

MZFABC Bible Study

Abraham:

The Father of the Jews

Genesis Chapter 11 v. 27 –Chapter 25 v. 10

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VISION

The vision of the Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Virginia will reach and reproduce within its surrounding community, a people inspired and equipped with a passion for the truth of God's Word and His compassion for others who will be enablers of change.



Moving Forward as a Growing Church:

Believing For It

The background features two prominent, thick, wavy lines that create a sense of movement and depth. The upper line is white and curves from the left side towards the right, slightly rising. The lower line is a dark teal color and curves from the left side towards the right, slightly dipping. These lines separate the text from the bottom portion of the slide.

Abraham: **The Father of the Jews**

January 17, 2024

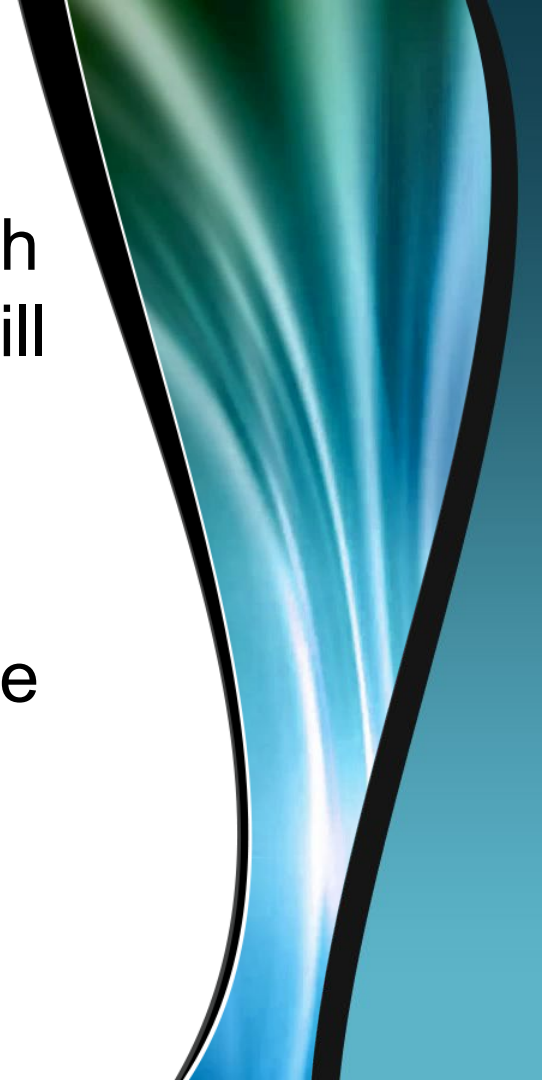
Genesis Chapter 11 v. 27 –Chapter 25 v. 10

Study Objectives:

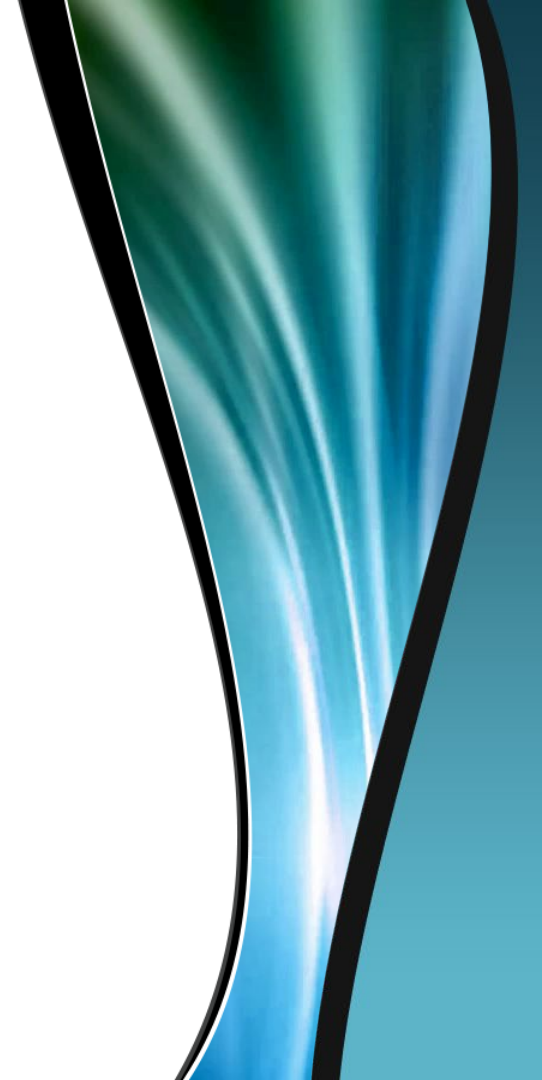
- This in-depth study offers a detailed, instructive, and rewarding experience in seeing many Gospel truths. For the Gospel not only involves the saving of the soul, but it also involves **a journey of faith**—the ongoing development of a new walk of faith! Thus, it is an experience in ***learning how to walk the life of faith in God's Word!***



- To provide a broader understanding that the nation (Hebrew/Israel) through whom the Redeemer of humankind will come begins with Abraham. This is disclosed in the covenant which God established with Abraham. The chief promise in the covenant is the promise of seed for Abraham. He is to be the father of the Jews. But the greatest fulfillment of the promise is in The Seed, Jesus Christ!

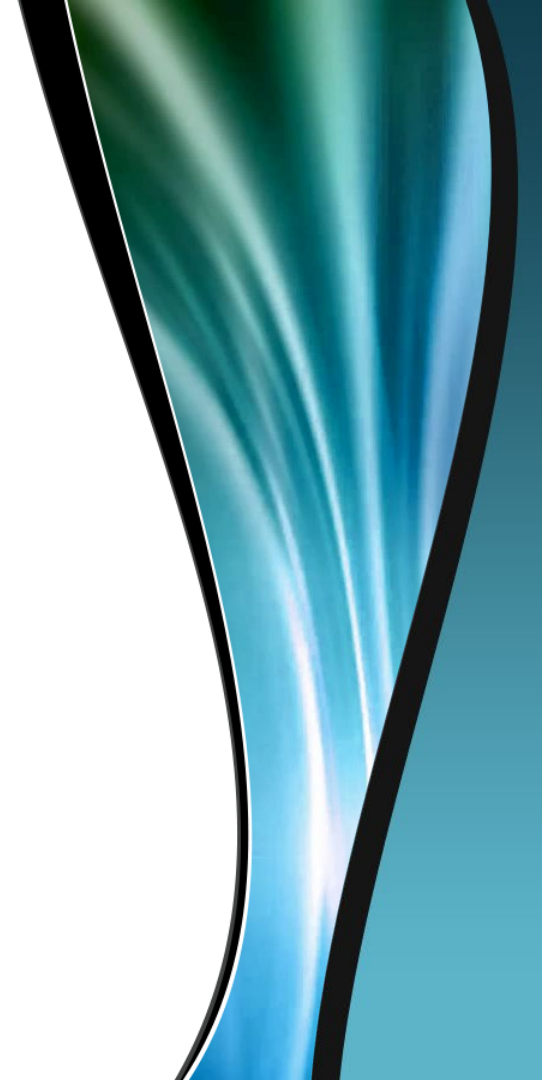


- Draw parallels between oneself and Abraham's successes and failures in *this life of faith* will teach invaluable lessons and provide timely insight for the diligent study of the Word of God.



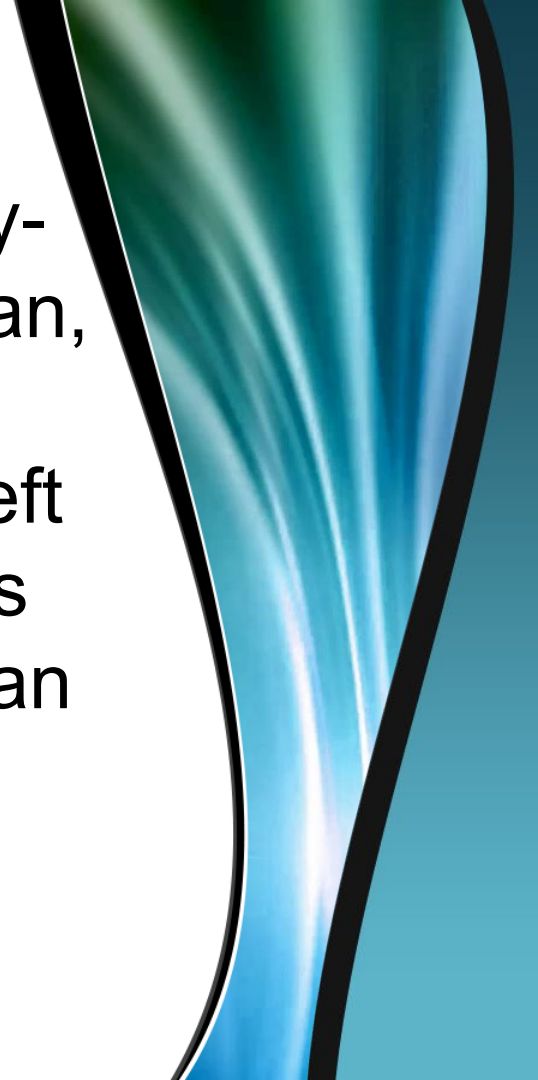
After a delayed start, Abraham's response to the summons was that of ***obedience***. We will note the various aspects of this obedience as:

- 1) The delay in his obedience
- 2) The dedication in his obedience
- 3) The difficulties for his obedience
- 4) The dividends of his obedience
- 5) The devotion in his obedience



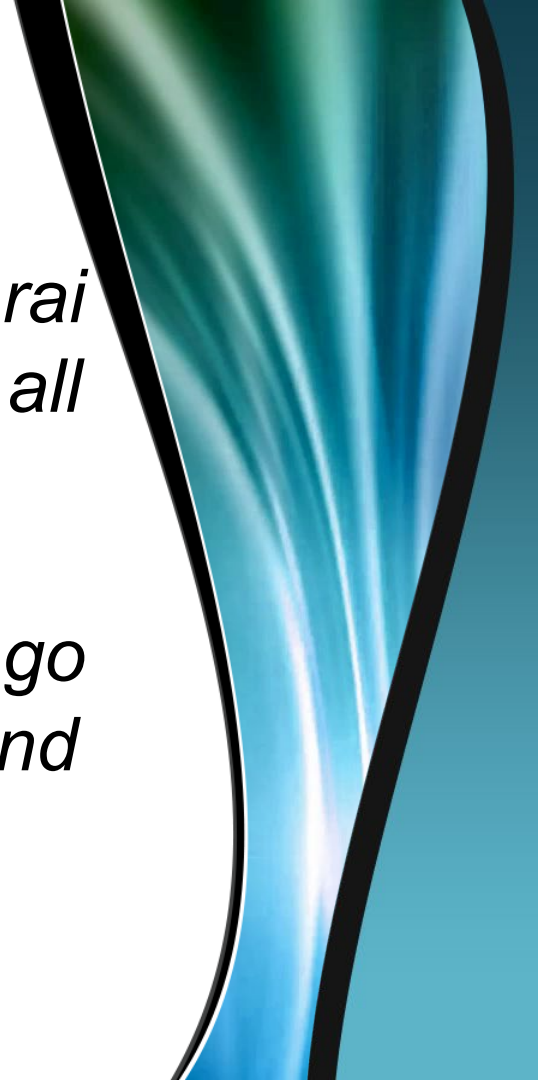
The Dedication in His Obedience

When Abraham, at the age of seventy-five (12:4), finally left Haran for Canaan, his dedication to obeying the call was so much better than it was when he left Ur and headed for Haran. We note his conduct in going to Canaan from Haran demonstrated his great dedication to obeying the summons. They are his *submission* and his *stamina*.

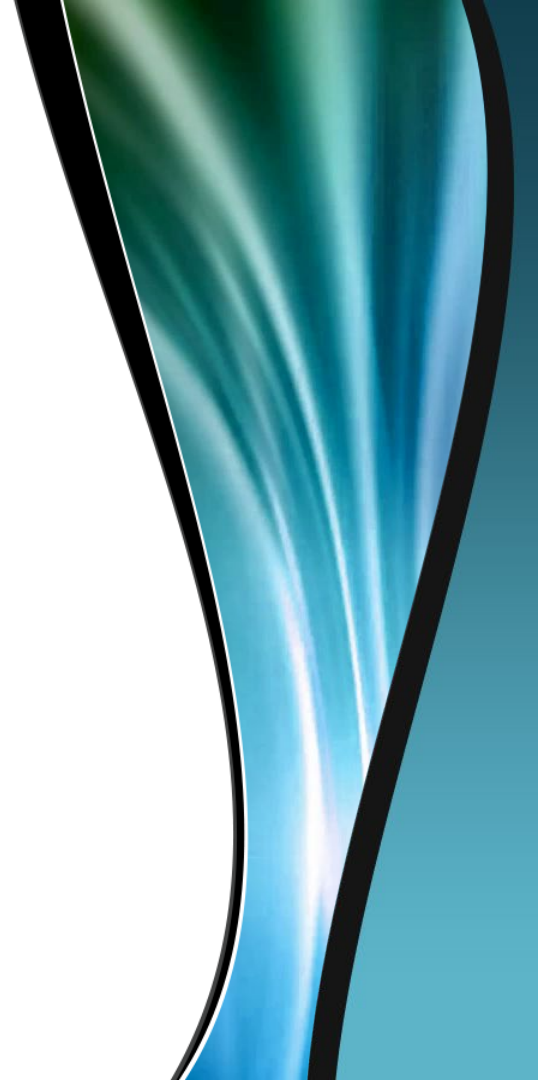


Submission:

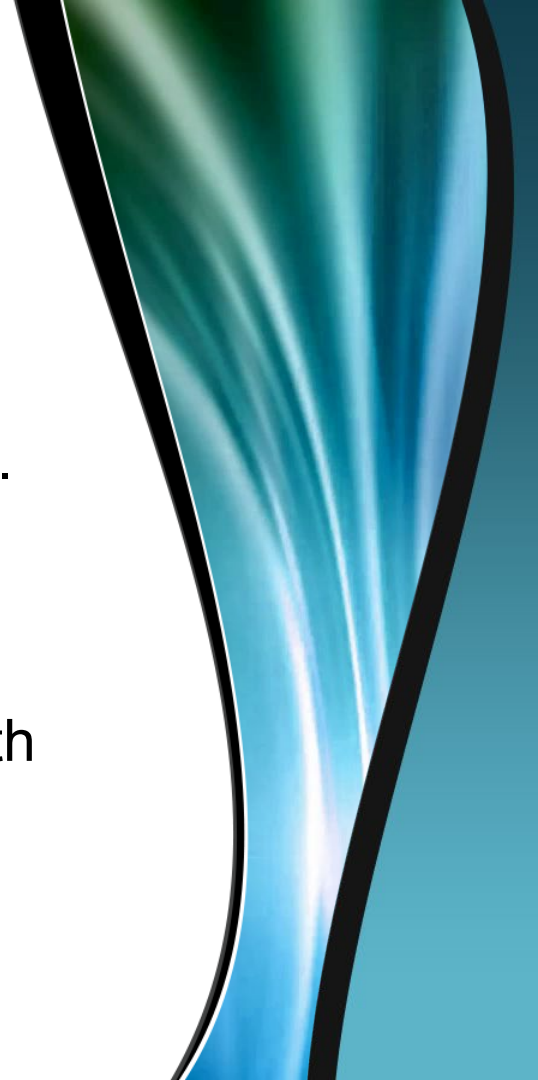
“Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him ...And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls [servants] that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came” (12:4, 5).



“As the LORD had spoken unto him” sums up Abraham’s submission to the Lord as he left Haran for Canaan. He did not take his relatives with him, which would hinder his full obedience to the Lord. He did, however, take Lot, for Lot was part of Abraham’s household in the same way an adopted son would be.

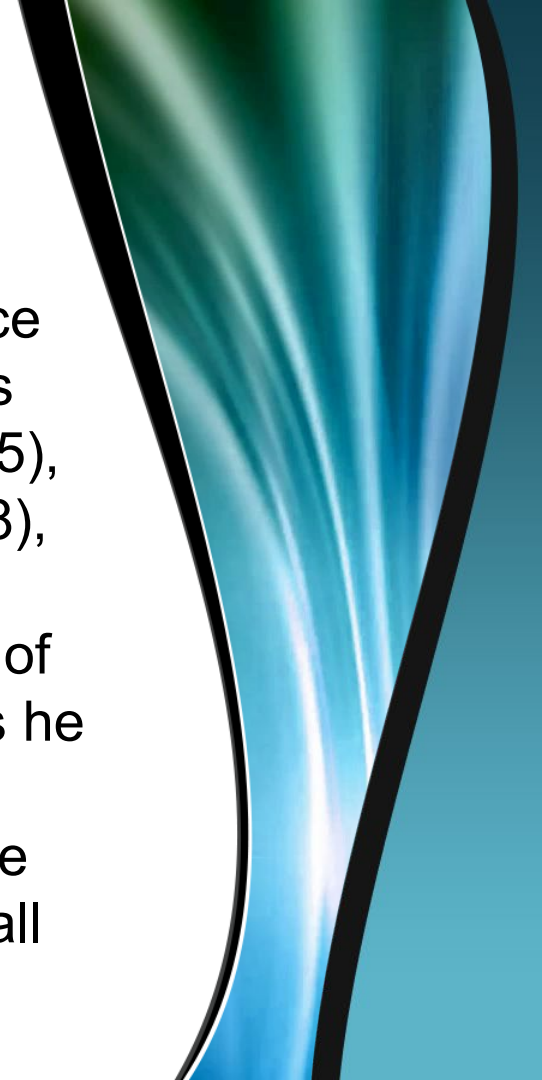


Also note Abram submitted to going where God told him to go...“*went forth into the land of Canaan*”...and did not stop short of the goal as he had previously done. Everything in Abraham’s household (his family, his substance, and his servants) was made subservient to the will of God. Full dedication means yielding to the priority of God’s service. Sometimes believers struggle with full dedication/commitment to God’s service. They come to church when it’s convenient, they give with reservation, they come lacking energy and uninterested, leaving their enthusiasm and emotions elsewhere.

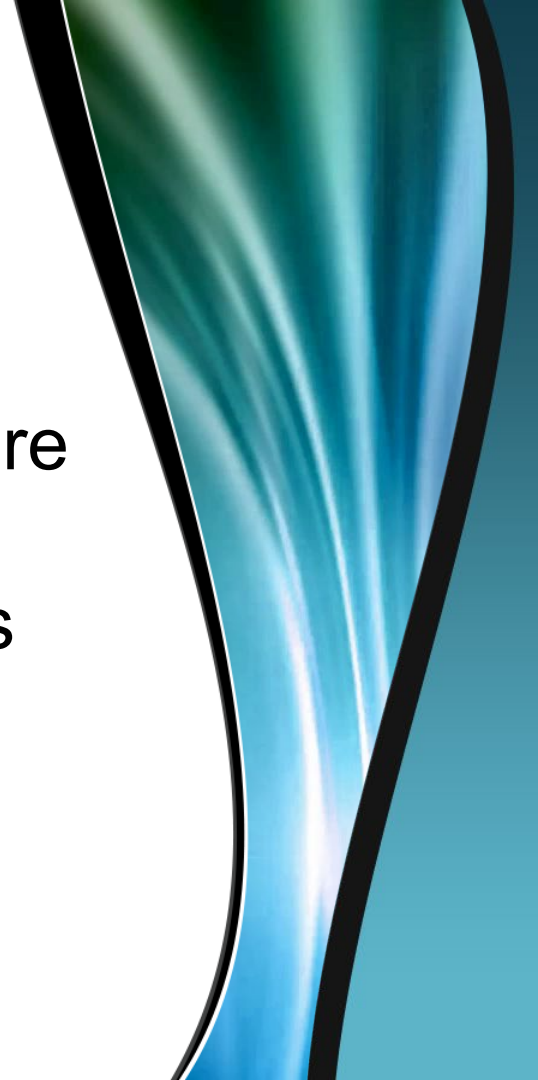


Stamina

Dedication will manifest itself in stamina. Quitters—those who are deficient in dedication—lack stamina. Abraham certainly was not a quitter in his performance as recorded in our text. He kept at his task until it was accomplished. He “*departed*” (12:4), “*went forth*” (12:5), “*passed through*” (12:6), “*removed from thence*” (12:8), and “*journeyed, going on still*” (12:9). “*Going on still*” says it best regarding his great stamina to do the will of God. He was determined to do the job as superbly as he could. He did not enter Canaan, and then stop at the northernmost border just as he crossed the border (he came from the north). No, Abraham passed through all the land. He would see it all.



“Going on still” reminds us of the dedication of Gideon’s band of three hundred men. Scripture says that when they were pursuing the enemy, they were *“faint, yet pursuing”* (Judges 8:4). They, like Abraham, had stamina in the Lord’s work.

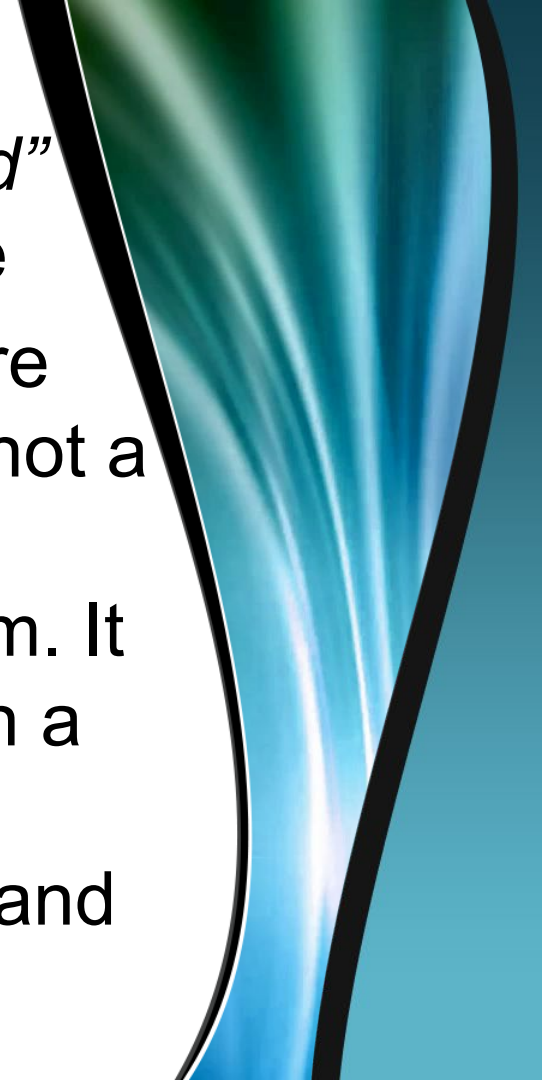


Some believers need help in the stamina area. They lack the stamina/commitment aspect of dedication to do the work of God the right way—*with a spirit of excellence*. They go only as far as necessary but not one inch farther. Their goal is the bare minimum with little enthusiasm for going the extra mile, or above and beyond. “*Going on still*” does not appeal to them. They quickly lose interest in serving the Lord, and then they foolishly wonder why their spiritual lives and service are so unsatisfying.

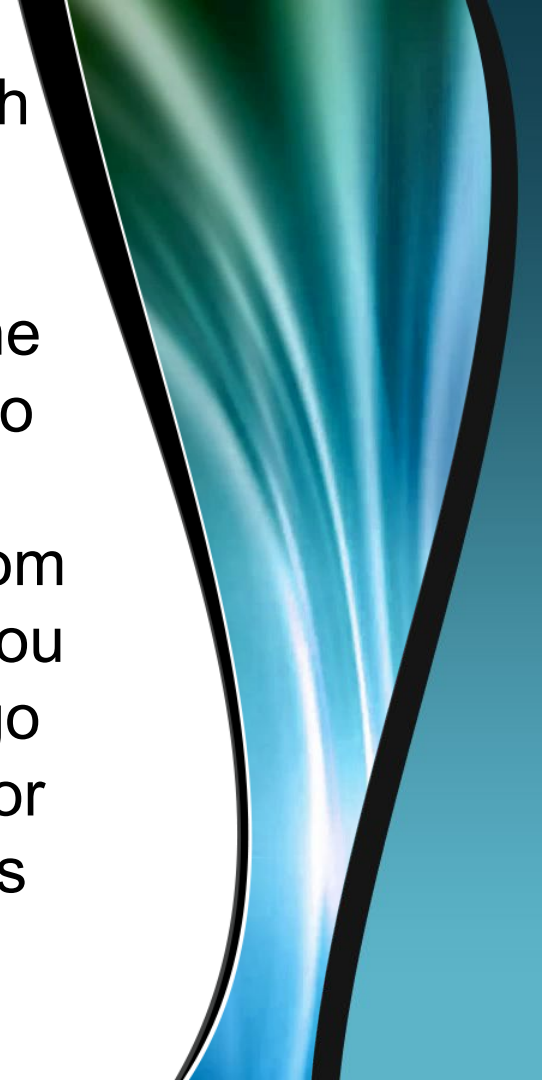


The Difficulties for His Obedience

“And the Canaanite was then in the land” (12:6). The Canaanites were the people who inhabited the land of Canaan where Abraham was sent by God. They were not a godly group. They represented hostility, danger, and other problems for Abraham. It would not be easy for Abraham to live in a land where these people lived. It would require much courage, patience, labor, and wisdom to live victoriously in Canaan.



God never promised an easy road for the path of obedience. The lazy, timid, careless, the cowards, and the unenthusiastic will not last long on this path. The world likes to picture the Christian as sort of a timid weakling who is too afraid, too weak, and too dumb/mute to do anything else. But nothing could be farther from the truth! Obedience to God is not easy; for you must stand up to scorners, have courage to go into dangerous places when He orders it, labor incessantly (there are no union hours in God's work), and fight with all your strength against the foes of your soul.



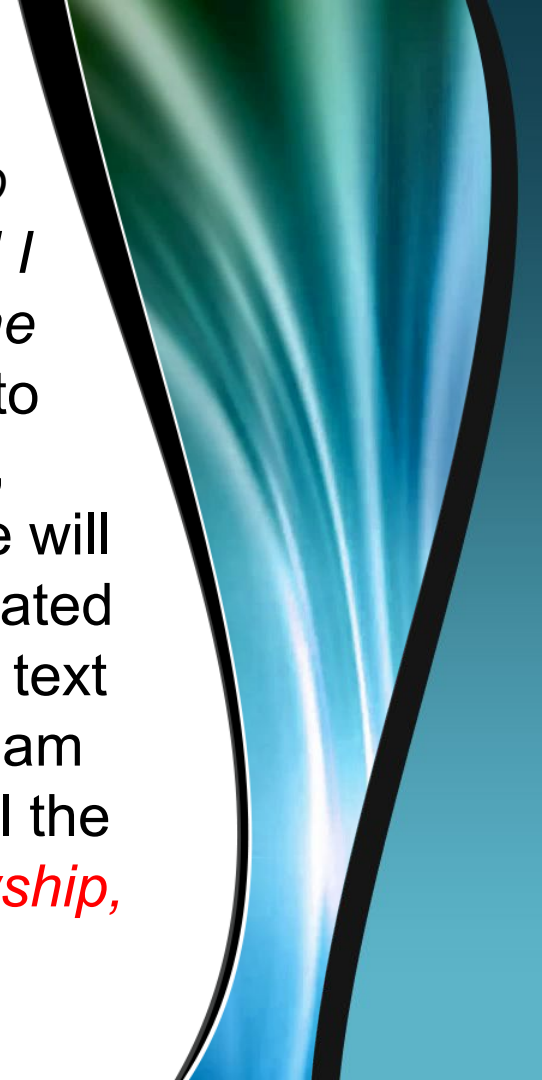
Abraham was not on a vacation stroll coming from Ur to Haran to Canaan. Moving his flocks and family that distance was a great task. And then when he got to Canaan, the work was not over. Difficulties on every hand confronted him. They will confront us as well.

It is unwise for anyone to mock the Christian life as a cop-out for those who do not want to face difficulties in life. It is just the opposite. *It is a whole lot easier to live a godless life than to live a godly life.* For example, have you ever noticed the tension of living godly in the midst of the wicked, or the incorrigible?



The Dividends of His Obedience

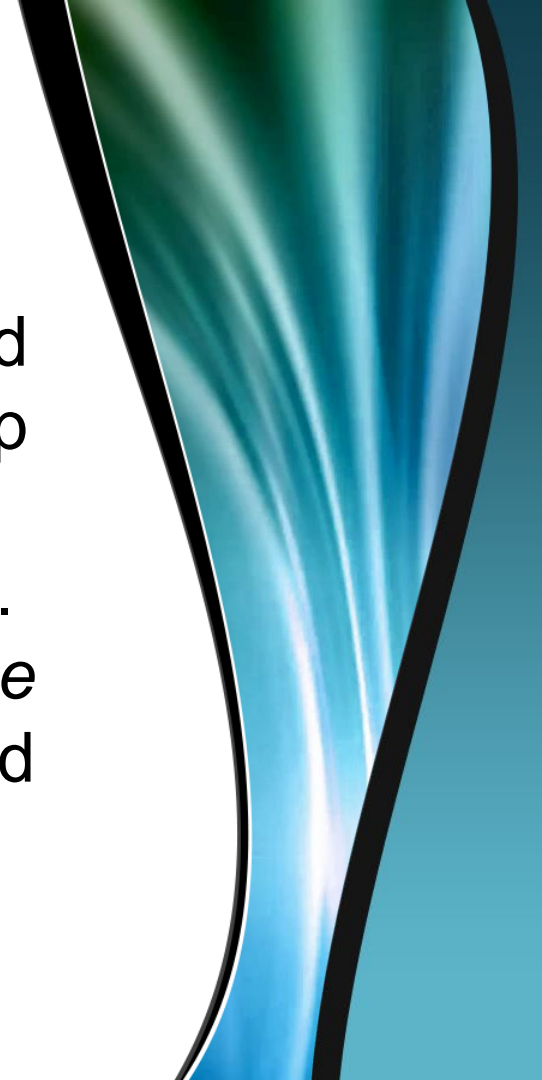
After Abraham had gotten to Canaan, “...*the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him*” (12:7). Obedience to the Lord pays great dividends. As we noted earlier, obedience required much sacrifice. But no sacrifice will be made that is not eventually more than compensated for by the dividends God gives for obedience. The text here mentions some choice blessings which Abraham received after he obeyed the summons by going all the way to Canaan. Four of these blessings are: *fellowship, revelation, assurance, and inheritance.*



Fellowship

“The LORD appeared unto Abram.”

Abraham had to give up friends and relatives to serve the Lord, but he still had the Lord with him. He could still fellowship with God. Never discount the blessing of having the presence of the Lord with you. It is a choice blessing, for *“in thy presence is fulness of joy”* (Psalm 16:11). The world is constantly seeking happiness and having little or no success in finding true joy.



Because they leave out God. Abraham did not leave out God in his life. His life was concerned about doing God's will. Therefore, he enjoyed the great blessing of continued fellowship with God. In fact, Scripture records some special and lengthy times of fellowship between God and Abraham, and the fellowship was so good that Abraham had the distinction of being called God's friend (2 Chronicles 20:7, Isaiah 41:8, and James 2:23). This is a great blessing that comes only by obedience to God.



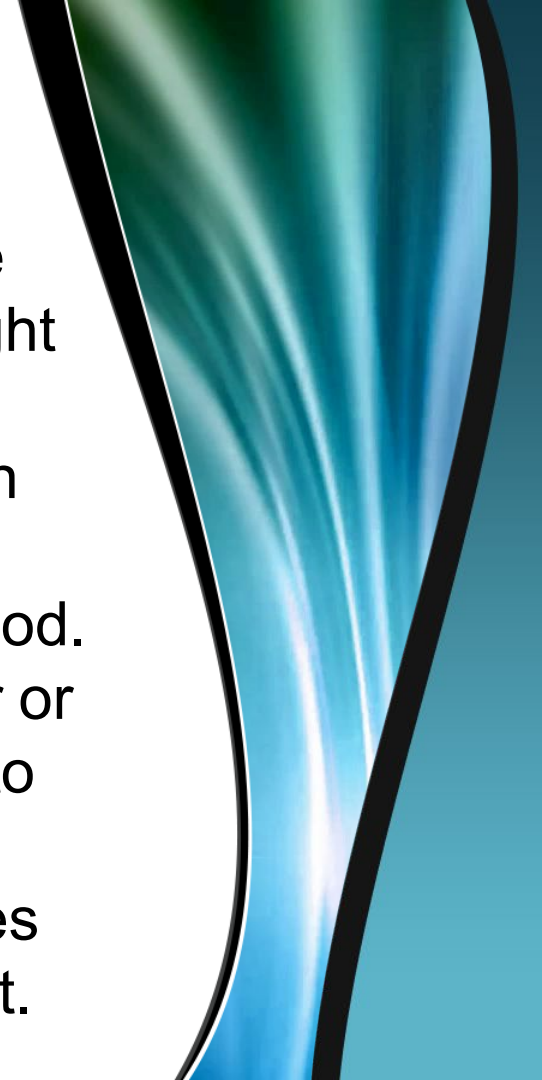
Revelation

When Abraham reached Canaan, he received further revelation from God. The Lord said, *“Unto thy seed will I give this land.”* Obedience has much to do with our spiritual learning. When we obey, God opens our eyes to understand His Word, to learning more from Him and about Him. When we disobey, He closes our eyes; and we walk blindly in spiritual darkness and ignorance.



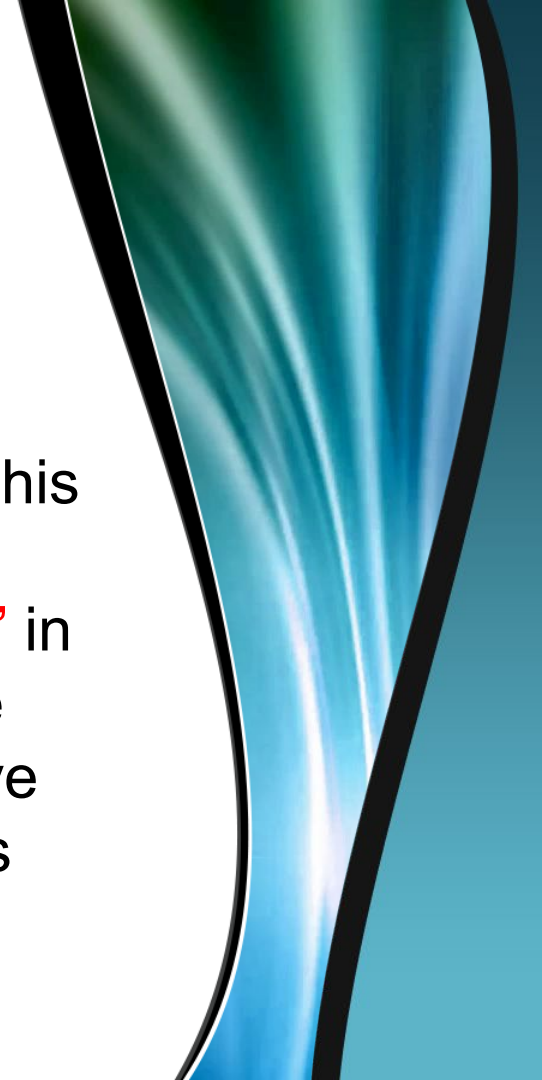
Assurance

“Unto thy seed will I give this land,” was a promise which told Abraham very plainly that he had done the will of God. He had gone to the right land. He was where God wanted him to be. Obedience is accompanied by assurance. When Abraham arrived in Canaan, God gave him assurance that he had indeed done the will of God. The will of God will always be vindicated sooner or later. God does not leave you in uncertainty as to whether or not you have done as He has instructed. By various ways and means, He gives you assurance. Obedience will discover that fact.

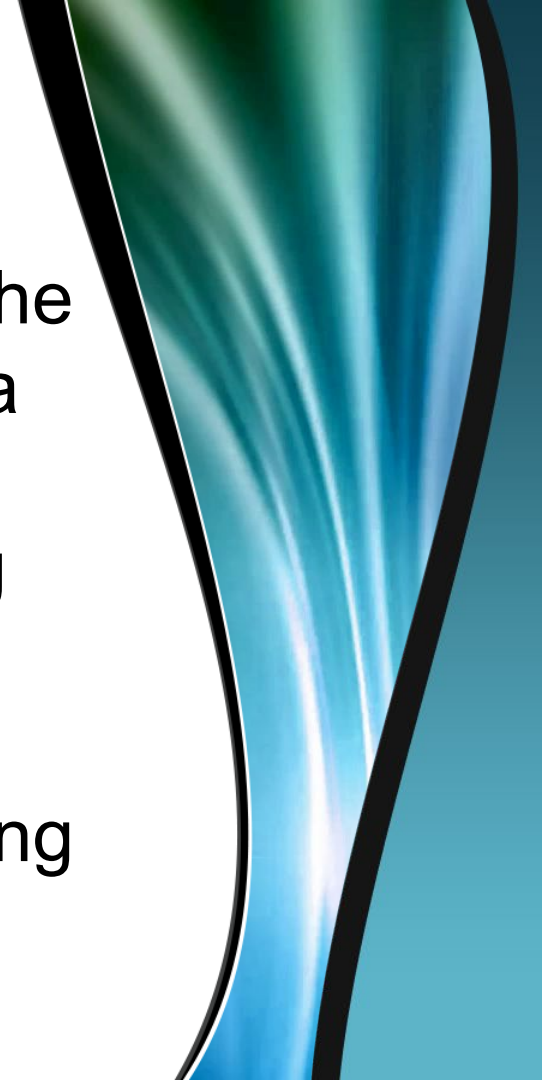


Inheritance

“Unto thy seed will I give this land.” Obedience also brought Abraham a great inheritance. It brought him the land of Canaan. This is the first time Abraham is told by God that the land of Canaan is his inheritance, that it will be given to his seed (which also included him (13:15, 17 and 15:7)). It is interesting to note that the word **“give”** in verse 7, appears over one thousand times in the Bible. A good number of these appearances have to do with God giving the land of Palestine to His chosen people. Our text is the first place in Scripture where this promise is made.



This promise *“Unto thy seed will I give this land”* will be made in nearly 150 passages in the Old Testament—from the time of the patriarchs to the time when a remnant returned from exile (Nehemiah 9:35, 36). It even shows up in the giving of the ten commandments (Exodus 20:12). This gift of land needs to be understood well, for there is much fighting in the Middle East about the land to this day.



The Devotion in His Obedience

When Abraham reached the land where God had sent him, “*there builded he an altar unto the LORD*” (12:7). How well this reveals his great devotion to the Lord. Why does this altar show great devotion on Abraham’s part to the Lord? Because he built it in heathen Canaan. He was not afraid to own his faith and to worship God before the heathen. He publicly and unashamedly professed his faith in God before those not sympathetic to his faith. It takes great devotion to God to do that.



There are those in our midst who are bashful or secretive about their faith. They mix with the world and live like the world, and no one would ever suspect they are a Christian. When they go out with the world to eat, they make no effort to thank the Lord before they eat—too embarrassed to offer the prayer of thanksgiving to God. But Abraham was not that way.

Let the heathen mock, laugh, turn up their noses at this newcomer in their land—but Abraham will still worship God anyway. May we do likewise.

