

BIBLE COMICS-2 ABRAHAM Script **DR. MICHAEL KARIMATTAM**

Illustraion DEVASSY

ABRAHAM

Abraham is the one person whom three major religions of the world, namely, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, venerate as the "Father of believers". The God who reveals Himself in the Bible is called "The God of Abraham". Jesus Christ is called "The Son of Abraham". The Old Testament (especially Gen chs 12-22) depicts him as the Patriarch who risked everything for the Word of an unknown God. The New Testament sees him as the model of faith.

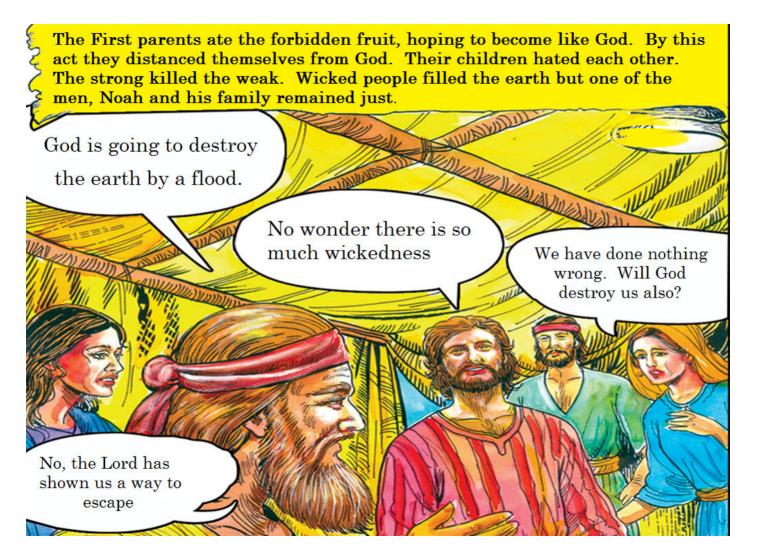
In the life of Abraham two things stand out: 1. He was called by God with a promise; 2. Abraham responded to that call with total obedience. The promise of God contained three elements: 1. He will be the father of a great nation; 2. God will give the land of Canaan to his descendants; 3, all the nations of the earth will be blessed by his descendants. All these promises were oriented toward a distant future. Even though Abraham did not see them fulfilled, he believed that God would keep His word.

The life of Abraham was a life guided by faith. This faith had to go through very painful and even agonizing tests. Three of them stand out with special relief: 1. He was asked to leave his home and homeland; 2. He was asked to send away his firstborn son, Ishmael, into the desert; 3. He was asked to sacrifice Isaac, the son of the promise, as a burnt offering. Abraham had to wander in foreign lands through unknown paths. He had to renounce the security of his past life and also the 'hope' of his future. He had only one thing to cling to: The word of God.

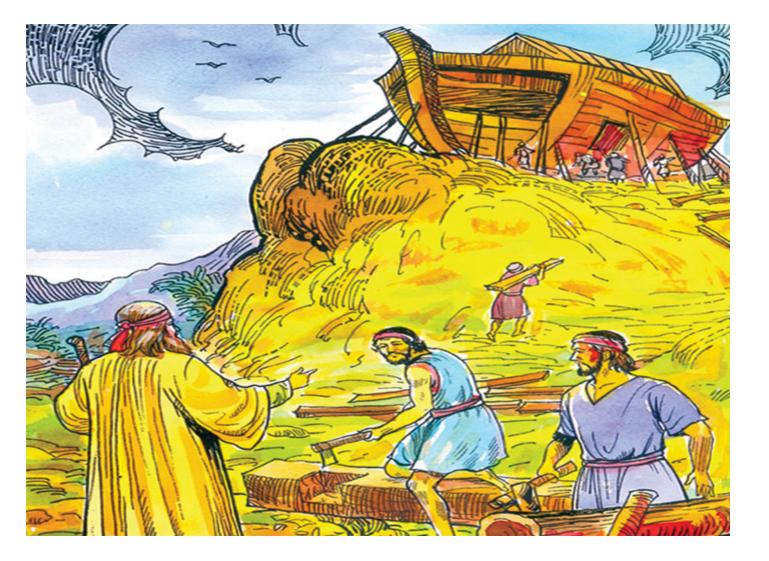
Though not without internal conflict and agony, Abraham obeyed. He put his trust not in anything that he built up or acquired, but in God. He believed that the God who called him would give him protection. This faith was a leap in the dark, a total surrender to God.

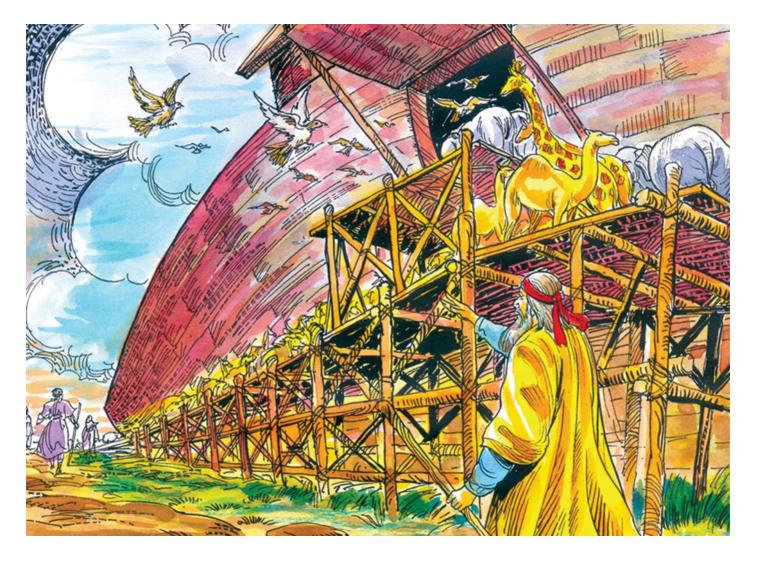
To an outsider, Abraham's life might appear futile and foolish. He did not follow the path of 'majority opinion'. He did not go after success in life. But this apparently foolish man stands at the beginning of the Salvation history. The story of Abraham and the meaning of his faith can be fully understood only in Jesus Christ, in whom the history of salvation finds its fulfillment.

The God who called Abraham, calls each individual, you and me, with a special purpose. The success or failure of our lives will be ultimately measured by the response we give to that call. Sometimes, God may ask us to leave behind the security of home, career, and success and to enter upon unknown paths. It is the word of God that will guide us. Listening to and living according to that word is of utmost importance. We may have to die like Abraham without seeing the promise of God fulfilled. But we have the guarantee in Christ that the life of faith is not futile. True faith will be tested by the price we pay for it.



We have to build an Ark and save a pair of all the living creatures with us.



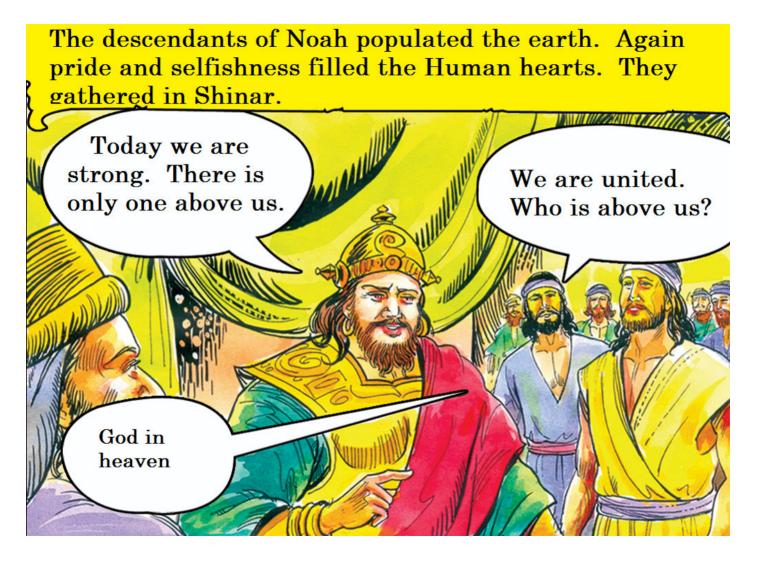


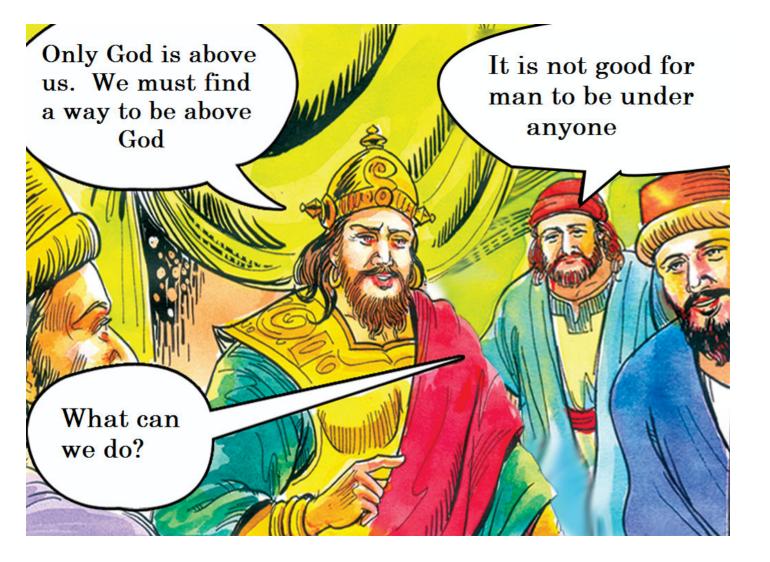
As the Lord ordered. Flood came and covered the earth. All the creatures perished.



After a year and ten days the water receded. Noah and the family came out of the ark and offered a sacrifice in thanksgiving

I AM MAKING A COVENANT WITH ALL THE LIVING BEINGS. I SHALL NEVER DESTROY THE WORLD AGAIN BY A FLOOD. THE RAINBOW SHALL BE A SIGN OF THIS COVENANT.





Let us build a city that is more beautiful than heaven and a tower that is higher than heaven.

Then God will be under us!

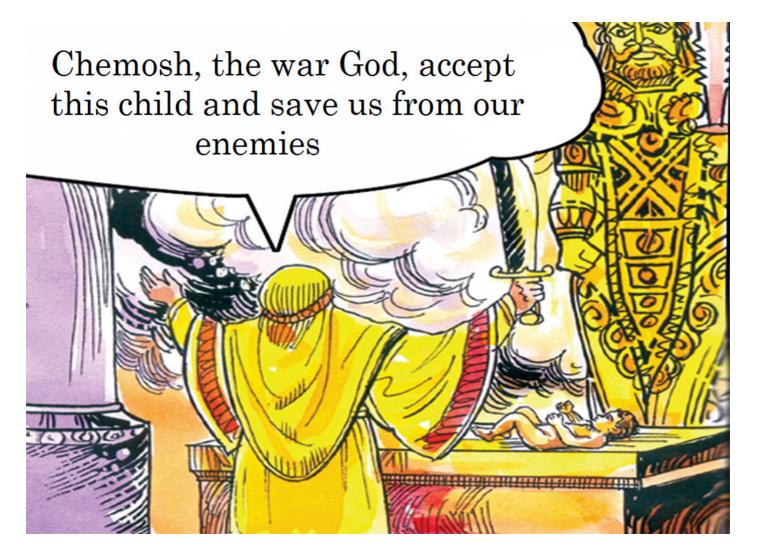


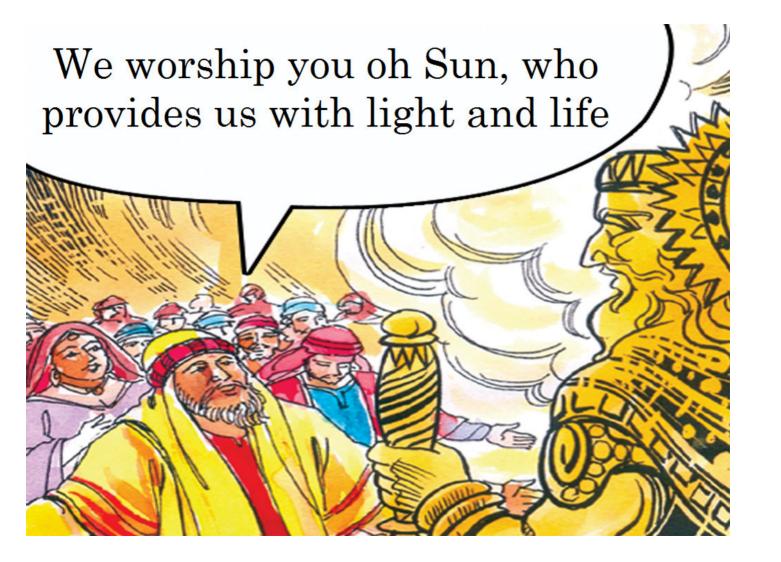
They started building Line

God shattered the proud. The people could not understand each other.

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Those who challenged God were scattered. Eventually they began to **Oh Baal! Bless** worship created things like stone, us with fine trees, animals, sun, moon etc. climate and a harvest of plenty.





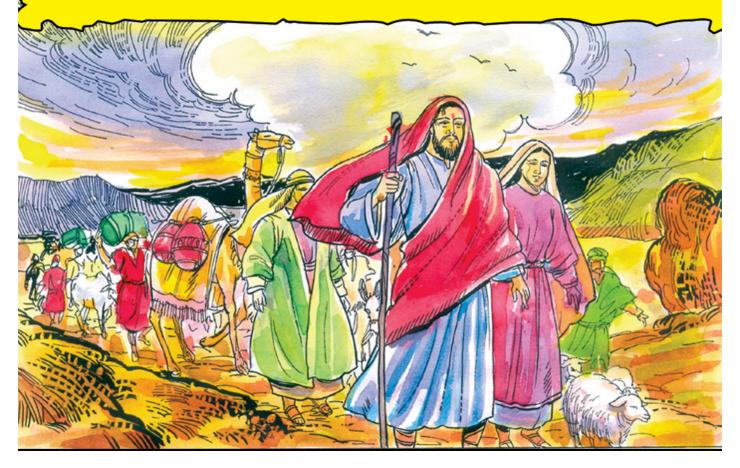
A group of people called Hebrews migrated from Ur, near the Persian Gulf and settled in the city of Haran. Among them was Terah with his son Abram



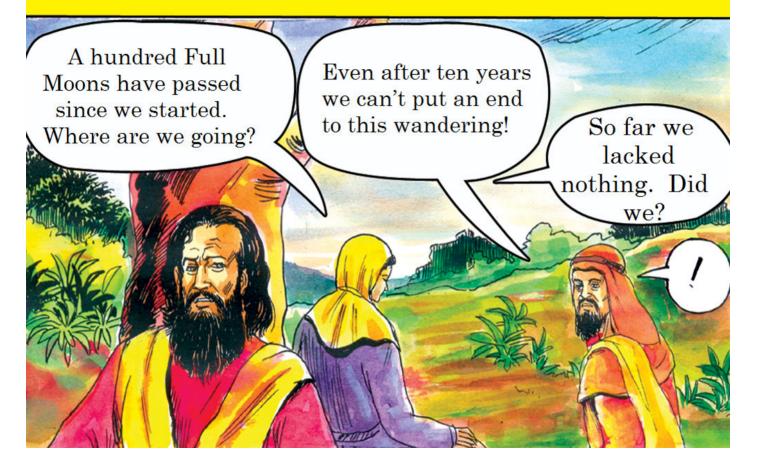
One Night Abram heard the voice of God

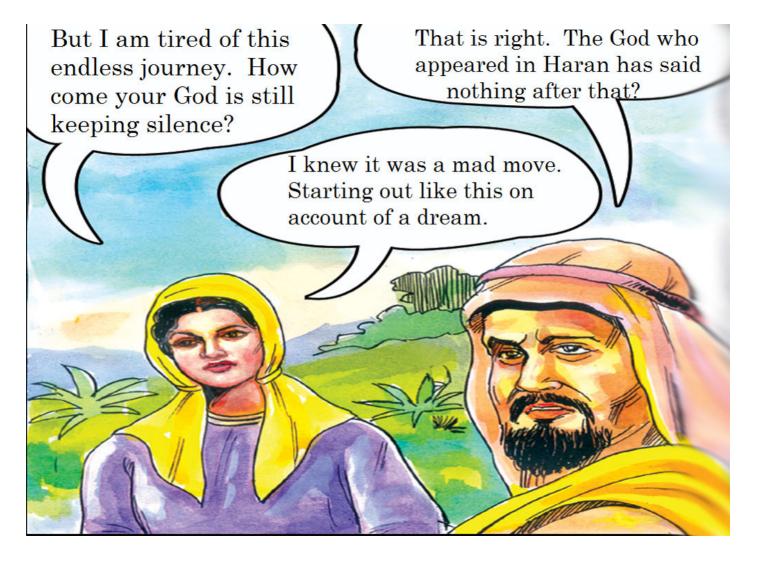
ABRAM, LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE AND GO TO THE LAND I WILL SHOW YOU. I WILL MAKE YOU A GREAT NATION IN YOU ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED

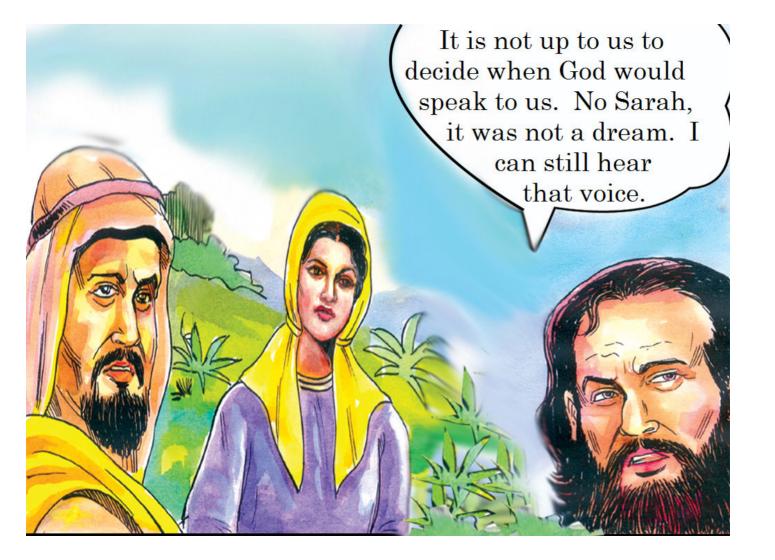
Abram started out from Haran, as the Lord had told him. His wife Sarah and nephew Lot went with him.



They wandered through hills and valleys, eating wild fruits, drinking from the streams and sleeping under trees.





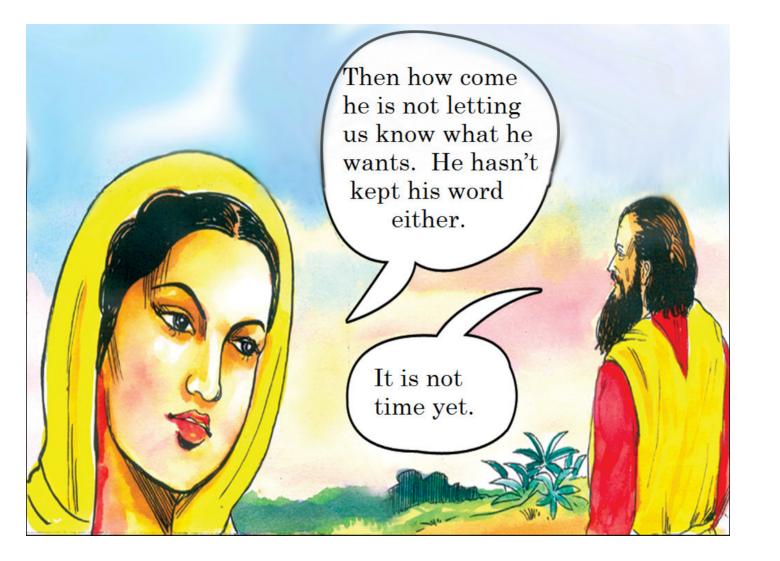


It was not just a feeling. Yet I long to hear that voice once again.

What happened to the great promises about Land and children? Please don't be angry for saying this. I think we have been deceived. Ten Years have passed and He hasn't uttered a word. That is no God.



Our tribal gods were better. We could see them. They would accept the offerings and give us whatever we ask. God doesn't act according to our whim. We must wait to know His will.



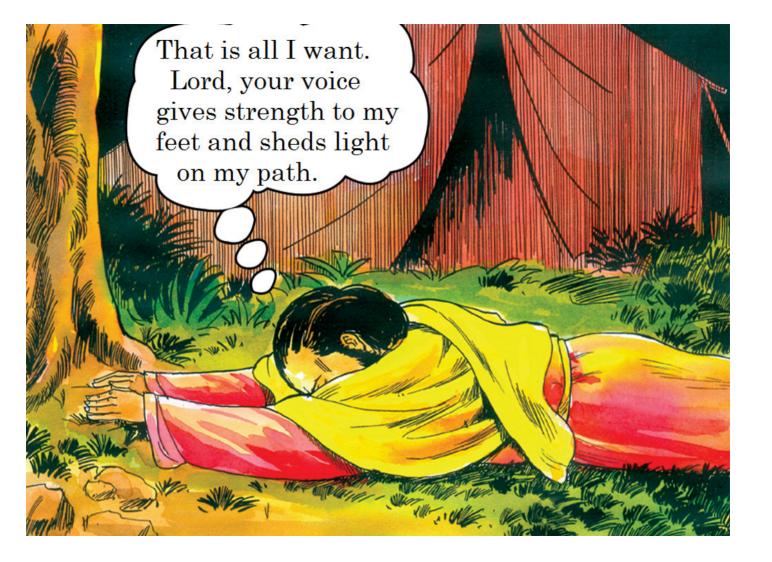
That night Abram could not sleep. Words of Lot and Sarah kept on bothering him.

> Almighty God, I am ready to do anything you want. But, this silence, I can't bear. If you do not speak, how can I find the way?

> > 11111

My heart longs to hear your voice again. How come you have not uttered a word all through this endless journey?

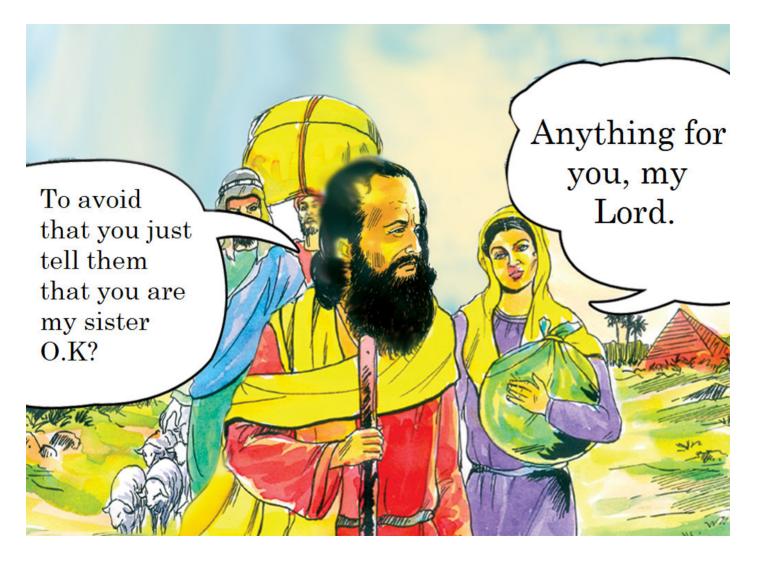
ABRAM, HAVE NO FEAR I AM YOUR SHIELD. TO YOUR DESCENDANTS I SHALL GIVE THIS LAND.



The Next morning Abram offered a Sacrifice to God

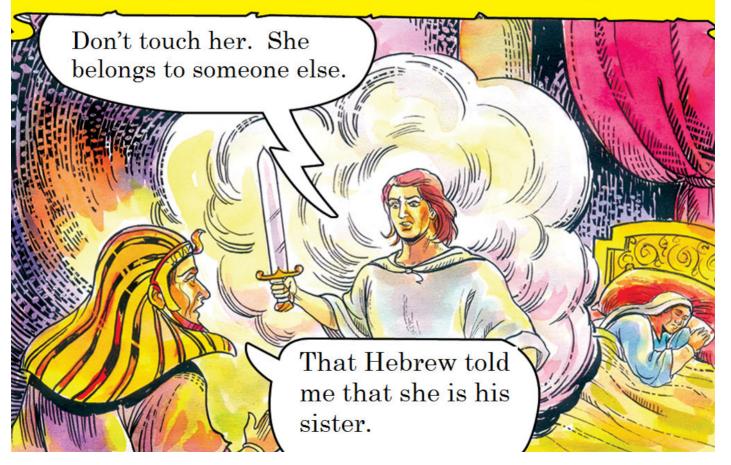
Almighty God, How wonderful is your ways. Though invisible, you guide me by your word. Kindly accept this humble offering and bless thy servant. After the sacrifice they continued their journey. They wandered all through the land of Canaan. As a severe drought caused a famine, they went to Egypt looking for food.

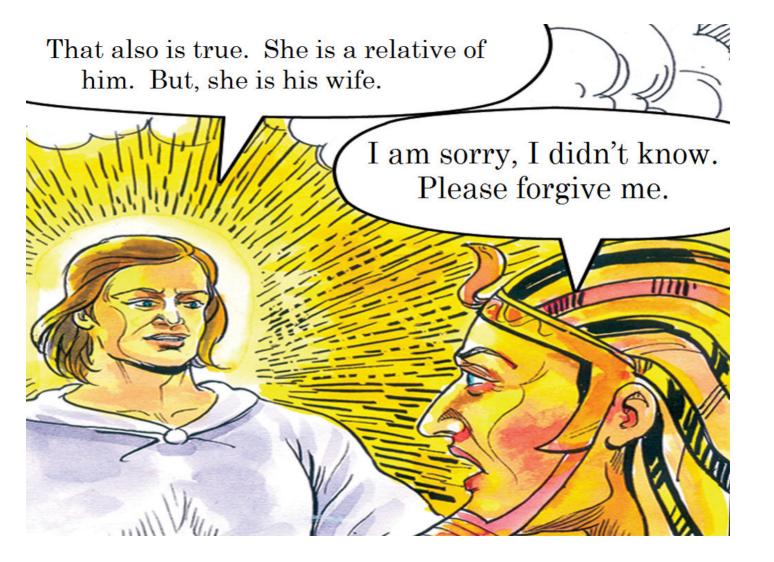
Sarah, we are entering Egypt. In order to have you, they might do away with me. I would rather die. I can't think of living without you.

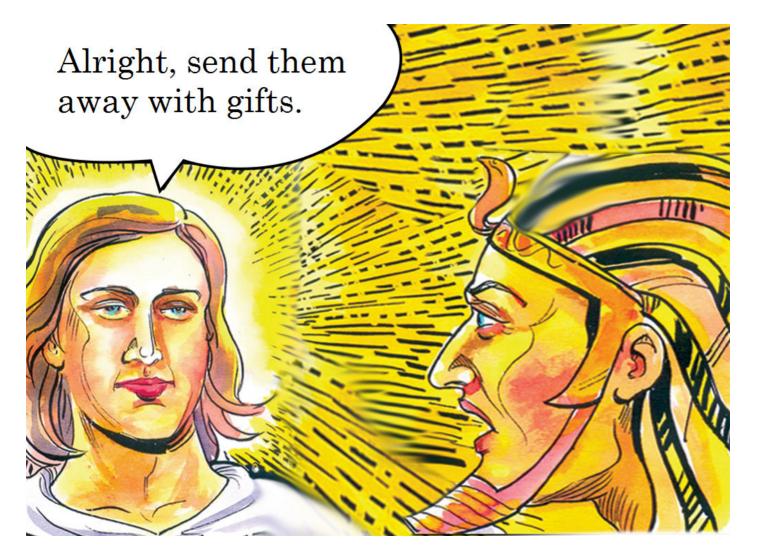




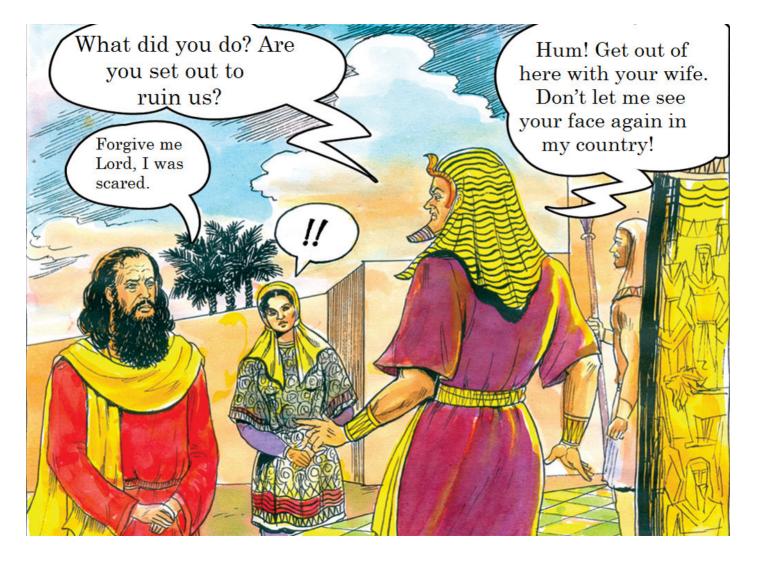
Pharaoh, the king of Egypt used to take for himself any woman he liked. He gave a lot of gifts to Abram. But that night...



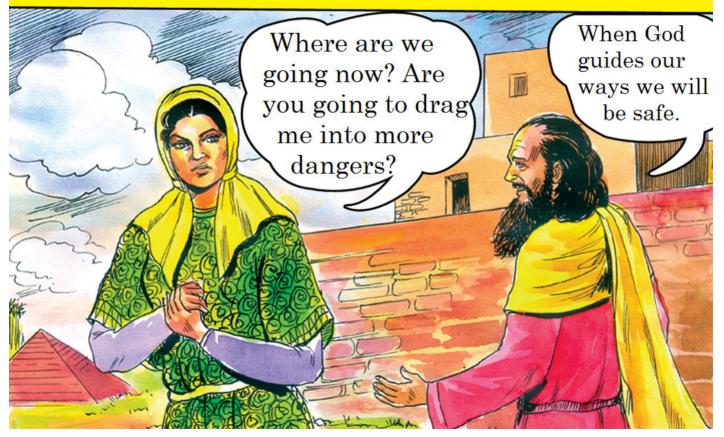




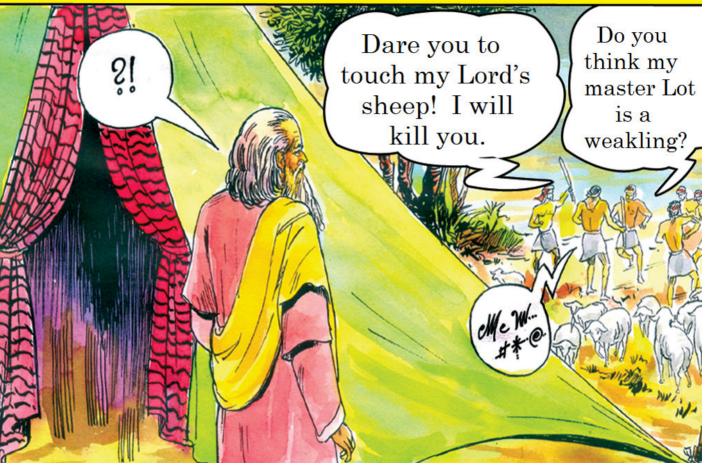


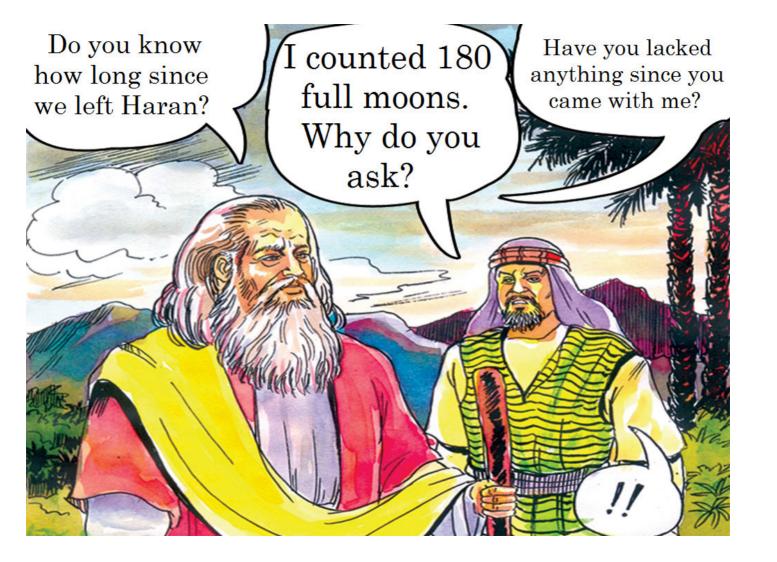


Abram learned that God would defend the weak against the strong. Pharaoh learned that it is a sin to covet another's wife. Abram continued his journey.



Years later Abram reached Negev. By then he had become a wealthy man. One day the servants of Abram and Lot





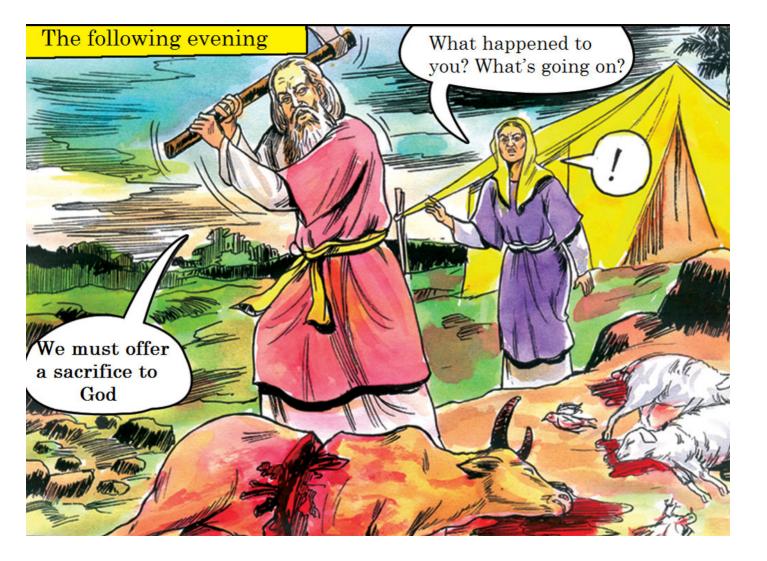
Uncle, what are you getting at? Isn't it your God who has provided me with all these wealth? It is better that we part now. You can choose the portion you want. If you take the left, I shall go to the right. We mustn't quarrel, we are brothers. Lot chose the fertile valley of Jordan and settled down in Sodom. Abram got the desert land.

You were a fool to take this desert instead of the rich valley on the other side. Doesn't matter. All we need is peace and God's blessing.

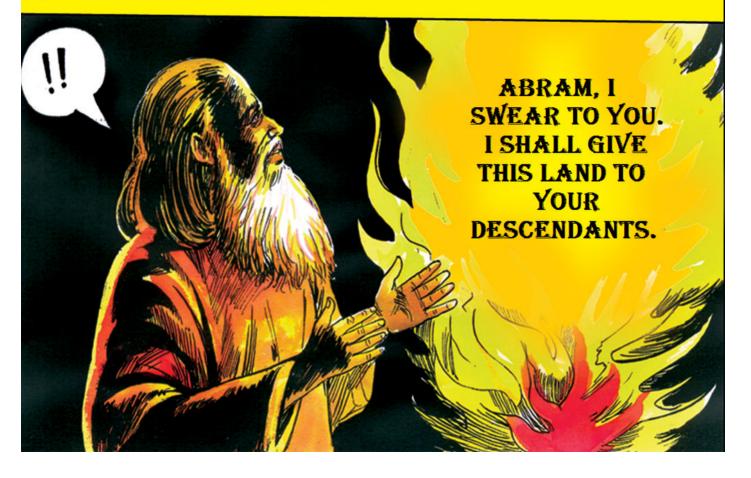
One day in the solitude of the night

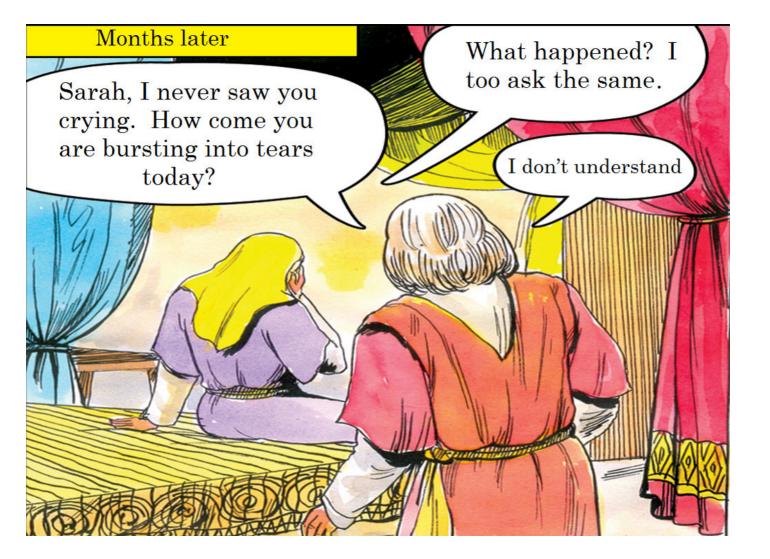
ABRAM COME OUT I AM GOING TO GIVE YOU A GREAT REWARD



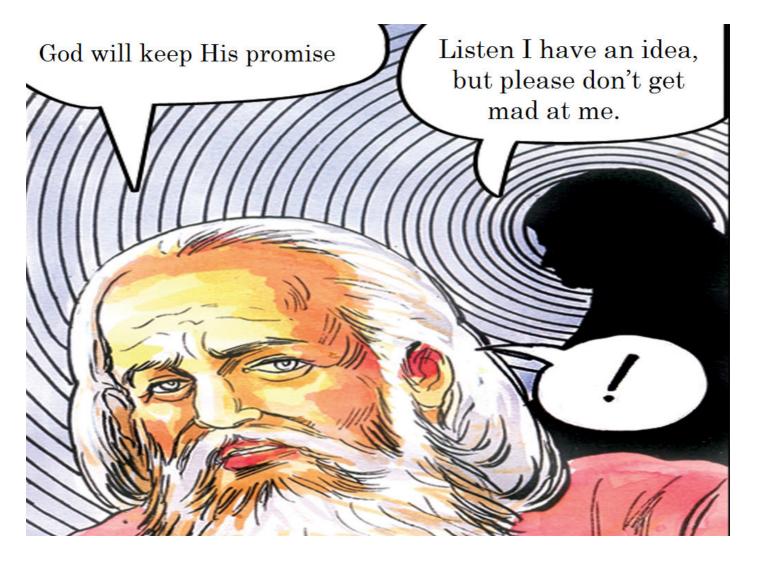


As darkness covered the earth, a flame passed through the pieces. Abram felt God's presence and he felt elated.





You won't. Can you ever understand my pain in not being able to fondle a baby of my own? Is that the problem? God will grant us a child, not one but many. It won't be from this barren old woman

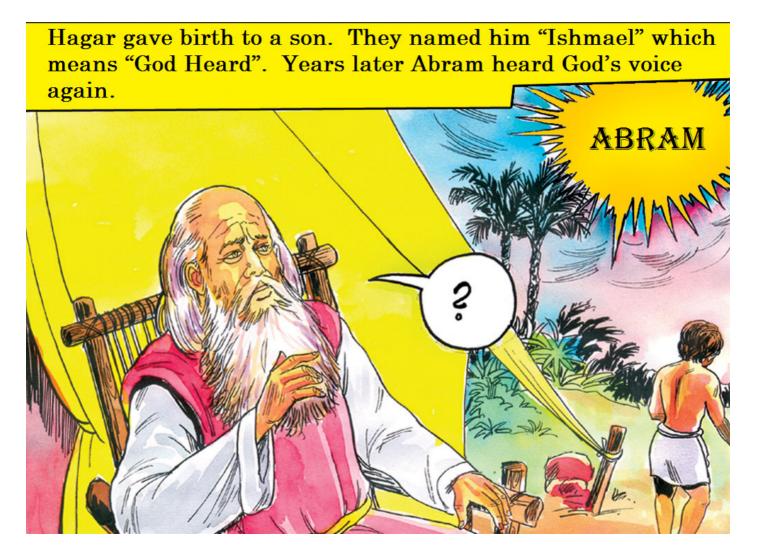


Sarah arranged Hagar to bear a child for them. It was a custom in those days.





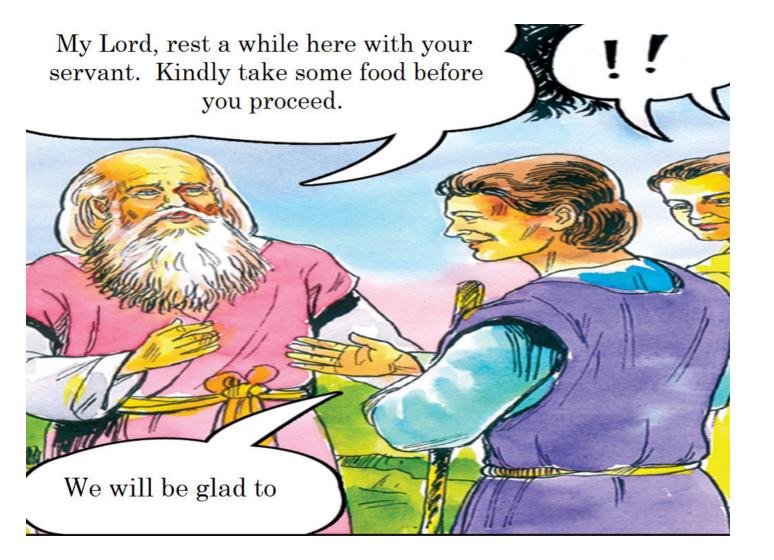
God of Abram, Almighty God, I have been denied the blessing of giving birth to a child. Grant us a son through my maid



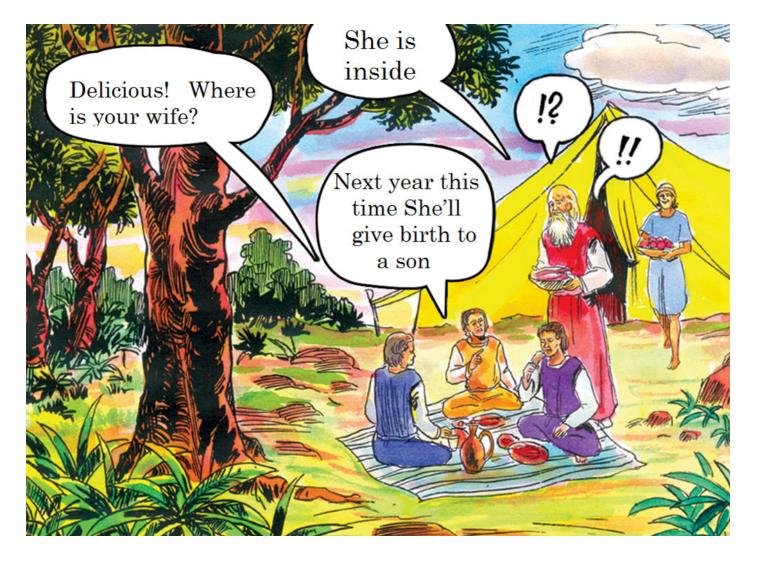
BEAR YOURSELF BLAMELESS IN MY PRESENCE, AND I WILL MAKE A COVENANT BETWEEN MYSELF AND YOU. YOU SHALL BECOME THE FATHER OF A MULTITUDE OF NATIONS. YOU NAME SHALL BE ABRAHAM NOT ABRAM. ALL YOUR MALES MUST BE CIRCUMCISED AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN OF THE COVENANT.

Months later in the middle of the day

Someone is coming! Hospitality to strangers is hospitality to God.



Hurry up. You must prepare some bread by the time I fix this mutton.

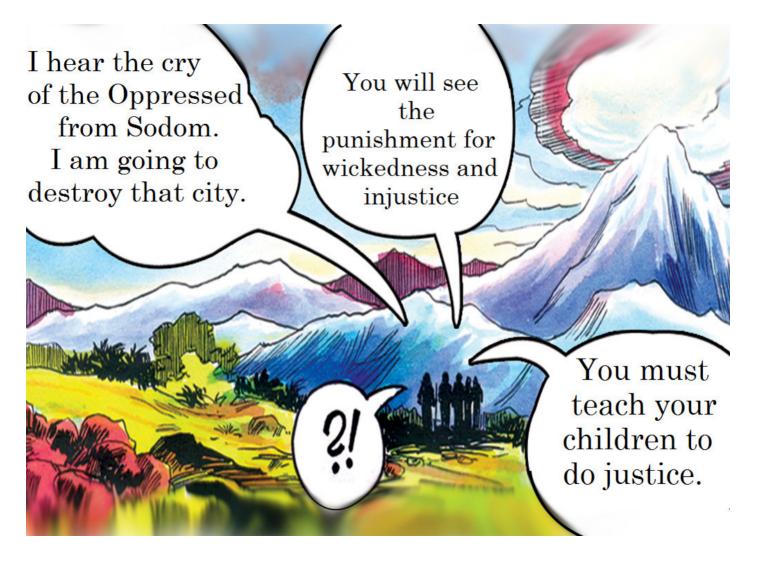


Sarah Laughed

I am 85 years old and He is beyond ninety.

Sarah laughed, but what I promised will happen

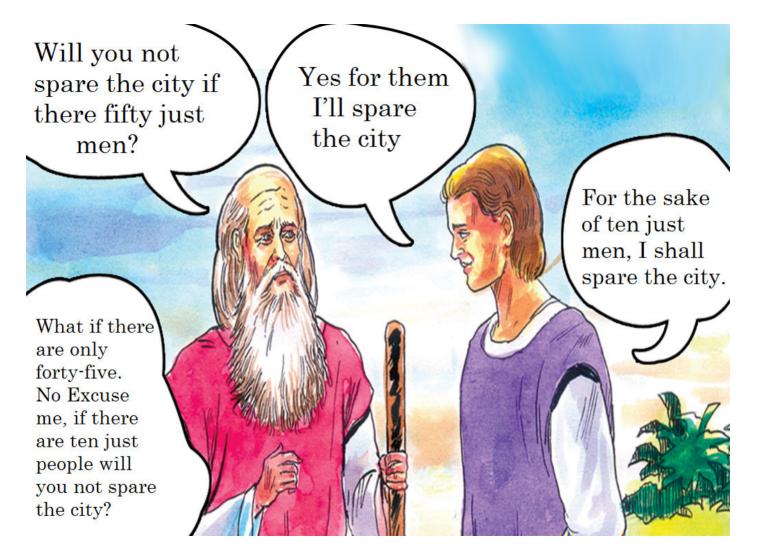
May I accompany you part of the way



And to live according to God's ways. This will be a lesson for all.

No.

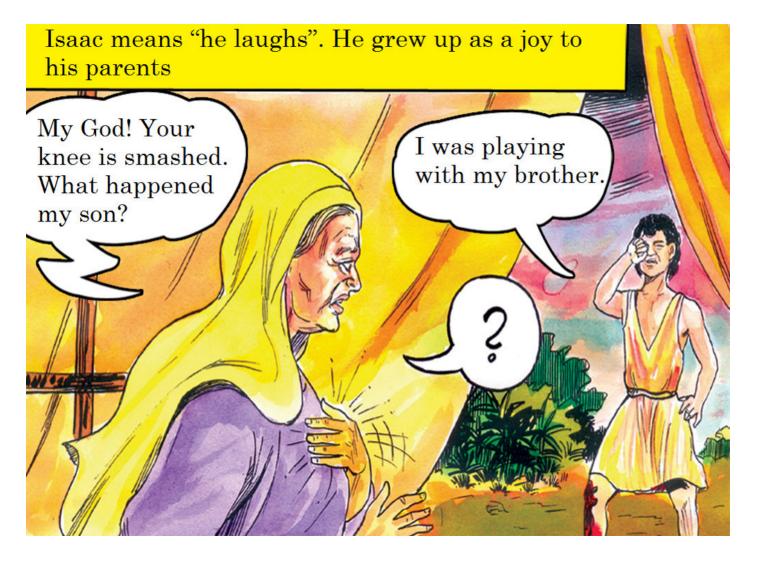
Are you really going to destroy the just with the wicked?

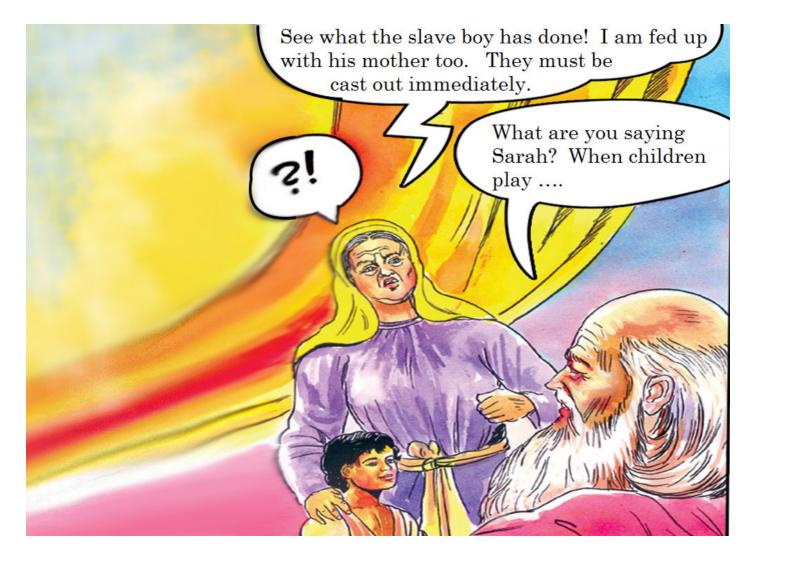


The travelers left. The next morning

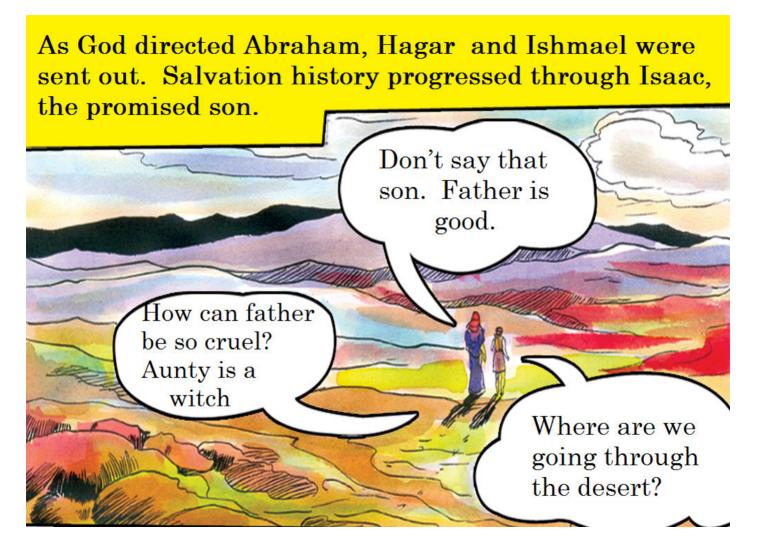
Not even ten just men in that city! Even Lot could not save it! At the time God had promised, Sarah gave birth to a son

Eternally faithful and loving God, your ways are so mysterious. A child in our old age! I shall name him Isaac.











Oh No ! Not even a drop of water. I can't watch my son dying of thirst.

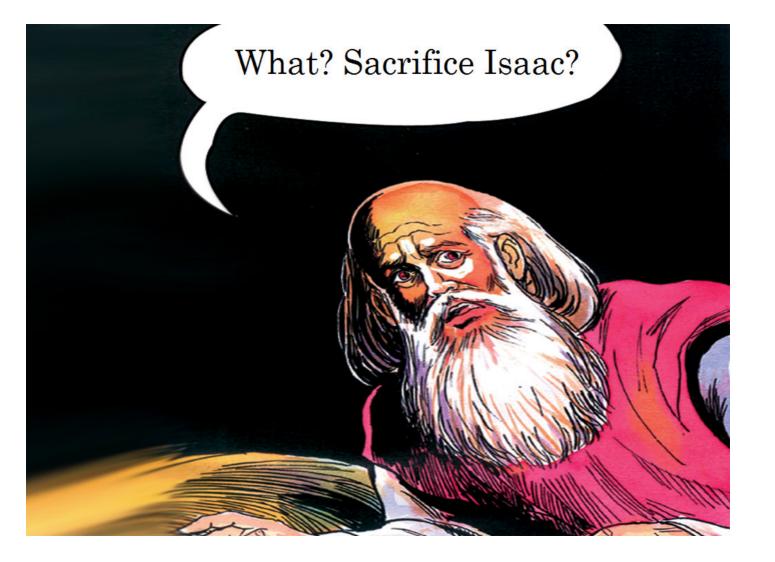
She laid the boy under a bush

Almighty God, why did you abandon us in the desert? Can you understand the anguish of a mother?

HAGAR, I HAVE **HEARD YOUR** CRY. LOOK, **THERE IS** WATER FOR YOU. I WILL MAKE ISHMAEL **A GREAT** NATION

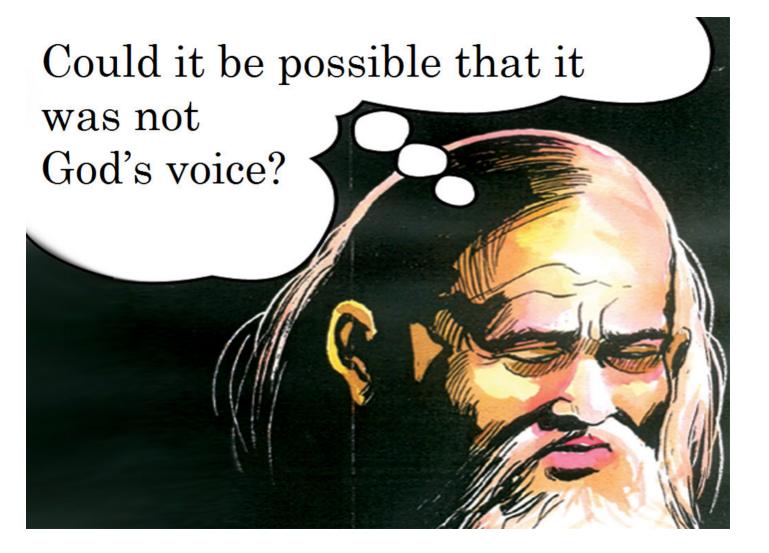
Sending away his first born was a severe test of faith for Abraham. Still a greater test awaited him.

> ABRAHAM, ABRAHAM, TAKE YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON, ISAAC WHOM YOU LOVE, AND GO TO THE LAND OF MORIAH. THERE YOU SHALL OFFER HIM AS A BURNT OFFERING; ON A MOUNTAIN I'LL POINT OUT TO YOU.



No this can't be God's voice. It must have been a nightmare.

But there is no mistaking in that voice. The same clear voice I heard in Haran. The same Echo! No I can't do it. It was for this son that I went through all the agony.

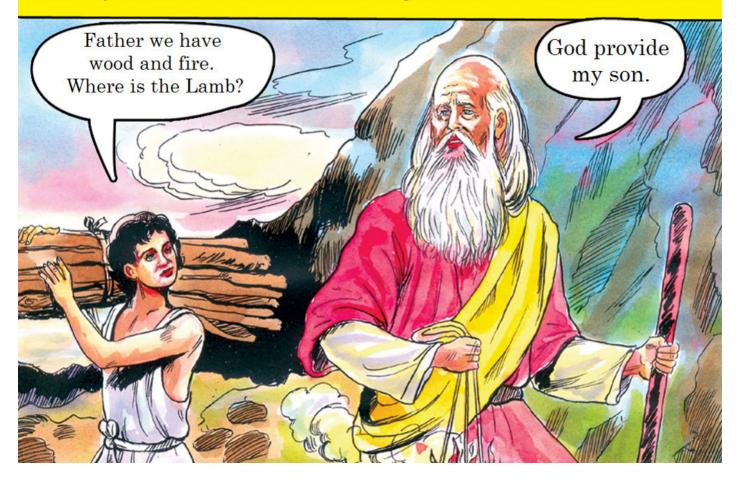


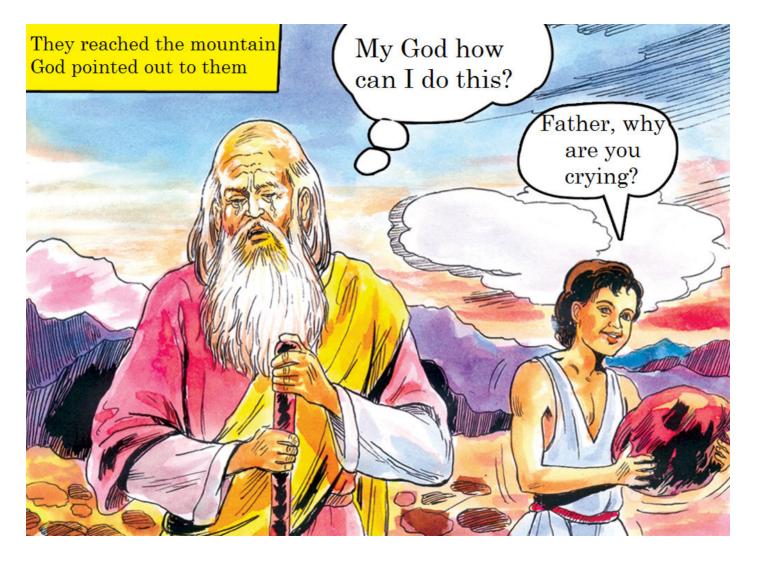
Descendants like the stars in the sky! And now burnt offering! If God really wants it let Him ask again. Not in my sleep but now when I am awake. No, He won't ask twice. It was God and I must obey Him.

Almighty and eternal God, your ways are unknown to me. Yet I surrender to your will.

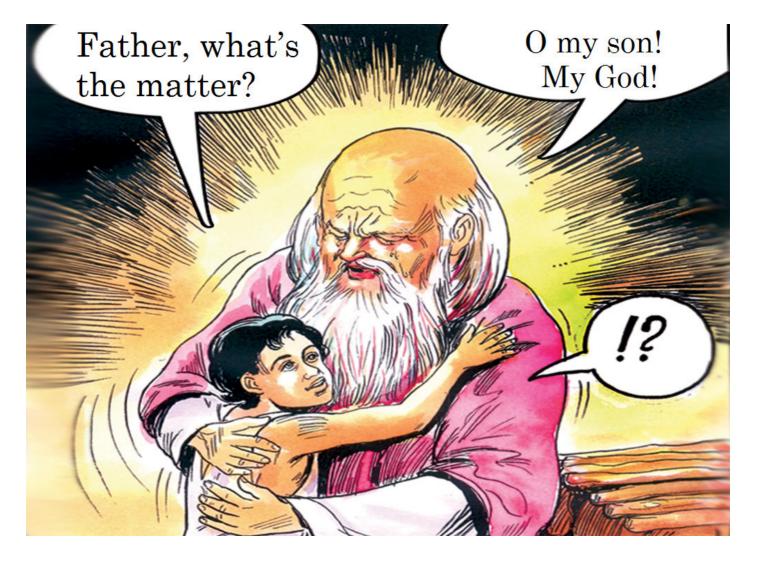


The next morning Abraham started off with Isaac and servants carrying the wood. When they reached the foot of the mountain, he placed the firewood on Isaac's shoulders

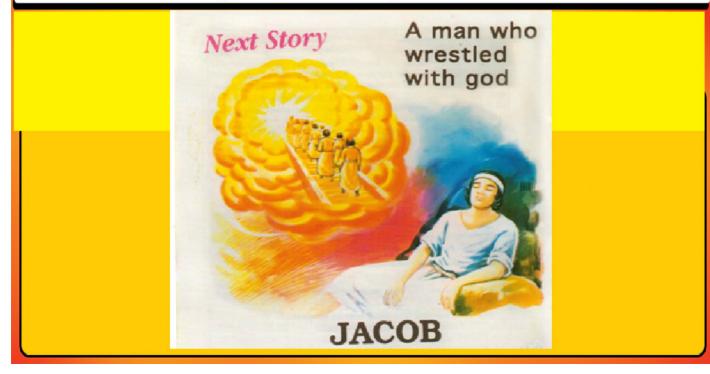




First Ishmael to the desert. Now Isaac, My only hope to....



ABRAHAM, DO NOT HARM THE CHILD. YOU HAVE NOT WITHHELD YOUR ONLY SON. ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH SHALL GAIN BLESSING BY YOUR DESCENDANTS AS A REWARD FOR YOUR OBEDIENCE. The story of Abraham does not end here, but we have reached the central message the Bible wants to teach us through Abraham. A life that went through the acid test of faith continued for many more years. God's promise was carried over to the next generation. A life that was anchored in faith ended with the hope in God's promise. The salvation history continues through the descendants of Abraham.



Study Questions

- 1. Who was Abraham's Father?
- 2. What were the promises God made to Abraham?
- 3. Explain the reasons and circumstances of separation between Abraham and Lot.
- 4. What is the lesson the Bible teaches through the destruction of Sodom?
- 5. Illustrate with an example how God protected Abraham
- 6. What were the three crucial tests Abraham had to go through?
- 7. How did Abraham react when he was asked to sacrifice Isaac, his only son?
- 8. How would you react if you were asked to give up what you treasure most?
- 9. Abraham is the "Father of Believers", Explain.
- 10. What do you learn from the life of Abraham?

Memorize: *"Have no fear, I am your Shield. Bear yourself blameless in my presence" (Genesis 15: 1).*

THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN COMICS

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| 05. MOSES |
| 06. JOSHUA |
| 07. SAMSON |
| 08. RUTH |
| 09. SAMUEL |
| 10. SAUL |
| 11. DAVID |
| 12. KING DAVID |
| 13. SOLOMON |
| 14. ELIJAH |
| 15. AMOS |
| 16. HOSEA |

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