

ABRAHAM--LOOKING FOR A CITY

Text: Hebrews 11:8-16

INTRO: Our study will center around one of the greatest personalities who ever lived--Abraham. Founding father of the Hebrew nation & father of the faithful in all ages. Perhaps more than any other fact in the history of Abraham, his greatness may be attributed to the fact that he was looking for the city of God.

I. HIS JOURNEYS, vs. 8-9.

- A. Ur to Haran, Gen 12:1-5
- B. Haran to Canaan, Gen 12:6-9
- C. Canaan to Egypt, Gen 12:10-20
- D. Egypt back to Canaan, Gen. 13

II. HIS SUCCESS ASSURED, vs. 13-16.

- A. The place where the righteous await the final judgment came to be called the bosom of Abraham, LK 16:22.

- B. When eternity is ushered in upon us by the final judgment:
Many will come from east & west & sit down with Abraham, Isaac & Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.
(Matt. 8:11)

III. THE REASONS FOR HIS SUCCESS.

- A. He believed & embraced God's promises, vs. 8-9, 13.
READ ROMANS 4:20-22

- B. He was obedient to God's instructions, vs. 8-9.
READ JAMES 2:21-24

- C. He exercised patience, vs. 10-16. Unwavering faith makes patience possible.

- D. He looked beyond earthly possessions & relationships.
 - 1. Heaven is not stumbled into accidentally. Those who find it will find it because they sought it.

 - 2. It must be sought in the spiritual realm.
READ MARK 10:29-30.

Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your kindred & from your father's house, to a land that I will show you." (Gen 12:1).

3. It is not necessary for everyone to leave his home town, relatives, etc., to serve God. But any person not willing to do so if necessary is not fit for the kingdom of God, MT 10:37.

CONCLUSION: The NT gives us a far clearer picture of heaven than Abraham ever saw, Rev 21:1-4. If we will believe & obey the gospel & live faithfully throughout the remainder of our life on earth, we too can sit down with Abraham, Isaac & Jacob in the kingdom of heaven--forever!

La Porte, TX, October 9, 1983

Exton, PA, June 16, 1985

Exton, PA, January 13, 1991

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 10, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 12, 1997