

# Abraham the Father of Faith

(Part 2)

January 21, 2018

## I. Principles of Abraham's faith (Heb 11:8-19; Rom 4:17-22)

### Last week we covered:

Faith enabled Abraham to believe (Heb 11:8-10).

Faith led Abraham to obey.

Faith led Abraham to sacrifice Isaac (Heb 11:17-19; Gen 22:1-18).

### Faith leads to victory over temptations and trials (1Jn 5:4)

1Jn 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

### Faith is based on God's Word

#### Abraham based his faith on the promise of God.

Rom 4:17-18 as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU"

Rom 4:18 ... which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."

Heb 11:18 ... "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED."

#### Abraham knew the nature of God and consequently was able to believe what God said.

God gives life to the dead.

Heb 11:19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead ... (Rom 4:17) considered (logizomai); to take an inventory; It is used 41 times in the New Testament) – to conclude, (ac-) count (of), + despise, esteem, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on).

God calls into being that which does not exist.

Rom 4:17 ... who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

#### Abraham believes in hope - against hope.

Rom 4:18 In hope against hope he believed, ...according to that which had been spoken, ...

#### Abraham contemplated his and Sarah's physical condition:

Rom 4:19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb;

#### Abraham did not waver in unbelief, but rather, grew strong in faith

Rom 4:20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,

**Result = he was fully assured** (faith) that what God had promised He was able to perform it.

Rom 4:21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

## II. Outline and principles from Abraham's life (Gen 12:1 - 25:17)

### 1. Abraham leaves Babylon (Gen 11:26-32).

His father dies on the journey to Canaan.

Family and friends help us begin the journey of faith.

### 2. Conversion, call and promise of God to Abraham (Gen 12:1-5)

**The place of conversion:** Ur of the Chaldeans (Gen 11:31).

**The call:**

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you"

Abraham was an idolater when God called him (Jos 24:2).

God revealed His glory to him and spoke to him (Ac 7:2).

Abraham turned from vain idols to walk with the Lord, all by God's grace.

The hearing of the Word creates faith.

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Jn 5:24)

**The promises ("I will"); The Abrahamic covenant:****I will make you a great nation.**

From Abraham, Arab and Jew alike trace their origin. More than one nation now calls Abraham "father."

**I will bless you and make your name great.**

The reverence of millions in the three great monotheistic faiths (Christianity, Judaism, Islam) has more than fulfilled this promise.

**I will make you a blessing (God will cause him to bless others).**

From Abraham came Israel, Scriptures and our Savior.

**I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you.**

In striking ways, the rise and fall of empires bears out the stated intention of God to deal with men and nations as they deal with His chosen people.

**In you will all the families of the earth be blessed.**

God's choice of Abraham and his children was not designed to exclude others. From the very beginning God's choice of Israel was intended for the benefit of mankind.

God blessed Abram that he might be a blessing. Whenever God gives you a blessing, it's so that you might be a blessing to others. God's blessings are not luxuries, they are opportunities.

**To your descendants I will give this land.**

There is a final promise added after Abraham responded in faith leaving Haran and entering the land of Canaan.

The Lord said: "To your descendants I will give this land." (Gen 12:7)

The purposes of God and the future of Israel are focused on the land of Palestine.

The Jewish state of Israel, in our day is a fulfillment of this promise.

**The pilgrimage:** Abram travels from Ur to Haran and from Haran to Canaan (Gen 12:4-5).

**3. The first test of Abraham's faith (Gen 12:6-20).**

**Abraham goes to Egypt**, because of the famine, lies about Sarah and his relationship to Pharaoh.

**There is a famine** in the very land where God led him!

We can be in the will of God and still suffer trials.

It has been said that "faith is living without scheming," but Abram began to scheme. He was walking by sight and not by faith, it almost cost him his wife.

**Note:** “Going down to Egypt” is Bible language for getting out of the will of God.

**Blessing leads to testing**

Faith is tested for at least three reasons:

To prove that our faith is real (Jas 1:2-3, 12; 1Pt 1:7 Ps 11:5; Isa 1:25; Zec 13:9; Mal 3:3).

To help our faith grow (Jas 1:1-8).

To bring glory to God (1Pt 1:6-9).

**Abraham and Lot part ways (Gen 13:1-18)**

**Abraham returns to the land he never should have left.**

When we fail, the Lord is ready to forgive and restore (1Jn 1:5-2:2).

“The victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings,” (Alexander Whyte).

**Two reasons why Abraham and Lot part ways:**

because the land couldn't sustain both of their flocks (13:6).

because of the strife between their helpers (13:7).

The pain and stress that comes from family are the hardest tests of all.

**Abraham was a peacemaker as he lived by faith**

Lot was a troublemaker because he lived by sight (13:10).

**Abraham chose a heavenly city (Heb 11:13-16)**

Lot chose an earthly, wicked city, soon headed for destruction.

**Faith prefers others**

Phil 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

**Faith isn't selfish.**

Unselfishness = Putting the concerns and interests of others before one's own.

Putting others first is fundamental in Christianity (Rom 12:10; 15:1-2; 1Co 10:24; 1Ti 6:18).

**Faith is willing to suffer loss.**

Ps 15:4 ... He swears to his own hurt and does not change;

**God confirms His Word,** telling Abraham to lift his eyes and see and walk the land.

After a time of testing, the person of faith will receive confirmation from God.

Let others take what they want; our God gives us far more than they can ever imagine (Ps 16:5; 33:12).

Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the land. He lifted up his feet and claimed it by faith (Josh 1:3). Then he lifted his heart and worshiped God.

**Abraham wins three victories in rescuing Lot (Gen 14:1-16).**

**1. Victory over Lot.**

Abraham could have let Lot suffer the consequences of his own choices. A man of faith is called “to be a blessing,” so Abraham went to the rescue. Lot was family, he was a brother who needed help.

**2. Victory over the kings.**

Abraham rescues Lot with a small army and faith in His God.

Abraham was victorious because he battled by faith (1Jn 5:4-5; 1Tim 1:18; 6:12).

### **3. Victory over himself.**

Abraham took none of the spoils of victory for himself. He may have been tempted to use this victory for personal gain, but he refused the king of Sodom's offer (14:21).

Abraham fulfills his vow to God (13:22-24). Even a shoelace from Sodom would have violated Abraham's godly walk!

After every victory of battle be aware of the devil's bargains. "Let us be as watchful after the victory as before the battle," (Andrew Bonar). If you aren't careful, you may win the war and lose the victory.

### **Abraham tithes of all he has (Gen 14:17-24).**

The king of Sodom came with a bargain  
[the refugees return to Sodom; the spoils belong to Abraham]

The king of Salem came with a blessing, and with bread and wine [communion].

The translation of Melchizedek's name = king of righteousness (Heb 7:2).

The translation of "king of Salem" is king of peace.

Melchizedek is a type of Jesus (Heb 7:1-3).

### **Tithing is an act of faith.**

Abraham established tithing (Gen 14:20).

Jesus affirms tithing (Mat 23:23; Lk 11:42; 18:12).

The Epistles confirm tithing (1Cor 16:1-2; Heb 7:5-10; Phil 4:15).

#### **References used in this study:**

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