

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen (Heb 11:3).

In other words, the visible originated from the invisible. The physical has a spiritual parallel. And this is true also for God's promises. A physical promise is based on a spiritual promise.

Faith is the discernment of the spiritual parallel even before the physical reality manifest. Faith helps us to keep our focus on the spiritual foundation and thus being confident that if the foundation is secure, so is the building.

When God made a promise to Abraham, Abraham was able to discern the spiritual and physical realities, and his mind was set on the spiritual. He understood that God is able to bring the dead back to life and create new things out of nothing (Romans 4:17).

Abraham got the revelation that the promise about a son was way greater than the physical son. The Bible talks about the "son - Isaac" and about the "seed - Jesus". The son, Isaac, was symbolic, and his reach would only go as far as the Jewish nation/descendants. But there was a bigger promise about many nations which would only come through the seed, Jesus, who would break the dividing wall, the curtain thus opening the way for us, Jews and gentiles/nations, to approach the throne of grace with confidence through faith.

Galatians 3:

¹⁶ The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed,"^[a] meaning one person, who is Christ.

Abraham's faith was forward looking:

By the grace of God, through faith, Abraham was able to understand that his life of faith would not be complete apart from ours (Heb 11:40). He understood that the promise was about redemption and a great dispensation of grace through his seed.

John 8:

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad.”

⁵⁷ The people said, “You aren’t even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?^[a]”

By faith, Abraham tithed and had communion with Melchizedek acknowledging the establishment of a permanent priesthood of priests and kings in the order of Melchizedek. He tithed to Judah way before the establishment of the Levitical priesthood.

Abraham, and other heroes of faith that came after him had their sight on things to come. In this future, nations would be saved by grace through faith, a faith based on the right relationship with God as sons through Jesus – not by a mechanical obedience to a written code that would come 400 years after the promise as a band aid.

1 Peter 1:

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Abraham’s faith was prophetic:

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ By faith, Abraham, at the time of testing, offered Isaac back to God. Acting in faith, he was as ready to return the promised son, his only son, as he had been to receive him—and this after he had already been told, “Your descendants shall come from Isaac.” Abraham figured that **if** God wanted to, he could raise the dead. In a sense, that’s what happened when he received Isaac back, alive from off the altar.

The symbolism of Isaac being a shadow of Jesus is very clear here.

WHAT HAS GOD PROMISED YOU? CAN YOU SEE THE SPIRITUAL REALITY OF THE PROMISE?