

Date : 2 April 2023
Theme : The men who walked by Faith
Topic : Learning faith from Abraham's journey
Key passage : *Genesis 12-22*
Key verse : *So Abram left, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abraham was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. Genesis 12:4*

Objective

Today, we will address the question:

What can we learn from Abraham's journey from Chaldees to Canaan, from barrenness to blessing, from beginner to maturity?

Introduction

Context of Abraham's journey of faith

- Abraham and Sarah's story is a journey of faith from barrenness to fruitfulness.
At the beginning – Abram had nothing
At journey's end – ...*the Lord had blessed him in every way...* *Genesis 24:1*
- Barrenness, the common description of today's world.
The barrenness of Sarah stands in contrast to the promise that God will make Abraham a mighty nation.
- In today's world, people everywhere, young and old, are distracted from their faith journey by:
 - infertility
 - bleak future
 - death of yet another relationship
 - poor results in school
 - fruitless attempts in evangelism
 - embarrassing sales results
 - poor job finds

Abraham's journey of faith can be seen in three stages of progress:

1. Going out faith

2. Going on faith

3. Going in faith

Learning faith from 3 stages of Abraham's journey of faith

1. Going out faith (from Chaldees to Canaan)

a. Responding to God's call: *Genesis 12:1*

(i) To accept God's will

- What was the call about?
 - Leave your family, country
 - Go to a land
- What was the problem with Abraham's country and family?
Ungodliness had crept into his bloodline charged with the custody of God's Word.
Abraham's forefathers from Eber to his father Terah, were Hebrews.
Of Terah's sons, Abram, Nahor, Haran - it seems all, except Abram, were idol worshippers.

(ii) To trust God's promises

- 4 blessings
- 2 greats: name and nation
- 1 assurance: protection

b. Testings of Going out faith – Overcoming distractions

- Chaldees (Ur) – Family distractions (follow family or God)
- Haran – Comfort distractions and halfway Christians
Family members remained in Haran *Genesis 11:31*
- Egypt – Food and safety concerns, economic challenges *Genesis 12:10*

- Beth-El – Returning to the house of God (instead of moving from place to place)
Worshipping – a good place to begin *Genesis 12:8*
- Hebron – Separating from ungodly influence *Genesis 13:11*
– Following God’s instruction *Genesis 13:14*
– Choosing Hebron instead of Sodom *Genesis 13:18*

c. Obedience of faith

Going to God’s appointed place, learning that God is not slack regarding His promises.

2. Going on faith – Overcoming disappointments

a. Calling on the Name of the Lord.

- Acknowledge Him as Lord
- Enter into covenant relationship with God *Genesis 15*
- Change in perspective: from Ishmael to Isaac

b. Waiting for God’s appointed time is a test of faith

- Accepting God’s appointed time requires overcoming disappointments
- Learning patience
 - God’s promises are worth the while waiting for
 - God’s promises are our Shield and our exceedingly great reward
 - Abraham’s change of name: from exalted father to father of nations.

c. Growing in faith is by exercising faith over and over again, as a life style.

3. Going in faith – Offering a difficult sacrifice

a. The journey from Beersheba to Mount Moriah. *Genesis 22: 1-14*

b. What can we learn from Abraham’s maturing faith of total obedience?

- Abraham’s darkest hour of fear was also his finest hour of faith.
- His ultimate sacrifice and utmost obedience *Genesis 22*
 - From covenant keeper to God’s covenant partner *Genesis 22:12, 16-18*
 - From knowing God’s love to understanding God’s heart
- Attaining the promises, God blessed him in every way. *Genesis 24:1*

c. The test: Surrendering our most precious possession.

like, Jim Elliot ...*he is no fool to lose what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose...*

d. As God’s covenant partner, Abraham’s ultimate sacrifice served as a prophetic act which helped to explain the extent of God’s love for us. He enacted the Father and Son’s ultimate sacrifice and the substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus when He died for our sins.

Application:

How should I emulate Abraham’s faith? By

- Choosing God’s promises and conditions as my biblical world view
- Waiting for His appointed time
- Interceding for the lost – Family members
– Friends
- Believing that my prayers / witness will not be in vain.
- Fulfilling the Great Commission