

From Abraham to Isaac

Gen. 25:19-36:43

Focal Passage

Review of Promise with Abram

- The contradiction of the natural impossibility with the Promise
- Heb. 11:12; At the time of the promise Abram was as good as dead...
- Rom. 4:20,21; nevertheless he staggered not at the the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith and giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that what God had promised he was able to perform.

- Abram reasoned not about the natural impossibility that lay in the way of the realization of promise, but believed God would act just as he had said.
- We discussed this as the origin of the doctrine of Justification by faith.
- God wants to bind himself to Abram in covenant relationship Gen. 15:17,18
- Covenant: walking between bleeding halves of sacrificed animals pleading not to break the commitment lest they become as dead animals.
- Hagar's request for Abram to go into Hagar (16:1,2)
- Abram's faith was tested at every pointed.

- The Fervor of Abram's Faith-Did he love God more than home and family.
- The sufficiency of his faith-dependence on God's supply
- The boldness of his faith- would he rescue Lot
- The dignity of his faith-was his action or motive for earthly reward
- The patience of his faith-would he wait on God or act in his own strength

- Very often those close to us become a snare or hindrance in the spiritual life.
- Abram listened to Sarai
- Consequences of a lack of faith Gen. (16:4-6)
- Naming the experience you have with the Lord (16:13,14)
- Chapter 17: Introduction of the doctrine of conversion. Name changes and Isaac would be born in a year.

The Man Isaac

Gen.26

- Isaac lived longer than Abraham, Jacob and Joseph yet less is said of him.
- He has less triumphs of faith than his father
- He has less recorded failures than his son Jacob
- Isaac represents sonship and heirship
- He is heir of all things (24: 36) cf.Heb.1:2
- After Gen.22 he is associated with the “Well” (24:62)
- He prayed by a Well, he lived by a Well, he dug other Wells

- Water is essential for the natural life and the word is essential to maintain the spiritual life,
- Isaac's departure from the Well represents the son's failure to maintain his standing before God (26:1)
- Isaac repeated the sins of his father (26:7)
- Unless the grace of God supports and sustains us we will inevitably fail, a warning but more of a blessing

Summary

- Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace, to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed, not to that only which is of the law, but to that which of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (Rom.4;16)