

THE EXEMPLARY FAITH OF ABRAHAM - Hebrews 11:8-19

INTRODUCTION

1. The importance of Ab - definition of his *seed*: JnB; Acts; Rom, Gal, Hbs
2. Return to Hbs 11 - Creation to Christ's coming; exemplary faith
 - i. Hbs exhorts to perseverance - *approval* [v2 & 39]: *witness/testimony*
Faith is evidenced by works - pleasing to God.
 - ii. Antediluvians [v4-7]. v7 = linguistic link to Ab [v9]. 11:8-19.
 - a. See structure & outline of vss.
 - b. Hbs 6:11-15 - previous ref to Ab's faith - now delving deeper

1st: The Exemplary Faith of Abraham: the Land - v8-10

1. v8 - immediate obedience - Gn 12:1.
2. Land = *inheritance*. Sonship - THE heir: Jesus: our hope for inheritance
3. *he went out not knowing where he was going*
4. v9 - Ab's disconnection to land - *lived as alien* - not yet in *land of promise*
 - i. foreign land; live in tents [contrasts w/ *city* in v10]; w/ Isaac & Jacob
 - ii. Ab's exp = "already-not yet" tension: already in land, not yet in land.
5. v10 - what was he thinking? *for* = explains Ab's obed in Canaan.
 - i. *looking for* = faith & hope [Tit 2:13].
 - ii. nomad looks for *city w/ fndtns* = age to come [Hbs 12:26ff; 2Pt 3:10]
 - iii. *architect & builder* = God as Creator; Pss, Jerusalem - Rv 21

2nd: The Exemplary Faith of Abraham with Sarah: the Seed - v11-12

1. v11 - ambiguity: Sarah's or Ab's faith? [see NIV] Gn 21:1-2
2. Rom 4:19-20 - context of infertility: death. Ab acted *by faith*.
3. v12 cites Gn 15:5 & recalls Gn 15:6. Focus on Ab: *as good as dead*
4. Seed born is singular [v11] & plural [v12]
 - i. 2 kinds of life: this age & some w/ life of age to come. We are in v12.
 - ii. Gn 22:15-18 - context: Hb 11:12 concerns seed w/ res life.
5. v11 *Him who is faithful* -> v12 *therefore there was born*: promise believed

3rd: The Faith Exemplified by Abraham - v13-16

1. Author pauses to exhort: *All these died in faith*: death threatens life of faith 1] v13-16 instructs re: living faith; 2] v17-19 Isaac as type of res; 3] v20-22 patriarchs *when he was dying - in faith*.
2. v13-16 emph's promise land - seen by faith: looking at promises.
3. *Confessed - strangers & exiles - on earth* [Phil 3:20; Hbs 3-4]. We are *those who say such thgs* [v14].
4. v15 - Ab & patriarchs did not return to Ur.
5. v16 - key word: *better = a heavenly one*
6. Faith: words - mind - will: endure. See, hear faith - approved/witnessed.
 - i. v14 they *make it clear*
 - ii. God *not ashamed to be called their God* [Gn 17:7; Hb 2:11].
 - iii. Are we ashamed of ourselves? [1C 1:26-29] - Lk 9:26
 - iv. God prepares city - v10 - [Jn 14:1-3]

4th: The Faith Exemplified by Abraham: the Seed - v17-19

1. v17-19 = Gn 22 - sac of Isaac = test of Ab's faith - approved. Faith in promise of Gn 21:12 [v18]. Tension: promised life thru Isaac to be sac'd ?
2. Wm Lane: "When Ab obeyed God's mandate to leave Ur, he simply gave up his past. But when he was summoned to Mt Moriah to deliver his own son to God, he was asked to surrender his future as well." [O'Brien p.424]
 - i. Ps 17:14-15. Isaac represented Ab's salvation & hope for God's city.
3. How cld he obey? v19 tells us: God raises the dead [R 4:21]. He is able.
4. v19 = ram given in place of Isaac: worship. Ab's seed given life of age to come on basis of God's provision of sac. Isaac = *type* of res.
 - i. Jn 8:56 Ab saw Jesus' day - in mtn *it will be provided* or be seen.
5. Is ours the faith of Ab? Hbs 10:36-39 AMEN