

STRANGERS and EXILES ~ Hebrews 11:8-16

FAITH and then OBEDIENCE ~ Hebrews 11:8-10

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:10 (NLT) Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city DESIGNED and BUILT by God.

IMPLICATIONS

⁸ By FAITH Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, OBEYED and went, even though he DID NOT KNOW WHERE he was going.

By FAITH Abraham...

- - accepted God's Promises as vs. 8
- - moved his family NOT knowing he was going vs. 8
- - as an Alien and Stranger vs. 9
- Looked for - secure foundations vs. 9

2 Corinthians 5:7 (HCS) For we WALK by FAITH, not by SIGHT...

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NLT) For we LIVE by BELIEVING and **not** by SEEING.

^{11:1} Now FAITH is being SURE of what we hope for and CERTAIN of what we do not see. (NIV)

Titus 2:11-14 (NIV) ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to ALL men. ¹² It teaches us to say NO to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

From DOUBT to FAITH ~ Hebrews 11:11-12

¹¹ By faith Abraham, even though he was past age - and Sarah herself was barren - was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

Genesis 17:17-18 (NIV) Abraham fell facedown; he LAUGHED and said to himself, Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety? ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, **If ONLY Ishmael might live under your blessing!**

Genesis 18:10-14 (NIV) Then the LORD said, I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son. Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was **past the age of childbearing**. ¹² So **Sarah laughed** to herself as she thought, After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure? ¹³ Then the LORD said to Abraham, Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ **Is ANYTHING too hard for the LORD?** I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.

IMPLICATION

NO Turning BACK ~ Hebrews 11:13-16

¹³ All these people were still living BY FAITH when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were ALIENS and STRANGERS on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ IF they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country - a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

^{11:10} ...he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Exodus 3:6 (NIV) ...**I AM** the **God of** your father, the **God of** Abraham, the **God of** Isaac and the **God of** Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

IMPLICATION

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) FAITH is **being SURE** of what we HOPE for **CERTAIN** of what we do NOT see.

TAKE AWAY ??

¹⁰ ...he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose **architect** and **builder** is **God**.

¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a **BETTER country** - a **heavenly one**...

1 Peter 2:11 (NLT) Dear friends, I WARN you as temporary residents and foreigners to keep away from **WORLDLY DESIRES** that wage **WAR** against your very souls.