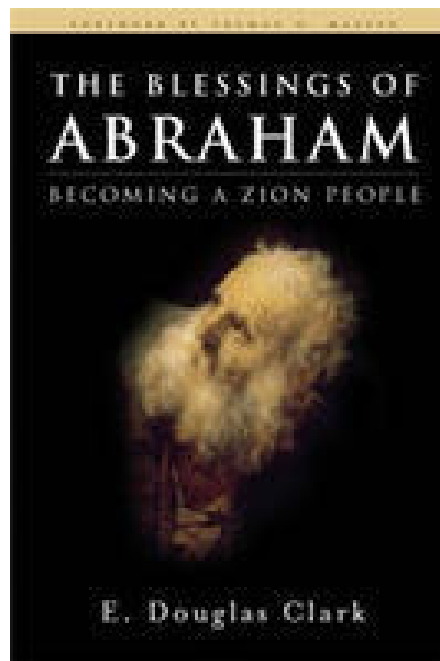




The Blessings Of Abraham: Becoming A Zion People

E. Douglas Clark

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The Blessings of Abraham E. Douglas Clark Why study the life of Abraham? What does a man who died nearly four thousand years ago have to do with Latter-day Saints today? In a word, everything. Abraham is our forefather whose covenant we have inherited. Therefore, we are heirs to the abundant blessings of protection and exaltation given him. Abraham's mission is our mission. His life is truly a powerful pattern and invitation for us to come unto Christ. Abraham's life is a story of high drama, set in a dark and decadent world much like our own. It's a tale of grave danger and divine deliverance, deep anguish and overwhelming joy. It's also one of the world's greatest love stories. To tell Abraham's story, it is essential to include Sarah. Together Abraham and Sarah built Zion, and together they should be remembered by their righteous posterity who aspire to build Zion. Drawing on rich sources, including restored scripture, the words of modern prophets, ancient and modern scholars, rabbinic texts, the Qu'ran, early Christian writings, and more, this important volume tells the story of Abraham in a way that will be both meaningful and inspiring to Latter-day Saints. Here is his story—and ours. 6" X 9", 332 pages ISBN 978-1-59811-867-4

The Blessings Of Abraham: Becoming A Zion People Details

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From Reader Review The Blessings Of Abraham: Becoming A Zion People for online ebook

Ann Coulis says

Amazing that there is so much extra-Biblical source material to build such a complete picture of the prophet Abraham. This is a very dense book - very interesting and inspiring - and actually ties in very well with our lives today. The message for me is that it's never too late to follow a good example and try to be as good as you can be.

Jim says

This is among the most enlightening, well-written books I have ever read. I would describe it as "eye-opening" and hopefully "life-changing". The author has presented, in surprising detail, the life and character of this great man and his equally great wife, Sarah, drawing on Scripture and historical apocryphal sources. Because Abraham is such a key figure in three major world religions -- Christianity, Islam and Judaism, there is a wealth of ancient writings from all three religious sources dealing with his life. I found myself pondering and trying to digest the content of each paragraph. Every word and phrase seem to be carefully chosen and ordered. In that sense, it is certainly no page turner, but it stimulates a great deal of contemplation and self-evaluation. I wish I could give it more than 5 stars.

Marilyn says

If you've ever wondered "What's the big deal about Abraham?"; "Why Abraham?"; "Just what is Zion?" this is a MUST READ book. The problem is, it's out of print and you're going to have a hard time finding it. Maybe if enough people call Covenant Communications, Inc. and ask about it, they'll re-print it. In the mean time look for a used copy, but expect it to be heavily marked. This book explains so many things and really makes the Abrahamic Covenant, Zion, the request for Isaac's sacrifice, and so many other things understandable, interesting, and vital. As a bonus you get to learn about more about Enoch, angels, Sarah, Ishmael, Judahism, Islam, Joseph Smith, and a whole lot of other things. The Glossary of Terms, Names, and Sources, is so helpful; and don't forget to check out the informational footnotes. There is some really great stuff in them.

Larry says

In my opinion, outside of the Savior, Abraham is arguably the greatest historical figure of all time. This is best captured in a quote from Reverend W.F.P. Noble, "There is no quarter of the globe to which it [the name of Abraham] has not been carried, and it is the only one which is venerated alike by Jews and Christians and [Muslims]; for whatever be their differences..., all of them... claim an equal relationship with this distinguished patriarch, saying "We have Abraham to our father." Indeed, what I loved about this book is it introduced me to writings from each of these religious traditions regarding Abraham so it added so much more to my understanding of this man than that which I've received from "only" the writings I've been exposed to in my own religion. It was fascinating. As my own son is named after Abraham's son (Isaac), I've

felt great respect for Abraham for decades but this book really added to that respect (for him and his wife Sarah).

Daniel Williams says

Overall, it's a great book! I enjoyed learning more about who Abraham was as an individual.

Pros: Coming in as someone who grew up in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I'd heard a lot about Abraham, but hadn't studied his life yet. I was thinking of reading Hugh Nibley's book about Abraham, but settled on this one. It Opened my eyes to his whole life story, which is what I was really interested in. I also don't really know a lot about the author, Clark, but you can tell he knows a thing or two about Abraham.

Cons: As someone who just wanted to know Abraham's life story, it seemed really wordy and lengthy. There's a lot of references that, while interesting, seemed a little repetitive. I just wasn't as interested in all of that as much as I was just about who he was and what his life was like.

Overall, a great book. Really enjoyed learning more about Abraham! He lived a life very unique! I think this book would help you learn more about him.

Sheri says

This book was not only very well written, but also both explanatory and concise. The book appeals to men and women in the LDS Church, focusing on the incredible attributes of both Abraham and Sarah.

It tells the eye-opening story of Abraham and Sarah, taking great care not to exclude Sarah at all. In fact, it often highlights Sarah, often stating that Abraham and Sarah were a team, a couple building Zion together, two people in perfect harmony.

The book even refers to Sarah as a prophetess, whose vision may have even exceeded Abraham, yet she always deferred to her husbands judgement and accompanied him on things without hearing them straight from the Lord herself.

The book shows in an enchanting way how to emulate the life of Abraham (and Sarah) in all it's greatness. It details every part of their lives, pulling from every historical record that the author could find, making this book a wealth of knowledge not otherwise easily accessible.

Mark says

This book is incredibly well researched. I appreciate the author's tenacity in using all available resources to shed light on Abraham. What an amazing book. It is fascinating to read the reverence paid to Abraham in different religions and in the culture of some countries. I have a greater appreciation of him now in my own faith and a greater understanding of his role in the faith of others. To the author I'd would say it's apparent this has been a life pursuit and passion. This book will be a blessing to anyone lucky enough to read it.

Ramona McConkie says

Very interesting account of Abraham's history. Nearly half of the book is taken up by citings and references-- i.e. the author is extremely well-researched and brought in many apocryphal texts and books by rabbis, etc. This also makes it slow to get through but well worth the effort. It is astounding how well these accounts coincide with the Pearl of Great Price and add great additional insight. I now understand more of why we, Moslems, and Jews revere Abraham and Sarah as much as we do. The account of Isaac's near sacrifice (taking in other accounts) is particularly poignant and beautiful.

Matt says

This book reminded me of the First 2,000 years by Cleon Skousen. It takes the life of an ancient figure and brings it to life in a way that a modern reader can relate with. The author has spent vast amounts of time researching all that has come to light about Abraham and is time in apocryphal, Islamic and Judaic texts, as well as drawing from modern revelation. It is amazing to read excerpts from so many varied religious texts while sensing in them the same familiar voice.

I thought I might gain deeper insight into the nature of the Abrahamic covenant to the modern Latter-Day Saint, but that is more a matter of personal revelation, not something one should expect from a book on the subject.

The real take away from this book is that a reader, once gaining deeper insight into the life and personality of Abraham, feels more comfortable with our ancient forefather and seeks to emulate him.

Sherri says

I had never really considered who Abraham was and why he has been so revered through the centuries. I found this book to be very interesting to the point that I had a hard time putting it down. The author was able to refer to books and ancient manuscripts that most of us can never access or read. I have a profound appreciation of Abraham and his wife Sarah. Their life together has now become something I can emulate and admire. A book that I can now say I have added to my home library because I will read it again.

Ryan says

I have studied much about Abraham before, and I have studied and written much about Zion before - but never have I studied and pondered about the great patriarch in context of the great city of God in the way that E. Douglas Clark brings them together in this book. I am very glad I read this book (at the recommendation of a good friend) because it gave me a deeper appreciation and understanding of the great role Abraham has, does, and will yet play in the redemption of Zion in the world through his personal faithfulness and covenant posterity. It also got me thinking even more deeply about what it means, as Latter-day Saints are prone to claim, to be the posterity of Abraham. I hope that reading this will permanently change the way I think about myself in those terms and that it will do the same for all those who read it. I understand the Abrahamic covenant better than ever before, and I hope I can be an instrument in bringing about its fulfillment.

Readers should be aware that Clark uses the Latter-day Saint perspective of Abraham as the "spine" for his

approach to Abraham, but he liberally inserts material from apocryphal Christian, Judaic, and Islamic sources. While thoughtful people may not always agree with some of the nuances of Clark's doctrinal interpretations and/or historical conclusions, I thought he did a pretty good job of focusing on common themes and trends found among the various sources that present a reasonable united narrative of the prophet, priest, and patriarch Abraham and his great yearning for Zion, the city of God. It was much better than Skousen's "The First 2,000 Years," which frequently just seemed to speculate wildly.

While I genuinely respect the tremendous amount of research that went into this book and the enthusiasm the author had for his subject, at times the writing was overly verbose and unnecessarily redundant. So I sometimes felt like I had to wade through some parts to get to the really valuable insights, but it was definitely worth it overall. I highly recommend this book.

Matthew says

Fascinating book about the life of the Prophet Abraham. Written by an LDS author it uses all of the standard sources, and hundreds of other sources from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim history. This will definitely be my go-to book for all things "Abraham" in the future.

I especially appreciated the section on the covenant God made with Abraham and which He makes with all of us if we are willing. Worth the time it takes to read.

Rex says

This is a heartfelt, in-depth, look at the great patriarch. Clark demonstrates substantial knowledge of ancient Abrahamic sources and weaves the fragmentary accounts of Abraham's life seamlessly and with great insight. The book's main weakness in my mind is that I didn't feel like I became acquainted with the primary literature from which he pieced together the bits of Abraham's life. However, I left with a greater love and appreciation of Abraham and Sarah and my responsibility as a part of the seed of Abraham.

Sue Maxwell says

If you really want to know about the life of Abraham and Sarah read this book! It includes much old information not available to the public but only to skilled researchers. You will admire this great prophet even more after this book is finished. It is excellent. Sue Maxwell

Steve Schmutz says

I just started this book, based on very high recommendations from my Dad and brother. I have always been VERY interested in Abraham and the Abrahamic Covenant. I'm enjoying this book so far very much.
