

# **Abraham – The Father of the Faithful**

Romans 4:7-11

## **I. Abraham, A Great Bible Character...**

- Greatness of Abraham seen from a number of standpoints:
  - Frequency of mentions...
    - (Abram) Gen. 11:26-17:5 →, 61 times in 50 verses
    - Abraham → 250 times in 230 verses, including 74 times in 70 verses in the New Testament.
  - He was the man chosen by God to be the father of the nation through whom the Savior would come, the recipient of the promises. (Gen. 12:1-7; 22:18)
- So many great events in the life of Abraham:
  - Leaves his home as instructed by God. (Gen. 12:1); Gives Lot the land choice. (Gen. 13:8)
  - Rescues Lot from the warring kings. (Gen. 14:1-16); Blessed by Melchizedek. (Gen. 14:18ff)
  - Sodom and Gomorrah. (Gen. 18:23 ff); Offering of Isaac. (Gen. 22)
  - Abraham in the New Testament... Matt. 1:1; Lk. 16:25; Gal. 3:26-25

## **II. The Faith of Abraham**

### **• Abraham's faith was based on God's revelation.**

- God revealed himself to Abraham:
  - In Ur of the Chaldees. (Acts 7:2-4; Gen. 15:7); At Haran of Mesopotamia. (Gen. 12:1-4)
  - At Shechem in Canaan. (Gen. 12:6-7); After Lot went to Sodom. (Gen. 13:14-17)
  - Many more times. (Gen. 15:1-17; 17:1-27; 18:1-33; 22:1-19)
- Our faith must be based on revelation:
  - Rom. 1:18ff; Ps. 19:1-6
  - I Cor. 2:9ff; Rom. 10:17 → faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
  - John 20:30-31 → it contains the evidence that we might believe.
  - If we are to have the faith of Abraham, we must receive God's revelation.

### **• Abraham's faith was in the promises of God: (Rom. 4:20)**

- Three great promises made to Abraham. (Gen. 12:1-7; 22:18)
  - Nation. (Ex. 19:6)
  - Land. (Josh. 21:43; 23:14)
  - Seed. (Acts 3:25-26)
- God has made great promises to us today: (II Pet. 1:3)
  - Forgiveness. (Acts 2:38)
  - Blessings. (Matt. 6:33; Eph. 1:3)
  - Heaven for the faithful. (Titus 1:2)
  - If we are to have the faith of Abraham, we must embrace the promises of God.

### **• Abraham had faith in the power of God: (Heb. 11:19)**

- Gen. 17:1 → I am the Almighty God...
  - Abraham had faith in the power of God to bring Isaac into the world. (Rom. 4:19-20)
  - Abraham had faith in the power of God to raise the dead. (Heb. 11:19)
  - Abraham had faith in the power of God to destroy. (Gen. 18:23)
  - Abraham had faith in the power of God that went beyond this present life. (Heb. 11:10,14)
- We must have faith in the power of God:
  - To give spiritual life. (Eph. 1:19ff; 2:1; Rom. 1:16; Jn. 3:1-5); To destroy. (Matt. 10:28)
  - To raise the dead. (I Cor. 15:20); To save the faithful eternally in heaven. (I Thess. 4:17)

### **• Abraham's faith was an obedient faith. (Gen. 22:18; 18:19)**

- Abraham obeyed God's commands:
  - Leave your home. (Gen. 12); Sacrifice your son. (Gen. 22); Js. 2:20-24
- We must obey the commands of God today: Rom. 1:5; 16:26; Rom. 6:17-18; II Thess. 1:7-9; Matt. 7:21