Abraham and the altar

Abraham’s genealogy

- Hebrews 11-19.
- Genesis 11.
- His brother Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans.
- Ur was large city, idolators, Sun worshippers.
- Abraham had responsibility for his nephew Lot.

1.The first altar

- **The first three key men in the Bible, Abel, Enoch and Noah all walked with God.**

- **Abraham did not; he worshipped idols.**

1.The first altar

- **Genesis 12:7 What led up to this?**
- **Verse:1 The Lord *had said* to Abram.**
- **Acts 7:1-4 “The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, Get out…”**
- **A sevenfold command, promise to Abraham.**

1.The first altar

- The Lord’s appearing.
- His call to separation.
- Separation from family, country etc.
- Hebrews 11:8.
- Call to obedience.

The first altar

- Genesis 12:5-7.
- Passed through to Shechem = a shoulder, carries the idea of obedience.
- Moreh = a teacher, suggests the idea of knowledge.
- John 7:17 “If any man wills to do his will, he shall know”.

1 The first altar

- **Genesis 12:7**

- **Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land”.**
- **And there he built an altar to the Lord who had appeared to him.**
- **The building of the altar was a response to the initiative of God who had chosen him.**
- **It is the place of full response, sacrifice and abandonment, the place of the burnt offering; sin offering e.t.c comes later.**

2 The second altar

- Genesis 12:8
- From there he moved to the mountain 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 called on the name of the Lord.
- Bethel = house of God.
- Ai = heap of ruins.
- This is where Abraham was going to stake his life, keeping his eyes on the house of God with his back towards the world. The altar became a lifelong experience.

The third altar

- Genesis 13:1-15.

- Abraham goes down to Egypt.
- Egypt in the Bible is aways a picture of the world.
- Natural thinking.
- God had not told him to move.
- This led him into confusion and sin.

The third altar

- Pharoah providentially sent Abraham away.
- Genesis 13:1 Abram went up from Egypt.
- God had prospered him.

- He returned the way he had come.
- He returned to the place of the altar which he had made at the first.
- There he called on the name of the Lord.

The fourth altar.

- This is the high point of Abraham's life; in his maturity.
- Genesis 22; the greatest foretelling of the gospel in the OT.
- Are we ready for a new challenge of faith?

- God the Father, Jesus the Son.
- Six repetitions of the phrase "burnt offering".
- Your son, your only son, whom you love.

The fourth altar

- No cosmic child abuse.
- Father and Son are in complete communion and agreement.
- Three days journey to the place of sacrifice.
- Moriah, in the range of Calvary.
- The step of obedience is described as a place of worship.
- Father took wood, a knife and fire; he laid the wood on Isaac.
- We will come again to you.

The fourth altar

- Isaac's question: "Where is the Lamb?"
- The Father's response "God will provide for Himself the lamb.
- Abraham, Abraham; repeated for emphasis.
- Abraham goes right through with it in his heart.
- He was totally assured of God's promises.
- He believed in the resurrection.
- He was not a fanatic – he stopped when God spoke.
- Abraham's obedience led to God making further revelations.

The fourth altar

- God chose the site of Moriah to be the mountain where He would arrange to have the foundations of the temple laid.
- Recorded in 2 Chronicles 21:26 “And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings and called on the Lord; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering”.
- 2 Chronicles 3:1 “Now Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite”.