

# A TRUE FRIEND

Title: *The REAL Big Bang*, Pt 14

Series: A Father's Covenant

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ser#3740

Sat SunE SunL

## I. POINT OF INTRIGUE



**A. Last week, Steve Childs addressed the first nine verses of *Genesis 11* with an interesting and brilliant look at the Tower of Babel. (show Tower of Babel)**

The message was, in actuality, a look at the nature of man, which hasn't changed in 6,000 years of recorded history. Bottom line: Man wants to be God, call the shots so to speak, be number one with a capital "O."

Mankind is not the only being in God's creation that wanted to be God, or more accurately worded, wanted what belongs to God, which is ... *position* and *power*.

1. The highest-ranking angel in heaven, Lucifer, wanted what God had and lost the battle.

**WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF STUPID?** Lucifer... and anyone else who thinks they can take on God and win. That's the quintessence of stupidity. And all the angels who followed Lucifer, they were equally as stupid.

**LET'S BRING IT DOWNTOWN!** When we think we can take on God and win, or maybe, just maybe, get away with it—whatever it is—we lose, too. **EXAMPLE:**

- a. Skip our quiet time with the LORD
- b. Cheat on the tithe—give him 5% instead of the 10%
- c. Mess around with someone who doesn't belong to us
- d. Dabble with things that lead to addiction
- e. Bend the rules on life or marriage or how we treat others ...
- f. Make Church a secondary priority
- g. Hang out at parties, doing and messing with what we shouldn't be doing and messing with
- h. Bend the rules of sex outside of marriage, only to say, "Darn, how come I got bit...so and so got away with it." First of all, "Did they?" God's time table is not ours. And secondly, you're a child of God; the rules are less forgiving. (They have been for me. Ask the teens in Youth Group when I addressed my book, *Love, Lust & Lies.*)

You lose. I lose. Society loses. We all lose. As they say in Montana, "You betcha!"

2. The people living on the face of the earth after Noah (all born after the flood) wanted what belonged to God, and God scattered them over the face of the

earth, giving each tribe and clan a different language.

## B. Let's pray!

## II. FROM SHEM TO ABRAM

A. Immediately following the account of the Tower of Babel, the Genesis' writer moves us into the lineage of the family of Shem, Noah's oldest son. The "begets" of the Bible, which we have a tendency to speed-read—come on, let's be honest—often give us insight into what's coming next, clear up to the birth of Christ. *Chapter 11* is an excellent example.

In the lineage of Abraham, which starts with Shem, we read this:

**24** When Nahor had lived 29 years, he became the father of Terah. ... **26** After Terah had lived 70 years, he became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran.

### Abram's Family

**27** This is the account of Terah's family line.

Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot.

**THE BIBLE OFTEN DOES THIS—IT INTRODUCES US TO SOMEONE WHO IS GOING TO SHOW UP SOMEWHERE IN A FUTURE NARRATIVE.** For

example:

- 1) We are introduced to Canaan before he is cursed by his grandfather, Noah (**Genesis 9:18**) and not without cause;
- 2) We are introduced to Lot before his tragic story unfolds (**Genesis 11:27**);
- 3) We are introduced to Dinah, Jacob's daughter by Leah, before she is raped by Shechem (**Genesis 30:21**);
- 4) We are introduced to David's daughter, Tamar, before she is raped by her father's half brother, Ammon (**2 Samuel 13**).

Now Jacob most likely had more daughters than Dinah, and David certainly had more daughters than Tamar—he had 19 sons by 10 wives, and sons and daughters by their concubines (hand maidens). I know crazy world!

**B. My point is that God tells us what's going to happen before it happens...for a reason and with purpose.**

***Isaiah 42:8-9***

**8** "I am the LORD; that is My name!  
I will not give My glory to anyone else,  
nor share My praise ...  
**9** Everything I prophesied has come true,  
and now I will prophesy again.  
I will tell you the future before it happens."

***John 14:27-29***

**27** "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart.  
And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So  
don't be troubled or afraid. **28** Remember what I told you: I  
am going away, but I will come back to you again. ... **29** I

have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.

## 1. Why?

**15** No longer do I call you servants/slaves for the servant/slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. **17** These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

## 2. What is our/my purpose? What do we say EVERY week? “I was born with value and purpose.” Here it is!

(v16) but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you.

**NOW, GRASP THIS.** Every time we walk in obedience, our purpose unfolds...large or small, seemingly significant or insignificant—nothing is insignificant when it’s in God’s will.

## C. You know the story...

1. Abram is told to leave his country, his people and his father and go to the land God has prepared for him ... but he doesn’t go UNTIL his father dies.

**IT’S 15 YEARS** before Abram does what God tells him to do and it’s 25 years before God changes Abram’s name to Abraham.

2. But God doesn't give up on Abram just like He doesn't give up on you/me/us. Mature faith doesn't happen overnight. It's a process. It grows with companionship. It grows with friendship. It develops through faithful and loyal friendship.

It wasn't there at first:

Abram went to Egypt for refuge in the midst of a famine instead of looking to God (**Genesis 12:10-20**). It was the natural thing to do. It wasn't deliberate disobedience; it just seemed like the right thing to do. We have no record that Abram asked God what he should do in the midst of the famine.

In fear, Abram lies about his wife—if she was his sister, then these heathens wouldn't kill him for his wife; they'd just take her, which is exactly what they did (**Genesis 20:2**). It seemed like the right thing to do, but it wasn't. We have no record that Abram asked God what he should say when people asked if this beautiful woman was his wife.

- 3. More times than not, faith is a learning process and requires maturation.** When Abram was 100 (he lived until he is 175), there were no delays in his response to God, his obedience was immediate. He had become a “bedfellow” and a true friend of God.

**FRIENDSHIP IS A 'BEDFELLOW' [R]**—and I don't mean that in a sexual way—I mean it in the sense that, in the words of Ruth to Naomi (**Ruth 1:16-17**):

Wherever you go, I will go;  
 wherever you live, I will live.  
 Your people will be my people,  
 and your God will be my God.  
**17** Wherever you die, I will die,  
 and there I will be buried.  
 May the LORD punish me severely  
 if I allow anything but death to separate us!”

That’s what a *bedfellow* means. That’s true friendship. That’s what God is to us until our last breath, and it’s what He wants us to be to Him—and to others. Not to everyone, that’s impossible, but to some. It’s what Abram is to his nephew, Lot. Let’s look at it.

### III. ABRAM, A BEDFELLOW TO HIS NEPHEW (Fast forward to Chapter 14)

**A. The setting: Nine kings go to war.** It’s the Shinar Allies vs the Dead Sea Confederation.

**WHY WOULD GOD BOTHER TO RECORD THIS PAGAN DOGFIGHT?** The answer is found in **verse 12** of **Chapter 14**: “and they took Lot.” Grasp the picture!

1. Lot, although living in Sodom, still belonged to God.

**GRASP IT!** No matter where you may wander, if you’re blood washed and blood bought, you still belong to God. Granted, you’ll pay the price for disobedience—Hasn’t every saint learned that difficult lesson?—but God’s still your bedfellow and He’ll stick by your side all the way to the grave.

2. Abraham, Lot's uncle, was a true friend. Let's look at the account.

**11** The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. **12** They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.

**14** When Abram heard that his nephew had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ... **16** He recovered all the goods and brought back his nephew Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

**18** Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, **19** and he blessed Abram, saying, ...

**B. What does moment in time picture?** Holy communion. What is in this picture? (show picture)



1. The body of Christ—the bread.
2. The blood of Christ—the wine.
3. When we sit at Table we are entering into a victory celebration—Jesus absolving our sin, our stain, our shame.
4. It's a war won. We, like Lot, have been rescued.
5. We are the blessed of the blessed.
6. We have a “true friend” in Jesus.

(Let's break bread/Holy Communion; then we'll conclude our sermon. Give **INVITATION** during the wine. )

**C. What happens AFTER Abram and Melchizedek sit at Table? (put picture with scripture)**

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

**20** And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your

(Abram's) enemies into your (Abram's) hand.”



**WHEN YOU'RE A BEDFELLOW, YOUR FRIEND'S ENEMIES ARE YOUR ENEMIES; YOUR FRIEND'S FRIENDS ARE YOUR FRIENDS.**

God was a “bedfellow” of Abram. Look at what follows:

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything.

**D. The tithe was an act of gratitude for salvation, not just in appreciation for God's temporal blessings.** In an attitude of worship and thanksgiving, let's present to our King our tithes and offerings. **(Take an offering.)**

**E. Conclude service with a song of gratitude and celebration.**

**IV. INVITATION (To Be Given during the Lord's Table)**

**Admit**– 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 righteous 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!

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