

Bereans Bible Institute

Module XII – Faithful Shepherds

Lesson 4. Following Adam & Eve? Or Abraham & Sarah?

I. Most are following the Steps of Adam & Eve

- A. God commanded Adam only regarding the Tree (Gen. 2:16-17)
- B. Then He created Eve as his helper (Gen. 2:18-24)
- C. Satan deceived only Eve with an elevated station (become as gods) (Gen. 3:1-7)
- D. Adam cursed with death because he abdicated his role & heeded Eve (Gen. 3:17)

II. Following in the steps of Abraham & Sarah (Hebrews 11:8-19 LGV)

A. Abraham “trusted” & “obeyed,” not knowing where he was going. *“8 In faith Abraham, having been called, obeyed, migrating to the place which he was expecting to receive as the inheritance. And he left not knowing where he was going.”*

- a. Gen. 11:27 – 12:5 Abram left his clan to follow God’s lead
- b. Acts 7:1-8 The Son of God called him in Ur when he was 70
- c. Sarah willingly followed.

B. Abraham & Sarah raised Isaac, living minimally as foreigners, focusing on the HOPE of the future permanent inheritance in the resurrection. *“9 In faith he lodged in the Land of promise as a foreigner, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the co-heirs of the same promise. 10 For he was waiting for the city having foundations, whose designer and fashioner is God.*

C. Sarah’s faith *11 In faith Sarah herself received power for the overthrowing of a seed, and with the appointed season of age, gave birth, since she deemed faithful the one promising, 12 though which also, even this of having become dead, were begotten from one [man] according as the constellations of heaven in multitude and like sand beside the seashore, innumerable.*

1. Abraham & Sarah made many mistakes and suffered consequences, but they learned by their mistakes and changed course.

- a. Abram lied about Sarah
- b. Sarah was impatient, had Abram take Hagar producing Ishmael

2. Yet, because of Sarah’s faith (supporting Abram), God fulfilled the promise.

- a. Gal. 4:21-31 Being “in Christ” makes Sarah our mother.
- b. 1 Pet. 3:1-6 Godly women are daughters of Sarah (not Eve).
- c. 1 Tim. 2:9-15 Daughters of Sarah can redeem Eve.
- d. Rom. 4:18-22 Abram & Sarah held firm to the ‘Seed’ promise together.

D. Abraham & Sarah remained focused on the LAND PROMISE. *13 These all [including Sarah] died according to the Faith, not having received the promises, but observing them far ahead, and being persuaded and embracing [them], also acknowledged that they were aliens and foreigners in the Land. 14 For those saying such things demonstrate that they are yearning for the father-land. 15 And indeed, if they were meditating on [the land] they left behind, they had every opportunity to go back. 16 But now they crave the better [homeland], that is, of heavenly*

dominion. Because of this, God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

E. Abraham's & Sarah's faith TESTED. 17 In faith Abraham, being tested, has offered Isaac. And the one who welcomed the promises was sacrificing the only-begotten, 18 about whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 considering that God was also able to raise the dead, from where, in allegory, he did recover him.

1. Did Sarah know what Abraham was doing? YES!

2. Gen. 22:5, Abraham told the servants that he would return with Isaac.

3. Heb. 11:19, Abraham expected God to raise Isaac immediately.

4. The Son of God swore the OATH to Abraham after his faith was TESTED and VALIDATED, providing the "anchor of the soul" for US. Heb. 6:13-20 LGV 13 *For God, in promising Abraham, since He had no one greater to swear by, swore by Himself 14 saying, "Surely, in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply you." 15 And thus, through endurance, he obtained the promise. 16 For indeed, men swear by something greater, and an oath for confirmation settles all disputes for them. 17 In this way God, being intent on showing to the inheritors of the promise the irrevocability of His purpose, confirmed with an oath, 18 so that by two irrevocable actions, which God is unable to falsify, we – the fleeing ones – might have powerful incentive to cling to the hope laying before us, 19 which we have as an anchor of the life, both secure and confirmed, entering into the chamber behind the veil, 20 where Jesus the prototype over us has entered, having become High Priest for the age according to the Melchizedek arrangement.*

5. Our FAITH also tested: blind obedience = PASS; second-guessing = FAIL.

F. Justin Martyr's summary of Abraham's FAITH: "What larger measure of grace, then, did Christ bestow on Abraham? This, namely, that He called him with His voice by the like calling, telling him to quit the land wherein he dwelt. And He has called all of us by that voice, and we have left already the way of living in which we used to spend our days, passing our time in evil after the fashions of the other inhabitants of the earth; and along with Abraham we shall inherit the holy land, when we shall receive the inheritance for an endless eternity, being children of Abraham through the like faith. For as he believed the voice of God, and it was imputed to him for righteousness, in like manner we having believed God's voice spoken by the apostles of Christ, and promulgated to us by the prophets, have renounced even to death all the things of the world. Accordingly, He promises to him a nation of similar faith, God-fearing, righteous, and delighting the Father;" (Dialogue with Trypho, ch. 119)

G. Irenaeus' summary of Abraham's FAITH: "Thus, then, the promise of God, which He gave to Abraham, remains steadfast. For thus He said: 'Lift up thine eyes, and look from this place where now thou art, towards the north and south, and east and west. For all the earth which thou seest, I will give to thee and to thy seed, even for ever.' And again He says, 'Arise, and go through the length and breadth of the land, since I will give it unto thee;' and [yet] he did not receive an inheritance in it, not even a footstep, but was always a stranger and a pilgrim therein. And upon the death of Sarah his wife, when the Hittites were willing to bestow upon him a place where he might bury her, he declined it as a gift, but bought the burying-place (giving for it four

hundred talents of silver) from Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite. Thus did he await patiently the promise of God, and was unwilling to appear to receive from men, what God had promised to give him, when He said again to him as follows: "I will give this land to thy seed, from the river of Egypt even unto the great river Euphrates." If, then, God promised him the inheritance of the land, yet he did not receive it during all the time of his sojourn there, it must be, that together with his seed, that is, those who fear God and believe in Him, he shall receive it at the resurrection of the just. For his seed is the Church, which receives the adoption to God through the Lord, as John the Baptist said: 'For God is able from the stones to raise up children to Abraham.' Thus also the apostle says in the Epistle to the Galatians: 'But ye, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of the promise.' And again, in the same Epistle, he plainly declares that they who have believed in Christ do receive Christ, the promise to Abraham thus saying, 'The promises were spoken to Abraham, and to his seed. Now He does not say, And of seeds, as if [He spake] of many, but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.' And again, confirming his former words, he says, 'Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore, that they which are of faith are the children of Abraham. But the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, declared to Abraham beforehand, That in thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which are of faith shall be blessed with faithful Abraham.' Thus, then, they who are of faith shall be blessed with faithful Abraham, and these are the children of Abraham. Now God made promise of the earth to Abraham and his seed; yet neither Abraham nor his seed, that is, those who are justified by faith, do now receive any inheritance in it; but they shall receive it at the resurrection of the just. For God is true and faithful; and on this account He said, 'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.' (Against Heresies, Bk. V. ch. 32:2)

III. It is your choice

- A. Men: are you going follow the steps of Adam or Abraham?
- B. Ladies: are you going to follow the steps of Eve or Sarah?
- C. Are you together going to pursue "vanity of vanities" (Eccl.)?
- D. Are you together going to leave everything behind for the PROMISE & HOPE?
- E. TRUST & OBEY, there is no other way.