

Hebrews Lesson 48

Chapter 11—Faithful Abraham

7 July 2025

Vs 8 “By faith Abraham, when he was called...went out, not knowing whither he went.”

- He didn’t know where he was going, but he knew God was with him.
- Going out by faith meant leaving behind his homeland, his heritage, his relatives, etc.
 - The things Abraham gave up short-term did not get compensated during his lifetime.
 - God gave him some long-term promises that he would have to believe by faith.

Vs 9 “by faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country...”

- Abraham got to the Land of Promise, but he didn’t get to the promise.
- He dwelled in tabernacles (temporary dwellings).

Vs 10 “for he looked for a city...”

- His feet are in the Promised Land on Earth, but his heart is looking for a city made by God.
 - The city he is looking for may or may not be New Jerusalem.
 - If it is New Jerusalem, this verse indicates that it is already built.

11-13 “¹¹ Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed...”

- Isaac was a blessing to Sara and Abraham, but his arrival did not fulfill God’s promise of innumerable offspring (vs 12).
 - Abraham and Sara (and all the faithful saints) “**died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off.**” (vs 13).
 - They were able to see that God was working in their lives towards total fulfilment.

“...they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

- Cain was called a fugitive and a vagabond (Gen. 4:12).
 - Fugitive: someone who is running from something.
 - Vagabond: someone wandering with no place to go.
- The faithful saints were strangers and pilgrims.
 - Stranger: someone who is looking for something.
 - Pilgrim: someone wandering with a destination.
 - We are on this Earth (where we don’t belong) looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).

14-15 These faithful “seek a country,” not mindful of “that country from whence they came out.”

- If you think back to where you came from, you will have opportunities to return to your old life.
- It is best to forget those things which are behind and press toward the mark (Phil. 3:13-14).

Vs 16 “But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly...”

- Now things might not be better than they were before you were saved. Don’t let that cause you to look back. Now your desire should be on future promises.

“...wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God...”

- They lived a godly life, so God was happy to have His name associated with theirs.
 - When you live a sinful life, don’t ruin God’s name by associating yourself with Him.

Vs 17 “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac...”

- Abraham offered up Isaac, but the offering was never carried out.
- God reckons the offering as being carried out because Abraham gave up his son in his heart.

18-19 “Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: ¹⁹ accounting that God was able to raise *him* up, even from the dead...”

- Abraham believed God’s promises concerning Isaac.
- He reasons that if he kills Isaac, God will have to resurrect him to fulfill His promise.
- Abraham knew that he and the lad would return after the sacrifice (Gen. 22:5).

“...from whence also he received him in a figure.”

- The figure: God the Father offering God the Son as a sacrifice and then raising him from the dead.

Vs 17 “Abraham...offered up his only begotten son.”

- Abraham and Hagar conceived a son named Ishmael. God did not count Ishmael as a son.
 - The consequences of Abraham’s actions affect his offspring to this very day on Earth.
 - But in eternity, God’s record of Abraham’s life is clear.
 - **“Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more”** (Heb. 10:17).
- Begotten: chosen, given the exalted place.
 - Isaac was the chosen one. He was given the place as the firstborn.