

Seeking the Promise

Introduction and Review

- Last week we used the life of Abraham to bridge the OT with the NT revelation of God's great plan of redemption.
- In the OT we saw that faith in God saved Abraham (Neh. 9:7; Is. 29:22).
- In the OT we saw that faith in God sustained Abraham (Josh. 24:2-3; Mic. 7:18-20).
- In the NT there are many natural & spiritual descendants of Abraham: Jew (Ac. 13:26), Levitical priests (Heb. 7:5) & all believers (Rom. 4:16-18).
- In the NT there are many blessings for the spiritual descendants of Abraham in the present time & the eternal future (Gal. 3:5-9; Lk. 16:19-31).

I. Seeking the Natural Promise (v. 8-12)

A. The homeland (v. 8-9)

*Abraham left his well-known homeland solely because God promised him a better homeland (v. 8). Abraham & many descendants lived as nomads solely because of God's promise (v. 9). **Reaching the homeland & remaining there involved much difficulty even though God had promised.***

B. The son (v. 11-12)

God enabled Abraham & Sarah to miraculously conceive a son in old age solely because He had promised (v. 11-12a). God enabled Abraham to become the father of innumerable descendants because He had promised (v. 12b).

Even though God had made promises of physical blessings, Abraham had to faithfully pursue the promises & face many difficulties in faith.

II. Seeking the Spiritual Promise (v. 13-19)

A. The homeland (v. 13-16)

*The NT reveals that Abraham was ultimately looking forward to heaven as his new homeland (v. 10) – **this motivated him during trials in Canaan. The saint can never be completely at home in this life – our citizenship & homeland is in heaven (Phil 3:20). “To die in faith”** reveals that every believer is looking forward to heaven as the only true & eternal homeland (v. 13-16; Jn. 14:2-3) – “for he has prepared them for a city”.*

B. The Son (v. 17-19)

Abraham knew that because of God's promise, He could & would raise his son Isaac from the dead if necessary (v. 17-19). This event foreshadows the life, death & resurrection of God's only Son Jesus (Jn. 3:16; 10:11; 11:25).

No earthly or physical blessing can compare to the spiritual & eternal blessings for every believer that is waiting for the Lord's great promise of heaven.

APPL: When God calls a believer to obey, He may not give many details – “not knowing where he was going” (v.8). Even when a leader does not know where he is going & many people have questions, God knows where He's taking His people. Even when God's people have to live & worship in temporary facilities, God knows where He's taking His people (v. 9). Even when it takes much longer than expected & appears physically impossible, God will work mighty miracles to keep His promise. And even when plans don't materialize on earth the way a believer expected, God still has a glorious eternal home for us w/o regrets (2Co. 4:17-18).