



Heroes & Villains Series, No. 7: Abraham, By Faith Hebrews 11:8-10

Mike Halpin ~ October 21, 2018

**Intro: Last week we looked at the villain, Nimrod, from Genesis 10-11.**

- A rebel against God and a powerful force among men
- Established two great cities: Nineveh and Babylon
  - ◇ 'Babylon' is with us today. The NT calls the City of Man, "the World", mankind energized by Satan, redefining life, identity, religion and purpose as we see fit.

**I. God's Quiet Work—**

Against the fanfare of Babylon God makes world changing promises to Abram:

- God will give Abram a land and a nation
- God will bless Abram
- God will make Abram's name great
- God will make Abram a blessing to all the earth

God's program to save the world will be through an older, childless couple who were simply going along living life...

*It requires faith to trust that God is at work in the small and mundane affairs of our lives for his eternal purposes.*

**II. Abraham's Faith in Action—**

Genesis 12:1-5 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."....

Genesis 12:4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him,

Heroes of Faith: Hear God's Word >>> Believe God's Word >>> Act on God's Word

Hebrews 11:8-10 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called... 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise...

Genesis 13:17 ... walk through the length and breadth of the land....

Genesis 17:9-14, 22-24 and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him.

James 2:21-22 ... You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

### III. Abraham's Faith in Worship—

Genesis 12:5–7 ... 7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

13:18 in Hebron, "he built an altar to the Lord"

The order here is key; Abraham obeys, then builds an altar to worship.

Abraham passes on his faith:

Genesis 18:19 For I have chosen him (Abraham), that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD

Genesis 26:25 (*Isaac at Beersheba*)... he built an altar there and called upon the name of the LORD

Like Abraham, our chief aim as parents is to raise fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

### IV. Abraham's Faith in Believing—

Genesis 15:1-6 ... 3 And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." 4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." 5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Romans 4:2-5 ... 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ... 5 ... to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness

Galatians 3:8–9 Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations shall be blessed."

Ephesians 2:8–9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

L&L Statement of Belief: Salvation is by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone.

Are we sharing the gospel of God's grace, to be received by faith, in Jesus Christ?

### V. Abraham's Faults—

Genesis 12:10-20 (Pharaoh) and Genesis 20 (Abimelech) Abe puts Sarah in harm's way.

Genesis 16 Abraham followed Sarai's unwise advice to father through Hagar

Genesis 21 Abraham isn't going to follow Sarai's wise advice to send Ishmael away

Like all of us Abraham was not perfect; he failed repeatedly; but he was characterized faithful obedience. What are we CHARACTERIZED BY?

**Close:** The ultimate act of obedience, worship and believing: Genesis 22 in faithful obedience to God's word Abraham took Isaac, the son of his love, to Mt. Moria, to offer him as a sacrifice and an act of worship.