

ABRAHAM'S FAITH

HE OBEYED WHEN HE WAS CALLED

Introduction

- 1) The call of Abraham is a critically important moment in God's great plan (Heb. 11:8)
- 2) Abraham demonstrated great faith and obedience when he was called which worked to the benefit of all mankind, including you and me

I) **God's Command to Abraham** (Gen. 12:1)

- A) The Lord commanded Abraham to leave his country, kindred, and father's house
 - 1) He was to leave to go to another land that God would show him (Acts 7:2-4)
 - 2) Would also leave the idolatrous influences of his homeland (Josh. 24:2)
- B) God did not tell Abraham where he was going (Heb. 11:8)
 - 1) An act of faith on Abraham's part – total trust in God's will and direction

II) **God's Promises to Abraham** (Gen. 12:2-7; unconditional, unilateral)

A) ***A Great Nation*** (12:2)

- 1) Abraham is seventy-five years old – no children – Sarah could not bear any children and would pass the age of childbearing (12:4; 16:1; 18:11)
- 2) Abraham adopted Eliezer (15:1-3) and bore a child by Hagar (ch. 16)
 - a) These were not the children of promise (15:4; 17:17-19)
- 3) God fulfills promise by miraculously enabling Sarah to bear children in her old age (18:10; 21:1-2); Isaac born when Abraham was 100 years old (21:5)
- 4) Isaac – Jacob – twelve sons – grows into great nation (Gen. 46:27; Ex. 1:7; 12:37)

B) ***Land of Promise*** (12:1, 7)

- 1) Promised to Abraham's physical descendants (12:7; 13:14-16)
 - a) Abraham would not inherit any of this land in his lifetime (Acts 7:5)
 - b) Be given to his descendants after 400 years (Gen. 15:13-16)
- 2) Promise was fulfilled in days of Joshua (Josh. 21:43-45; Neh. 9:7-8)
 - a) Nothing happening today in modern Israel is connected to this promise
- 3) Through a great nation living in a land of promise, a Messiah came forth (Rom. 9:4-5)

C) ***Messianic Promise*** (12:3)

- 1) Unlimited promise – “in you *all the families of the earth* shall be blessed”
- 2) “Seed promise” - Abraham (22:18), Isaac (26:4), and Jacob (28:14)
- 3) Blessing not political or physical, but a spiritual blessing that has come to mankind through the seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:7-9, 16-18, 26-29)
 - a) Jesus is of the physical lineage of Abraham (Matt. 1:1) and through Christ we are of the spiritual lineage of Abraham (Gal. 3:26-29; Rom. 4:13, 16)

III) **Lessons for Today**

- A) We are called today by the gospel to be saved (2 Thess. 2:13-14)
- B) Must be willing to obey and serve no matter what it may cost us (Matt. 16:26)
- C) Abraham saw the day of Christ and was glad (Jn. 8:56 saw it by faith in the promises)
 - 1) We are now a spiritual nation of faith (Gal. 3:7-9)
 - 2) We are now pilgrims and sojourners of faith (1 Pet. 2:11)
 - 3) We are now, like Abraham, looking for a city of God by faith (Heb. 11:10; 13:14)

Conclusion

God is faithful to all His promises – this is our confidence and faith (Rom. 4:20-22);
Abraham obeyed the call of God – will you hear His call today in Christ and obey?