

## Hebrews - 2/7/21

### Abraham Sought a City

**TEXT-** Hebrews 11:8-19 *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out*

**INTRO-** Noah died 2 years before the birth of Abraham. The flood occurred 350 years prior to his birth. Abraham's name was originally "Abram", which means 'the father is exalted'. His name was changed to "Abraham", who means 'father of a multitude'; The Jewish nation considers Abraham the Patriarch of the covenant promise for the land of Israel. Jacob was technically the first Jew. Abraham had two lines: Isaac and Ishmael. The Ishmaelite's took Joseph as a slave to Egypt. Many of the Arabs descended from Ishmael and many Muslims also descended from Ishmael.

250 times Abraham is mentioned in the Bible

61 times Abram is mentioned

Abraham is the main topic in Genesis 17 – 28

He is mentioned in every book of the Pentateuch.

Joshua, the Chronicles and the Kings all reference Abraham.

He is referred to in the Major Prophets, Psalms, and Nehemiah

All four gospels, Acts, Romans and Galatians especially reference him.

James, Peter and throughout Hebrews were learn of Abraham.

Like Able, Enoch and Noah Abraham stood alone with God.

Not all the events in his life are listed in Hebrews 11 just the ones that that encourage us to stand fast and not turn back.

John 8:56 *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.*

### I. The Call

11:8 *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went*

**A. He left his home**

The Ur of Chaldees

**B. He left his culture**

Idol worship

**C. He left his old life and companions**

Abraham is one of the OT's, greatest examples of faith. He believed God when he did not know where Heb. 11:8-10, he did not know how Heb. 11:11-12, he did not know when Heb. 11:13-16, he did not know why Heb. 11:17-19.

It was faith in God's Word that made him leave his home, live as a pilgrim, and follow wherever God led.

11:8 *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*

Heb 13:14 *For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.*

### II. The Covenant

Gen 12:1-3 *Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

In the ancient world, a covenant would be made official by cutting open a dove or a ram or some other animal or animals, and placing them on the ground so that both parties involved in the covenant could walk between the pieces. In the case of the covenant God made with Abraham, God took on the form of a "smoking furnace and a flaming torch" and passed between the pieces alone. The full weight of responsibility in the covenant was to fall on God, rather than Abraham Genesis 15

The Abrahamic covenant is an everlasting covenant

There are eight covenants in the Bible:

The first three covenants that we read of in the Bible:

- The Edenic Covenant in Eden,
- The Adamic Covenant with Adam, and
- The Noahic Covenant with Noah.

The first three of the eight covenants of the Bible are what we know as 'universal covenants', made between God and mankind.

- The Abrahamic Covenant', made with Abraham.
- The Mosaic Covenant that God made with Moses on Mount Sinai.
- 'The Palestinian Covenant, Promise of the land
- The Davidic Covenant, which relates to the kingly throne,
- The New Covenant

Gen 15:8-18 *And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? 9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old,*

### III. The Children

Faith gave Abraham and Sarah power to have a child when they were "as good as dead." Abraham and his pilgrim descendants did not turn back, as the Hebrew leaders were tempted to do, but kept their eyes on God and pressed on to victory Heb. 11:13-16;



**A. Ishmael – The Flesh**

**Gal 4:28-31** *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. 29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.*

**B. Isaac – God's plan – The Spirit**

**The birth of Isaac was a miracle**

**Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90**

**Gen 18:14** *Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.*

**C. The offering up of Isaac**

**Heb 11:17-19** *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 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; from whence also he received him in a figure.*

**IV. The City****A. Strangers and pilgrims****B. He desired a new country****C. He looked forward to a heavenly city**

**Gill's description of that city Abraham sought** - Not the city of Jerusalem, nor the Gospel church state; but either the city of the new Jerusalem, said to have twelve foundations, and in which glorious state, Abraham, with the rest of the saints, being raised from the dead, will in person possess the promised land; or else the ultimate glory of the saints in heaven, where God dwells, and keeps his palace; and which will be the dwelling place of the saints, and will have in it many habitations; and which will be both peaceable and safe, and full of glory, riches, joy, and pleasure; and into which none but holy and righteous persons will enter; the "foundations" of which are the everlasting love of God, eternal election, the covenant of grace, the promise and preparation of it by God, from the foundation of the world, and the Lord Jesus Christ, his blood and righteousness; which show the immovableness of it, it being opposed to the tabernacles Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob dwelt in, and to the transitory enjoyments of this world: and for this sure, immovable, and comfortable state of things, Abraham was "looking" by faith; he looked through, and above temporal things, to spiritual things; he went through difficulties with cheerfulness, did not greedily covet earthly things, but looked with disdain upon them, and to heaven with faith, affection, and earnest desire; and this proves his faith to be, as that is defined