



### III. FAITH OF THE PATRIARCHS (Hebrews 11:8-22)

#### A. The Faith of Abraham (Hebrews 11:8-10)

1. The call to faith (Hebrews 11:8a)
  - a. He was called to go *out* (Genesis 12:1).
    - (1) From his country
    - (2) From his kindred; idolatrous people (Joshua 24:2; Isaiah 51:1-2)
    - (3) From his father's house
  - b. He was called to go *into* a place (Genesis 12:1-3).
    - (1) A place God would show him (Genesis 12:1)
    - (2) A place where Abraham would become a great nation (Genesis 12:2)
    - (3) A place where God would bless or curse all nations through Abraham's seed (Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:8, 16)
  - c. This was identified as a place he should after receive for an inheritance.
2. The obedience of faith (Hebrews 11:8b-10)
  - a. He obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went (Hebrews 11:8b). Note: This obedience was incremental (Genesis 13:14-18).
  - b. He sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country (Hebrews 11:9).
    - (1) Dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob
    - (2) The heirs with him of the same promise (Genesis 26:3-4; Genesis 28:4, 13-14)
  - c. He looked for a city (Hebrews 11:10)
    - (1) Which hath foundations
    - (2) Whose builder and maker is God

#### B. The Faith of Sara (Hebrews 11:11-12)

1. The object of her faith—"she judged him faithful who had promised" (Hebrews 11:11)
2. The circumstances of her faith (Hebrews 11:11-12)
  - a. When she was past age (Hebrews 11:11)
  - b. And him as good as dead (Hebrews 11:12; see Romans 4:19)
    - (1) Abraham was not weak in faith.
    - (2) He considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old.
    - (3) Neither did he consider the deadness of Sara's womb.
3. The product of her faith (Hebrews 11:11-12; see Genesis 18:11-12)
  - a. Sara received strength to conceive seed (Hebrews 11:11).
  - b. She was delivered of a child (Hebrews 11:11).
  - c. Therefore, sprang there even of one [Isaac] . . . so many as (Hebrews 11:12; see Genesis 22:17)
    - (1) The stars of the sky in multitude
    - (2) The sand which is by the sea shore innumerable



### C. A Summary of Faith (Hebrews 11:13-16)

1. The details of patriarchal faith (Hebrews 11:13)
  - a. They died in faith.
  - b. Not having received the promises
    - (1) They saw them afar off.
    - (2) They were persuaded of them.
    - (3) They embraced them.
  - c. Note: Many have inaccurately used the phrase “These all died in faith” to suggest that Old Testament saints could lose their salvation if they did not endure unto the end. However, the passage is stating that the patriarchs died without having received the promises. In other words, they died in FAITH.
2. The testimony of patriarchal faith (Hebrews 11:13-14)
  - a. They confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth (Hebrews 11:13).
  - b. They declare plainly that they seek a country (Hebrews 11:14).  
Note: Both this statement and the previous statement about Abraham looking “for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10) indicate that the city or country desired of the patriarchs was not an earthly location.
3. The choice of patriarchal faith (Hebrews 11:15-16)
  - a. The choice to return (Hebrews 11:15)
    - (1) If they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out.
    - (2) They might have had opportunity to have returned.
  - b. The choice to follow (Hebrews 11:16)
    - (1) They desired a better (heavenly) country.
    - (2) God was not ashamed to be called their called: for He had prepared for them a city.
    - (3) Note: All of this points forward to the New Jerusalem.

### D. The Faith of Abraham (Hebrews 11:17-19; Genesis 22:1-19)

1. The choice of his faith (Hebrews 11:17a)
  - a. Abraham was tried. Note: Elsewhere, this was called a temptation. In a basic sense, a temptation is a time of trying or testing.
    - (1) This is easily seen in an Old Testament to New Testament reference concerning Abraham.
      - a) “God did tempt Abraham” (Genesis 22:1)
      - b) “Abraham, when he was tried” (Hebrews 11:17)
    - (2) It is also seen in several contextual scenarios.
      - a) Temptations = the trying of your faith (James 1:2-3)
      - b) Temptation = when he is tried (James 1:12)
      - c) Temptations = the trial of your faith (1 Peter 1:6-7)
      - d) The hour of temptation = to try them that dwell upon the earth (Revelation 3:10)



- b. He offered up Isaac.
  - (1) Abraham did not lower the knife, but God saw that he would.
  - (2) This apparently counted as offering Isaac in the eyes of God.
  - (3) That being said, a willingness to do something could equal completing the act in the eyes of God.
- 2. The conflict of his faith (Hebrews 11:17b-18)
  - a. He had received the promises (Hebrews 11:17b).
  - b. He offered the one “of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:” (Hebrews 11:18).
  - c. In other words, offering Isaac was essentially offering all the promises God made to Abraham. This was an ultimate test of faith!
- 3. The confidence of his faith (Hebrews 11:19)
  - a. He accounted that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead.
  - b. Figuratively, that is how Isaac was received.

#### E. The Faith of Isaac (Hebrews 11:20)

- 1. The source of blessing—“By faith” (Genesis 27:1-46; Genesis 28:1-4); Consider the scenario:
  - a. Esau hunted for venison (Genesis 27:1-5)
    - (1) The time of Isaac’s life (Genesis 27:1-2)
      - a) He was old (Genesis 27:1).
      - b) His eyes were dim so that he could not see well (Genesis 27:1).
      - c) He pondered his time of death (Genesis 27:2).
    - (2) Isaac’s request of Esau (Genesis 27:3-4)
    - (3) Rebekah overheard the conversation (Genesis 27:5)
  - b. Jacob plotted with Rebekah (Genesis 27:6-17)
    - (1) Rebekah’s instructions for Jacob (Genesis 27:6-10)
      - a) Rebekah was determined for God’s will to be done but instigated with her other son to make it happen in their own wisdom and strength.
        - i) Since God promised the blessings to Jacob (Genesis 25:23), the Lord would have insured the prophecy’s fulfillment.
        - ii) Rebekah refused to wait on God (Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 40:31). She chose rather to manipulate the events resulting in her losing her son (**Genesis 28:5**).
      - b) Rebekah told Jacob of his father’s intentions to bless his brother (Genesis 27:6-7).
      - c) Rebekah instructed Jacob to deceptively impersonate Esau (Genesis 27:8-10).
        - i) Isaac was to fetch two good kids from the flock (Genesis 27:9).
        - ii) Isaac was to bring the meat to his father so that his father would bless Jacob rather than Esau (Genesis 27:10).



- (2) Jacob's concern for his deceit (Genesis 27:11-12)
  - (3) Rebekah's plan to deceive (Genesis 27:13-17)
    - a) Rebekah settled Jacob's fear (Genesis 27:13).
    - b) Jacob obeyed his mother's plan (Genesis 27:14).
    - c) Rebekah changed Jacob's appearance to reflect that of Esau (Genesis 27:15-16).
      - i) Rebekah took Esau's clothing and placed it upon Jacob (Genesis 27:15).
      - ii) Rebekah put the skins of the kids upon Jacob's hands and neck (Genesis 27:16).
    - d) Rebekah provided Jacob with the savoury meat and bread (Genesis 27:17).
  - c. Jacob stole the blessing (Genesis 27:18-29)
    - (1) The lies of Jacob (Genesis 27:18-19)
    - (2) The lack of discernment by Isaac (Genesis 27:20-27)
    - (3) The blessing given to Jacob (Genesis 27:28-29)
  - d. Esau returned to learn of his loss (Genesis 27:30-40)
    - (1) The arrival of Esau (Genesis 27:30-32)
    - (2) The fear of Isaac (Genesis 27:33)
    - (3) The anger of Esau (Genesis 27:34-36)
    - (4) The request of Esau (Genesis 27:36-38)
    - (5) The blessing given to Esau (Genesis 27:39-40)
  - e. Jacob fled from Esau's wrath (Genesis 27:41-46)
    - (1) Esau's hatred for Jacob (Genesis 27:41)
    - (2) Rebekah's instructions for Jacob (Genesis 27:42-45)
    - (3) Rebekah's plea to Isaac (Genesis 27:46)
  - f. Isaac's charge to Jacob (Genesis 28:1-2)
  - g. Isaac's blessing of Jacob (Genesis 28:3-4)
2. The recipients of blessing
    - a. Jacob
    - b. Esau
  3. The prospect of blessing—"concerning things to come"
- F. The Faith of Jacob (Hebrews 11:21; see Genesis 48:1-22)
1. The time of his faith—"when he was a dying"
  2. The efforts of his faith
    - a. He blessed both the sons of Joseph.
    - b. He worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff (see Genesis 48:12).
- G. The Faith of Joseph (Hebrews 11:22; see Genesis 50:24-26)
1. The time of his faith—"when he died"
  2. The expectation of his faith—"made mention of the departing of the children of Israel"
  3. The commandment of his faith—"gave commandment concerning his bones"