

# Book of Hebrews

## Persevering Faith of the Patriarchs

*Hebrews 11:8-22*

### Abraham and the Promised Land

*Genesis 12:1-7*

#### Setting the Scene

- The call of God to Abraham began in Ur of the Chaldeans or Mesopotamia. *Acts 7:1-8, Genesis 15:7, Nehemiah 9:7*
- There seemed to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> call in Haran that is described in *Genesis 12*.
- Abraham made it to the promise land but he was only a stranger in that land.
- He understood that the promise land was only a picture of another land to come.

#### So What

*Faith in face of the Unknown*

Like Abraham we too can face circumstances that mystify us as to how the Lord will work out his plan. Fear of the Unknown does not have to paralyze us.

### Abraham and the Birth of Isaac

*Genesis 15:1-6*

#### Setting the Scene

- God's solution of an heir was not the legal option, Eliezer of Damascus, or the natural option, Ishmael through Hagar, but a child through a woman, Sarah, who was too old to bear a child.
- Abraham would not only be provided an heir, but he would also be given descendants who would number a great people.

#### So What

*Faith in face of the Seemingly Impossible*

Abraham focused on the giver of the promise and knew that he was faithful. We also must look, not to the solution but to the character of the giver. If we do this then all is well.

### Abraham and the Sacrifice of Isaac

*Genesis 22:1-19*

#### Setting the Scene

- On the surface the command to sacrifice Isaac did not seem the most rational of commands.
- Abraham obeyed and we have no information that would tell us that he struggled in obeying this command.

#### So What

*Faith in the face of the Perplexing*

We must not give way to fear since our perspective is so limited. Our Father in heaven is most creative will never let us slip through his fingers. *2 Corinthians 4:7-12*

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## Isaac's Blessing of Jacob and Esau

*Genesis 27:1-40*

### Setting the Scene

- It was the custom for the Father to pronounce a “paternal blessing” on his children before he died.
- In this case the “paternal blessing” was a prophetic announcement of the future of Jacob and Esau.
- The promise to Abraham was tied up in the future of Jacob and Esau.

### So What

*Faith When God's Ways are not Our Ways-Part 1*

The twists and turns of the unfolding sovereign will of God ought not to unsettle us. Biblical history is sufficient to teach us that our Father's plan for our life is not predictable. *Isaiah 55:7-8*

## Jacob's Blessing of Joseph's Sons

*Genesis 48:1-22*

### Setting the Scene

- We have no information in Scripture regarding God telling Jacob to bless the younger and not the old sons of Joseph.
- Joseph's complaint to his father has no effect on the actions of Jacob.

### So What

*Faith When God's Ways are not Our Ways-Part 2*

God's promise to Abraham will be fulfilled even though there will be some strange twists and turns. In the same way we also must not unsettle us and keep us from persevering in our faith.

## Joseph and the Future of Israel

*Genesis 50:22-26*

### Setting the Scene

- Joseph's request to have his remains buried in the promise land was initially fulfilled by Moses when he removed Joseph's bones from Egypt. *Exodus 13:19*
- Joshua finally fulfilled Joseph's request when he buried Joseph's bones in the promised land. *Joshua 24:28-33*
- Joseph's wishes were tied to the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant.

### So What

*Faith Always Trusts Our God*

When all is said and done the believer is a God-lover and his God is all he truly has in life.

*John 17:3, Hebrews 8:11*