

# IMPERFECT ABRAHAM, THE FRIEND OF GOD

ser5018 Chosen but not Perfect – The Patriarchs

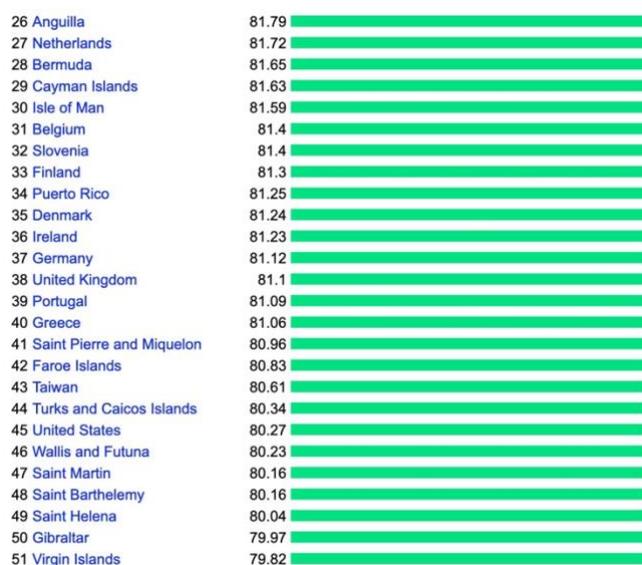
February 13, 2022 E & L

## I. (HOOK) POINT OF INTRIGUE

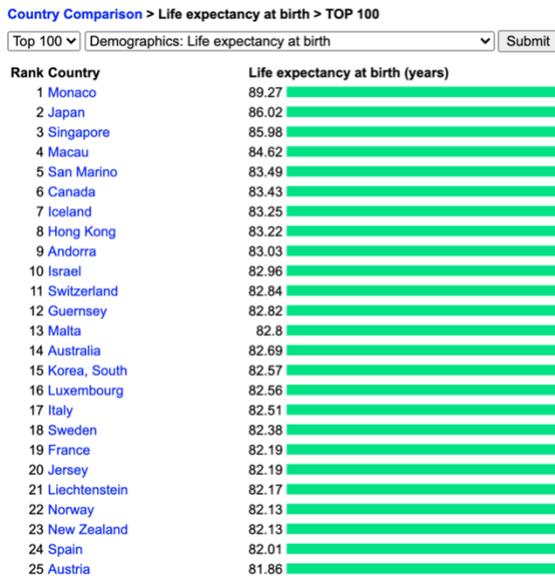
A. In *Genesis chapter ten*, we’re given the account of Noah’s sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, which is often referred to as “The Table of Nations.”

History is filled with “tables” because tables give us content regarding history in a way that’s easy to understand. For instance, let’s say you want to know how long Americans live compared to the rest of the world. Interesting question, right?

If you research life expectancy, you will find a table, which is a chart comparing the “life expectancy” of, let’s say, the top 100 countries. That chart will look like this (show photos, p 1 & 2) and place the average American’s life expectancy at 80.7, ranking America 45<sup>th</sup> in the world. (US women living approximately five years longer than US men).



The Bible gives more time to Shem than his brothers because it is from Shem, that the Israelite nation and Messiah will come.



Moving on to **Genesis 11**, we are given the account of Terah, the father of Abram. (Abram's name is not changed to Abraham until Genesis Chapter 17, when God establishes, with Abram, "The Covenant of Circumcision.")

1. Abram means "exalted father."
2. Abraham means "father of multitudes."

### **Genesis 11: 27-32**

<sup>27</sup> This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. <sup>28</sup> And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans. <sup>29</sup> Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai,<sup>[e]</sup> and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. <sup>30</sup> But Sarai was barren; she had no child.

<sup>31</sup> And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son

Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. <sup>32</sup> So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.

## **B. The first ten chapters of Genesis appears to be history compressed because it covers 2000 years.**

In comparison, the next 39 chapters of Genesis cover 350 years. Those 350 years give us the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. And 12 of those chapters specifically address the life of Abraham. Hang in there! We're getting to our destination.

Frequently, the Bible refers to Abraham as "the friend of God," and identifies the I AM as "the God of Abraham."

**NOTE!** I would say that's a pretty honorable title, wouldn't you?

## **II. (BOOK) WHY ABRAHAM?**

### **A. Out of the millions of people on earth at the time of Abraham, why him.**

Why did God choose Abram?

**NOTE:** Contrary to the voices of evolution, God does nothing by random selection. The Bible tells us even the casting of

lot is not decided by choice when laid on the “altar of His will.” *The Living Bible* puts it this way, “We toss the coin, but it is the LORD who controls its decision” (*Proverbs 16:33*).

Why did God choose Abram? The same reason why God chose:

Noah

Sarah

Jacob

Moses.

Let me give you a hint as to why God chose Abram and Sarah, **with all of their imperfections**, and everyone else named in *Hebrews chapter 11*—and so many more:

***Hebrews 11: 24-29***

<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the [g]passing pleasures of sin, <sup>26</sup> esteeming the [h]reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures [i]in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

<sup>27</sup> By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup> By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

**(Press the save button and let’s move on.)**

Rahab  
Deborah  
Jael  
David  
Josiah  
Elijah  
Elisha  
Daniel  
Malachi  
John the Baptizer  
Joseph  
Mary  
Paul  
Peter  
and the list goes on.

Not unlike today, none of these men and women lived in circumstances that were righteously ideal.

1. Noah lived in an age of such wickedness that God destroyed the earth with a flood.
2. Abram's father lived in an age of wickedness and idolatry. *Joshua 24:2* tells us that Abraham's father worshiped "other gods."

## B. (LOOK) Why did God choose Abram?

1. Because Abram's heart revealed an attitude of faith and a desire for the One True God. The Bible says, "for without faith it is impossible to please God."
2. The Bible says, "Noah found grace in the eyes of the

LORD.” Why? “By faith ... he prepared an ark for the saving of his household” (*Hebrews 11:7*).

3 The Bible says, “By faith, the prostitute Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe [because] she received the spies” (*Hebrews 11:31*).

### **C. Why did God choose Noah, Abraham, Sarah, and Rahab?**

Because even though surrounded by a people of wickedness and idolatry, they sought a God bigger than the fake gods and fake religions created by man’s own imagination and hands. And God promises, “Those who seek Me find Me” (*1 Chronicles 28:9, 2 Chronicles 15:2*).

### **D. There is one other BIG reason why God chose Abraham, Moses, Rahab, and everyone else found in the Book, and those not found in the Book—that is, men and women of faith after our Holy Bible was completed.**

They were not only people who believed; they were people of action. James, the brother of our Lord, said, “Faith by itself, if it does not have works is dead” (James 2:17).

### **E. Every person God has ever used—righteous or unrighteous, close to perfection or flawed, was chosen because they were people who put their faith in action.**

*Noah* – Got drunk and was sodomized.

*Abraham*—refused to leave his parents when asked by God to do so, thereby delaying God’s plan by 15 years.

*Sarah*- Was jealous of Hagar and treated her meanly; laughed when she heard God tell Abram that she would have a child at 90 years of age.

*Jacob*—was a weasel, cheating his brother out of his birthright and blessing.

*Moses*—was a murderer and blasphemed the word of God in public

**WHEW!** There is hope for all of us. And the church said, “Amen!”

*Rahab* – was a prostitute.

*David* – was a murderer, adulterer, and an accomplice to a man’s drunkenness.

*Josiah* – was killed in battle because he wouldn’t listen to the LORD’s warning.

*Elijah*—suffered deep states of depression, wanting to die because Jezebel threatened to take his life.

*John the Baptizer*—doubted if his cousin was the Christ because his head was on the block.

*Peter*—denied Christ publicly three times.

And the list goes on.

**NOTE!** Could that be one reason why Jesus said to pray, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us.” (*Matthew 6:12*) By the way, FORGIVENESS is far more than words; it is an ACTION.

### **III. BECAUSE FAITH IS AN ACTION, GOD WILL TEST IT.**

**A. If we were to visit EVERYONE listed in God’s Hall of Faith, we would find that in every instance, each man’s and each woman’s faith was tested.**

1. Noah—faced critics for 100 years.
2. Sarah—faced childbearing at 90 years of age.
3. Jacob—faced his brother whose last words he heard were, “After my parents are dead, I’m going to kill my brother, Jacob.”
4. Rehab—faced the wrath of the king of Jericho.
5. Moses—faced the stoning committee more times than we could imagine.
6. Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego—faced a burning furnace.
7. Daniel—faced a lion’s den.
8. Abraham—faced conflict with his nephew Lot; waged war against five kings with 300 men; faced the challenge of believing for a child at 99 years of age. But Abraham’s biggest challenge was when he had to put his only son, from the wife of his youth, Sarah, on the altar of death.

## **(Super Book video clip of Isaac on the altar. 3.7 minutes)**

You get the picture, right? Faith must be tested. Because when faith is tested, your purpose, value, promise, and potential are put through the fire, for without the fire, the reason for which you are CALLED is not REFINED.

***ILLUSTRATION:*** I know a man who loved anything to do with wealth building—commodities, stocks, mutual funds, etc. At a young age, he got the wind knocked out of his sails, and the boat capsized. But he stayed on course. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen” (***Hebrews 11:1***). Today, he has developed a self-trading app that teaches people young and old worldwide how to build wealth to help others (particularly those less fortunate) and live debt-free. Only when we are refined by fire will our value, purpose, promise, and potential find God’s plan.

### **B. Listen to why God chose Abraham?**

(Again, it wasn’t random selection or time and chance—God’s choice was deliberate and with purpose.)

***17*** And the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, ***18*** since Abraham shall indeed become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed through him? ***19*** **For I have known him (NLT—singled him out), in order that he may command his children and his household after him, to keep the way of the LORD, to do what is right and just. Then the LORD may do for Abraham all that He has promised him. (*Genesis 18:17-19*)**

### C. **(TOOK)** God's calling is always bigger than "us."

1. His calling to Abraham wasn't about Abraham, only; it was about blessing nations and teaching righteousness and justice until Jesus reigns forever and ever.
2. The Father's calling upon the life of His Son, Jesus, was not just about Jesus; it was about redeeming a lost and sinful world.
3. God's calling upon your life isn't just about you; it's about what will follow you into eternity.
4. Like Abraham, your life has value, purpose, promise, and potential, as it unfolds in accordance to God's eternal plan. And, for that to happen requires obedience. [R]

### D. **(TOOK-2)** Walking in obedience is the key to pleasing God and reaping the prosperity He promises to all.

1. It took Abraham 37 years to learn the value of IMMEDIATE obedience. (That's a sermon in itself.)
2. Let's ask a question: Where are you walking in delayed obedience or, more strongly put, DISobedience?
3. Enter into the joy of the LORD; obey today.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Last Sunday, after the 11:15 service, a lady came up to me and said, "When you give the Invitation, you should give people the opportunity to recommit their lives to Christ. The pandemic has knocked me off the track; today, I

recommitted my life to Christ.” If that is you, today RETURN to your first love.

## IV. INVITATION

**For those of you who have yet to receive Christ, why not TODAY!**

**It's as easy as ABC:**

**Admitt**– your sins have separated you from God.  
(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

**Believe** – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)  
(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

**Commit** – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

**Do it today!** (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

ser5018, Imperfect Abraham – The Friend of God (Chosen but not Perfect – The Patriarchs, Pt 1) 2004 words (15.5 minutes + 3.7 Super Book video + 20 minutes)