

SESSION 8: CALL OF ABRAHAM

A. Significance of Abraham

Note the change in style of Genesis:

- Gen. I-II covers the history of the world for over 2000 years.
- Gen. 12-22 covers the life of one person for about 40 years.

With Abraham the plan of redemption is put into action.

Abraham is a key character in both the Old and New Testament.

- Old Testament- Abraham receives the covenant which is the foundation of Israel's experience.
- New Testament - Abraham is the first example of a man of faith and as such becomes a foundational character in our experience.
 - Gen. 15:6 Then he (Abraham) believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.
 - New Testament picks up this statement at four critical places to explain the nature of faith

B. Key features of Abraham as a man of faith.

1. *The Call of Abraham.* - Entrance into the life of faith.
2. *The Life of Abraham*-Growth in the life of faith
3. *The End of Abraham's Experience* - Reward of the life of faith.

C. Definition of faith

A person of faith is one who has found in God their

- 1) Satisfaction
- 2) Security
- 3) Sufficiency

D. Call of Abraham- Entrance into the life of faith.

Key elements

- 1) Leave family
- 2) Leave country
- 3) Go where I tell you
- 4) I will make you a nation to bless others.

Importance of leaving

- 1) Faith is a way of life
- 2) Abraham already has a way of life which must be replaced
 - a) That way of life came from
 - his family
 - his culture
- 3) Once God speaks life will never be the same for Abraham.
 - a) God speaks with the voice of command.
 - b) Abraham either obeys or rejects the word.
 - To obey is to put your life in God's hands. God takes that very seriously.

Steps of obedience.

- 1) Move to Haran with father- Delay
- 2) Move to Canaan - God speaks