

PILGRIMAGES

Abraham's as an example of ours

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Define: sojourn, pilgrim.
 - 1. sojourn - a brief or temporary stay or visit.
 - 2. pilgrim - one who is traveling in a foreign land, used in the NT to refer to those who are sojourning on this earth.
- B. Abraham's pilgrimage as an example of our pilgrimage. Read text: Heb. 11:8-16.

II. KEY POINTS of Abraham's earthly pilgrimage.

- A. Abraham had FAITH - (8) He did not know where he was going, but he relied on God to guide him correctly. The CALL:
 - 1. received from God
 - 2. requires to forsake home and family
 - 3. required to sojourn in a strange land waiting on a promise that would not be delivered until his death.
 - 4. Abraham obeyed this call.
- B. Abraham OBEYED the call - (8) as proof of his faith he did what God asked him to do.
- C. Abraham's faith lasted a LIFETIME - (9) The promises God made to Abraham had no immediate results, but were made for a future time. He was a sojourner throughout his lifetime.
- D. Abraham LOOKED AHEAD for an eternal city - (10) He realized that what God had in store for him was beyond the earth-life. (13) Abraham as well as Sarah, Isaac and Jacob knew the promised land did not hold a permanent home for them, but for their heirs.
- E. Abraham ACKNOWLEDGED his faith - (13) He confessed that he would not inherit the land but that he truly believed his heirs would. Promises not received in Abraham's lifetime:
 - 1. numerous offspring
 - 2. God would continue to be God to his seed.
 - 3. He and his seed would attain an everlasting inheritance.
 - 4. Through him and his seed all nations would be blessed.
- F. Abraham NEVER LOOKED BACK - (15) the opportunity to return to the homeland was there but he journeyed onward.
- G. Abraham DIED IN THE FAITH - (13) His faith continued as long as he lived.

III. APPLICATION of Abraham's example to our lives.

- A. FAITH -
 - 1. Look to Jesus, he is the author and perfecter of our faith, Heb. 12:2.
 - 2. How do we get this faith? Rom. 10:17
- B. OBEDIENCE -
 - 1. We must have an obedient faith, 1 Jn. 5:1-4. That is, keep God's commandments.

2. What if we refuse to do these commands (good works)?
 - a. No works implies a dead faith, Jas. 2:14,17.
 - b. Ours must be a working faith, Gal. 5:6, a faith working through love.

C. BE NOT OF THE WORLD -

1. Do not conform to this world, Rom. 12:2.
2. Can I love this present world and make it my home? Why not? 1 Jn. 2:15-17.

D. LOOK AHEAD, SET YOUR SIGHTS ON ETERNAL LIFE.

1. See beyond this earth-life as Abraham did, think about life beyond.
2. Can the prize be found on this earth? Heb. 13:14

E. CONFESS YOUR FAITH -

1. Through whom does this faith come? Christ! Confess his name (1 Jn. 4:15) and he will confess yours, (Rev. 3:5).
2. God will keep His promises, 2 Pet. 3:9

F. DO NOT LOOK BACK -

1. True repentance will not allow it.
2. Pressing on to the goal (Phil. 3:14), will not allow it.

G. REMAIN FAITHFUL - The heavenly rest is promised to those that remain faithful, Rev. 14:13.

IV. CONCLUSION -

How can you use your faith to obey the gospel call of Christ? Imitate Abraham, quit pursuing your earthly home and pursue instead that eternal promise, an everlasting home with Jesus and God our Heavenly Father.

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