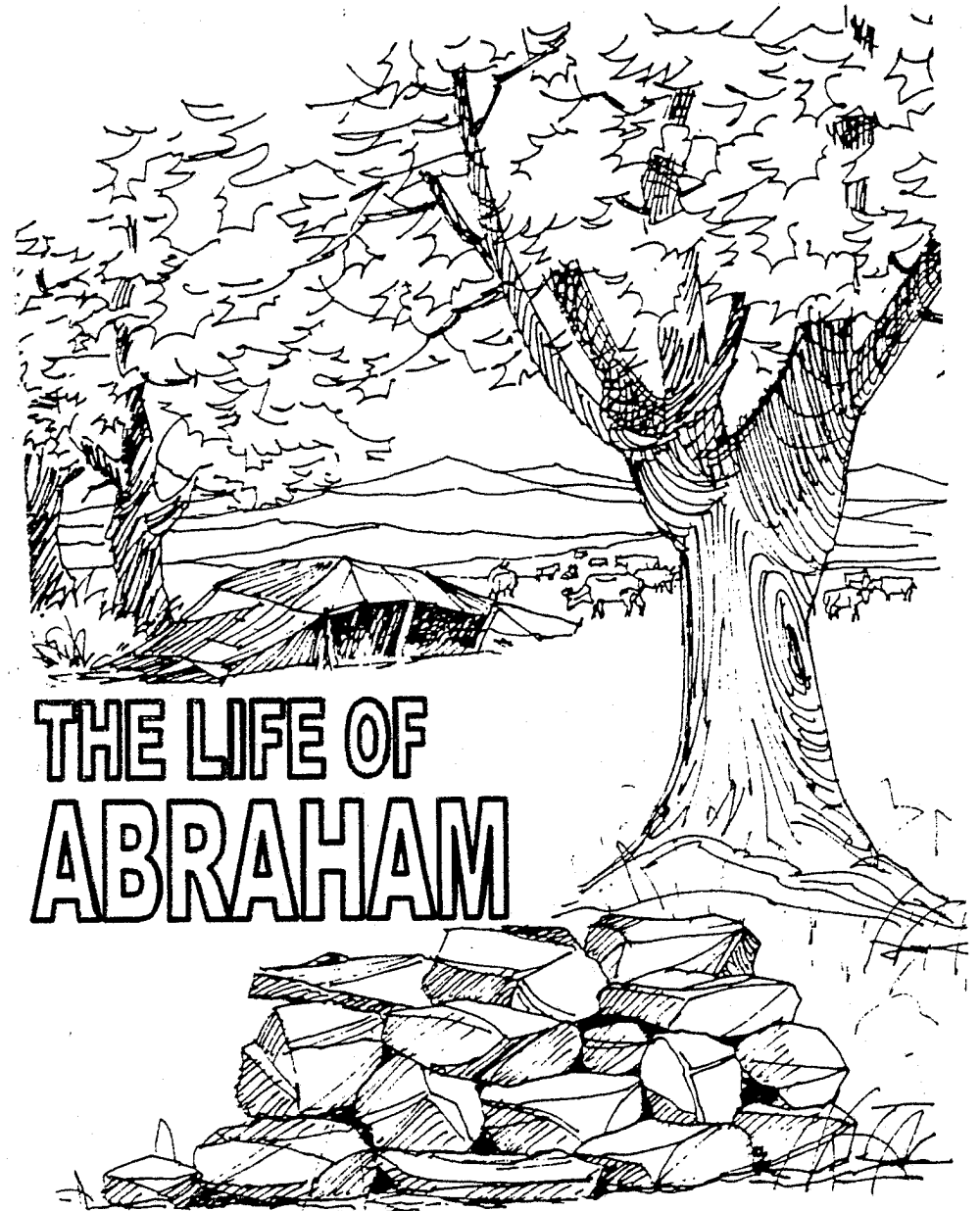


while the old man and his son went up and built an altar. Isaac asked where the lamb for the sacrifice was and Abraham said that God would provide. Isaac was put upon the altar and Abraham raised his knife. It was then God told Abraham to stop because he had shown his faith in God was real and a ram, caught in thick bushes was offered instead. Abraham had trusted God and passed the test.

When Isaac was thirty his dear mother died. One day Abraham told his trusted servant to go to Haran and there he would be shown a wife for Isaac. The servant made all the arrangements for the journey and set off with ten camels carrying all the things needed for such a long journey. When he arrived at the city it was evening and the young women came out to get water from the well near where he was standing. He quickly prayed to God for Him to show which girl was to be Isaac's wife. He asked God that the right girl would not only let him have a drink of water when he asked but would also offer to draw water for the camels. Before he had even finished praying a beautiful girl called Rebekah came out and he ran to meet her. When he asked for a drink she responded in just the way that he had asked of God. What a surprise he had when he discovered that she was descended from Abraham's brother. Abraham's servant was sure that this was the woman that he should choose and after getting permission he brought her home to be Isaac's wife. Isaac was walking in the cool evening when he saw them coming. Rebekah got off the camel and modestly covered her face when she saw Isaac approaching. He took her home and he loved her. Just as the Lord Jesus loved us, died for us and wants to take us to His home – Heaven. We can go with Him if we believe in Him as Saviour. Abraham was now a good old age but he lived until Isaac's twin sons were fifteen - they were Jacob and Esau but that is another tale!

# BIBLE HEROES : 2



## THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

## THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

We can read about the life of Abraham in the book of Genesis. Abraham was born in the City of Ur but after he was married he moved with his wife, his father and nephew to another city called Haran. Here they stayed, perhaps for some time until Terah, Abraham's father died. In Haran there were many idols and the people worshipped many gods. Abraham believed in the one true God who had told him to leave his own country and go to the land of Canaan.

So Abraham took his wife Sarah, Lot his nephew and other people who had joined them in Haran. They also took camels, cattle, sheep and goats and lived in tents. It was a long journey passing through Damascus and later into the Negev desert before reaching Egypt. There were bandits and famine problems. For a time they lived in Egypt because of a famine in Canaan. God kept them safe even though Abraham told Pharaoh a lie by pretending that Sarah was only his sister and not his wife.

There was trouble between Abraham's and Lot's shepherds as to who should have the best pastures. So one day Abraham decided that they should separate rather than argue, and asked Lot to choose where he would like to settle. Lot decided to have the Jordan Valley where there was plenty of room and water for his flocks. There were towns in the valley and eventually Lot went to live in one called Sodom which was an evil place.

Meanwhile God had promised Abraham that he would become the father of a special people; there were to be as many as the dust of the earth and the stars in the sky. God told Abraham in a dream that Sarah would have a son.

Later Abraham and Sarah had three visitors. They looked tired and rather hungry so Abraham asked them in to rest and for a meal. They seemed to know all about Abraham's family and were on their way to

Sodom and Gomorrah. Also they said that next year when they passed by Sarah would have a son. Now Abraham was sure that these visitors had come from God but Sarah laughed a sad laugh. After, the visitor said "Sarah, is anything too hard for God?"

After they had eaten, Abraham showed the men the road to Sodom. He stopped and thought of all that had taken place. Then God told him that Sodom and Gomorrah were to be destroyed. The people were wicked and cruel.

Abraham was sad to think of all the people who would die and asked God to save the city if there were fifty good men and God said He would. Then Abraham asked for forty, thirty, twenty, ten but there were not even ten good people in the whole city.

When the visitors arrived Lot was near the gate. He invited them to his house. During the night there was a great banging on the door and a mob yelled for the visitors to be brought out. Lot tried to speak to them but was crushed against the door. The two guests, who were angels, pulled him inside and made all the crowd blind so that they could not even find the door. Lot and his family were told to pack and leave.

As Lot and his family left, the earth was shaken and they were told to escape for their life and not look behind. Then God rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities were destroyed. Lot's wife stopped and looked back; she became a pillar of salt.

Meanwhile Abraham and Sarah moved to Beersheba. There Abraham improved the wells, planted trees and made friends. At last, as God had promised, a son was born and was called Isaac. All went well until one day God told Abraham to take his son Isaac and offer him on an altar as a sacrifice. Poor Abraham. He told Sarah that he had to make a special offering to God. So next morning they set off with two young men taking food and some wood. On the third day they came to the bottom of a mountain. The two young men stayed with the animals