

ABRAHAM, THE SPIRITUAL PILGRIM

Part 1

INTRODUCTION:

[Genesis 11:31, 32](#) Abraham is one of the most central figures in the Old Testament. He left an affluent and ungodly culture to begin a God-directed pilgrimage that would be characteristic of the Christian life. His native land was Ur of the Chaldees. Gross idolatry was being practiced there. Perhaps Abraham had observed people offering their children in the fire to Molech. His father, Terah, made an attempt to remove he and his family from this influence, but for some reason settled in nearby Haran where he died. It is possible that Abraham received the call that was originally given to his father.

[Genesis 12:2, 3](#)

* Abraham believed in the veracity of God's initial call to him. This opened the door for a growing covenant relationship with God.

APPLICATION: It is so important that we respond to God's written and spoken commands. God is utterly sincere about His promises. To disbelieve one portion is to nullify the whole. God stakes His character on His Word. We must believe in the goodness and faithfulness of God and not in our abilities or worthiness.

[Genesis 12:4, 5](#)

* Abraham acted in obedience by beginning a pilgrimage that would separate him unto God and His purposes. He actually began a new people to be known as the Hebrews. 'A 'Hebrew' is identified as one who has crossed over.

APPLICATION: The call of God will bring, if not physical, a spiritual separation from our former sinful influences. This is known as sanctification.

[Luke 14:26](#). The Lord identifies us as 'new creatures.' [II Cor. 5:17](#)

[Hebrews 11:8-10](#)

Abraham left the destination to God. His duty was to follow the leading of the Lord. His faith went far beyond an earthly homeland. He 'saw' heaven as final resting place.

APPLICATION: Can we trust God for guidance and identify ourselves as pilgrims and strangers upon the earth. Do we have a heavenward vision or are we materially motivated?

[Genesis 12:7, 8](#)

Because of his faith and obedience, notable spiritual experiences took place in his life. He built altar as memorials of these times. He also built altars of worship as he pursued the will of his God.

APPLICATION: We must be careful that our experiences arise out of a heart of obedient faith to God's word. Experiences, in themselves, will not keep you in the difficult times. In the spiritual pilgrimage there are joyful times and there are dry times. We must learn to worship God in every station of the journey.

BIBLE STUDIES

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