

Hebrews 11.13-22

Portraits of Patriarchs

Hebrews 11.13-22 > PORTRAIT Gallery of Patriarchs / SEE GENESIS

FOCUS > Promise of GOD to First FAMILY of NATION of ISRAEL

FATHER: ABRAHAM / Sons PATRIARCHS: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

God's COVENANT w/ ABE is for ALL Generations after him

I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Genesis 17.7

### 1. Faith demands Waiting

4 Men Experience God's Faithfulness – Abe, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

Cover HALF of Book of Genesis > Passed over in FEW Verses

STILL Talking about Abe – Abe's GOD! > Faithfulness of God A, I, J, J!

Great, Great, Grandson – Abe did NOT Live to SEE > God DID IT!

WAITING is One of Most DIFFICULT Disciplines of Xtian LIFE

ABE – 25 years waiting for the PROMISED Son

ISAAC – Waited for Servant Eliezer to bring WIFE Rebekah

JACOB – Labored 7 years for Rachel / 7 MORE years got LEAH too!

JACOB Died as PILGRIM – Not DIVERTED by WEALTH of LABAN

JOSEPH waited in PIT/ Potiphar's House/ PRISON/ Halls of PHARAOH

JOSEPH thrown under the BUS by Family > Faith grew STRONGER!

FAMILY even with Strong Faith HERITAGE > ENEMIES of True Faith

Only PEOPLE live Forever – ALL Treasures turn to DUST

NONE of Patriarchs saw Complete FULFILLMENT of God's PROMISE

Not DISAPPOINTED > Welcomed PROMISES from a DISTANCE

DIED in Faith TRUSTING that God would Fulfill Promise in FUTURE

### 2. Faith for Dying

v. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them & greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers & exiles on the earth

Patriarchs – Born INTO the Promise and DIED Holding it FAST

GLIMPSE of END of their LIVES > RIPENED Faith of 3 Patriarchs

ISAAC – Child of PROMISE born to Abraham AND Sarah

Half-brother ISHMAEL Received A Blessing / Isaac got THE Blessing

“I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed” Genesis 26.4

TIMID Man – WIFE Rebekah made Big Decisions > BAD Decisions

God’s PLAN cannot be MANIPULATED > Decree is DETERMINED

PROMISE and BLESSING Predestined for God’s Chosen People

Idolator Abram – Isaac, not Ishmael – Jacob, not Esau – Judah, not Joseph

“The will of God cannot be forced into conformity with human patterns and preconceptions. His power manifests itself precisely within the sphere of human weakness...The line of promise is not the line of the flesh but the line of faith” Philip Hughes

JACOB – Twin Brother of ESAU > Came out 2<sup>nd</sup> > Spent life catching up

NAME Jacob means CHEATER > Spent life LIVING Up to the Name

Finally met FIGHTER could Not BEAT > Wrestled w/ GOD

GOD touched HIP > Walked w/ LIMP > Thrust himself on Powerful God

“I will not let you go unless you bless me!” – No Where Else to GO

God changed NATURE & NAME: ‘Israel’ = “Prince with God”

v. 21 By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.

Needed STAFF > Hip BROKEN in Battle w/ GOD

Does NOT GRUMBLE > GLORIFIES // WORSHIPPER not WHINER

JOSEPH > Abraham’s Great Grandson / 1 of 12 sons of JACOB

v. 22 By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

STRANGE Highlight OUT of All the DRAMA in Joseph’s Life

EXILED from Promised LAND in LIFE > Would GO there in Death

FUTURE Not in PALACE of Pharaoh but PROMISES of GOD

FINAL Home Not in Halls of Pharaoh but ETERNAL CITY of God

Joseph's BONES will LIVE long after PYRAMIDS of Egypt are DUST

"The fact that wealth, luxuries, and honors did not lead the holy man to forget the promise nor hold him back in Egypt, is a strong argument for faith" John Calvin

v. 13 "these all DIED in FAITH" ALL Heroes of Hebrews 11 >

Believing, Trusting > Trusted God for RESURRECTION

FACED Death w HOPE and SERENITY

Joseph – Instructions for BONES / Jacob – Worshipped on Deathbed

Paul's view of DEATH was Centered on CROSS of Jesus Christ

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 1 Corinthians 15.54,55

In LIFE Abraham walked as a PILGRIM thru LAND he never Owned

In DEATH he owned LAND where Sarah & he WAITED 4 Resurrection

To BE an Exile / Stranger you must FIRST LEAVE your Home

ALIENS – Insulting term for OUTSIDERS > Not FIT In, Not BELONG

SOJOURNERS – Passing thru to Destination Somewhere Else

v. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Desire a better country > Set our Hearts > Beyond Life's Horizon

"I will cherish the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown"

Kalahikiola had to MOVE Graveyard?

Rarely SEE Church w/ Graveyard > Modern Church DENIES Death

Young People JUMPING – Healthy, Happy – NOT Full Picture of LIFE

God LOVES Hipsters in their TIGHT JEANS & Geezers in DIAPERS

Walking thru Graveyard > TESTIMONIES of Faith, Reminder Mortality

Great Grandparents, Grandparents, Parents, Uncles, Siblings > We're Next

Only when ANSWERED Question of DEATH > Fully READY to LIVE!

Buffalo Bills / Cincinnati Bengals > Football call KILL > Ready to PLAY!

### 3. Faith can look Insane

v. 17-18 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

God’s PROMISE seems in CLEAR CONFLICT with God’s COMMAND

IF Isaac DIES > Won’t God’s PROGRAM be DONE?

Unreasonable – Inconsistent – Contradictory – Terrifying – Shocking

Chapter REASON many REJECT God of the BIBLE > KILL your Son?

NOT Sure how many Keep Reading to Learn > ISAAC Not HARMED

Perhaps some of SAME Critics will Cry “God SAVE Me!” One Day

Only REASON God can SAVE is His Son WAS HARMED on a CROSS

How does FAITH Pass this Shocking TEST? – 4 Lessons of FAITH

ABE surely had LONG, Sleepless Night before Leaving for Mt. MORIAH

Genesis 22 “he got up early in the morning and set out” Prompt Obedience

1. WORSHIP – Faith Kneels before God in Humble Submission

Abe was Creature submitting to CREATOR / Servant before Sovereign

Bowing before JUDGE / Not PASSING Judgment on HOLY ONE

TEST of Abe’s DEVOTION – 1<sup>st</sup> Comm ‘Love God w/ Whole SELF’

2000 yrs later GOD the Son will Ask Peter ‘do you love more than these?’

“The Lord has an absolute claim upon us, upon all that we have. As our Maker and Sovereign He has the right to demand from us anything He pleases, and whatsoever He requires, we must yield. All that we have comes from Him, and must be held for Him, and at His disposal”

A.W. Pink

May Be – Promotion, Advancement, Job, Relationship, Loved One

you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 1.6,7

HORRIBLE Tragedy: CRY Out! Where is GOD? Waiting for YOU!

PEARL Shaped/FRICTION – GOLD Refined/FIRE – Faith Strong/Trials

2. OBEDIENCE - v. 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son

By FAITH we Receive PROMISES / By Faith we OBEY COMMANDS

EVEN when those COMMANDS Challenge our IDEAS or CULTURE

TRUSTING Yourself: All Questions Answered by You

SIN has INFECTED our Mental COMPUTER with Deadly VIRUS

PATH of SAFETY and BLESSING is path of OBEDIENCE

Question NOT “Is it Safe?” – “Are you going with GOD?” SECURITY

Job to Wife: “Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” Job 2.10

3. UNDERSTANDING – Grows thru walking w God / Hear His WORD

FAITH – God knows WHAT I Need better than I do – And Can GIVE It!

LIFETIME of TRIALS: Growing > Maturing in Faith > Super-sized Trial

Sometimes PARENTS Raise Bar Too High – More than Kid can Handle

Heavenly FATHER Not have that PROBLEM – GOD and MAKER

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.  
1 Corinthians 10.13

v. 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” Genesis 22.5

WHY --- Faith led to LOGICAL Conclusion

SON is Promise – Thru HIM comes Blessing – Will Raise from DEATH

BIRTH was a MIRACLE – LIFE would be MIRACLE Too!

Abe “Lord, he is BEST gift ever given, but he’s STILL Yours, Not Mine”

But he held GIFT with OPEN Hand – He BELONGS to God

That gives You Enormous SECURITY > Stops Anxiety, Fear, Worry

OPEN Hands to God > Everything comes from God and belongs to God

We have MORE Opportunity to GROW in Understanding > 66 Books

All WORD Abe received could Fit on ONE Page – Scholars count 7 X's

CONVICTION did NOT make it EASY for ABE – Died 1000 Deaths!

Kept it TOGETHER because God had KEPT him Together

4. KNOWING TRUST – Abe knew and trusted God > Trustworthy

This trial, so far from shaking Abraham's faith, actually served to establish it, for through it the unchangeable character of God's purpose and the impossibility that God should prove false to his promise became more than ever the great motivating realities to him. Philip Hughes

Promise ROOTED in God's Character – FAITHFUL, TRUSTWORTHY

PROUD to Hear Kalahikola Stayed OPEN during COVID

Contra-LOGIC: Xtians RUN into Plagues, Famines, Calamities, Disasters

Couple TRUSTED in Promise of God for things NEVER See in Lifetime

KILL the PROMISED Child? > Sometimes our PLANS Fall APART

Just Accepted to College – Got Good JOB – Married – Child – Retired!

Xtian Faith NOT Focused on EARTH > This Life ALONE, be PITIED

If This LIFE is "Your Best Life Now" – Enjoy It Now! Hell lasts Forever!

TRUST Jesus Better Grades?, Happy Family?, Promotion?, Lose Weight?

MOTIVATION to Study, Purpose: Advance by Hard WORK like Anyone

Xtian > Stranger, Alien, Misunderstood, Persecuted > Pick up your Cross

Question asked by ISAAC > Carried Wood up Mt. Moriah for Sacrifice

Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!"... "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Genesis 22.7

WHOLE O.T. 2000 year SEARCH for Answer – "where is the lamb?"

Long, Hard Search – Exile, Captivity, Judgment > Answer SWEET

Answer to Isaac's Question Proclaimed 2000 yrs Later by John Baptizer

“Look! The Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world!” John 1.29

#### 4. Faith must be Handed Down

HELD to and HANDED Down - PROMISES of God > No Bible APP!

SPOKE Word – MEMORIZED Word – TAUGHT Word – Treasured

PASSED it on to THEIR Kids? > Best ETERNAL Inheritance

Abe never SAW Great Grandson > Abe's Faith LIVED IN Joseph

KIDS: Bks of Bible, Themes, 10 Comm., Lord's Prayer, Apostles Creed

5 kids?? Are we FAITHFUL in Small Things? God entrust w/ MORE?

Do OUR Kids Know & TREASURE the PROMISE of God?

v. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.

NOTHING Stands btwn Abe & former home – Except his FAITH

Bible speaks Strongly AGAINST ‘going back’ to the Home you LEFT

LOT'S Wife turned Pillar of SALT > When LOOKED Back on Sodom Israelites FAILED to ENTER Promised Land when Grumbled for Egypt

Peter, James, John – Dropped NETS, Left BOATS > Followed JESUS

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” Matthew 6.21

WORDS of Faith > CONFIDENCE in God > Conveys HOPE

ISAAC blessed JACOB before he TRAVELED to UNKNOWN

JACOB blessed SONS of Joseph > Egypt-born still Kids of PROMISE

BLESSING thru BLOOD of Jesus > to Every SINFUL Race of People

KEY to Faith > Understand God's GLORY is higher than our GOOD

As we Understand God & Purposes > His Glory IS our GOOD

“The faith of Abraham may inspire us but it is the faith of Jesus that saves us, the Son who ‘humbled himself and became obedient unto death – even death on a cross.’ (Philippians 2.8). There is no atonement on Moriah but on Golgotha there was a once-and-for-all perfect sacrifice for sin”  
Peter Lewis

EXPECT to be SURPRISED by God

YOUR PLAN for Life // MIGHT NOT be GOD'S Plan for your Life

JACOB crossed his ARMS when he Extended Blessing to Joseph's Sons

Sin-obsessed Augustinian Priest named Luther to SPARK Reformation

Downtrodden Continent AFRICA be the LEADER of Christian WORLD

What GOD do with handful of people at tip of remote island Kalahikiola?

The Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question...“You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God...as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.”  
Matthew 22.23-32

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Hebrews 11.<sup>13</sup>These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup>For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. <sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup>of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named” <sup>19</sup>He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. <sup>20</sup>By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. <sup>21</sup>By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. <sup>22</sup>By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.