

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Learning from Those Who Walked Before Us

HOW ABRAHAM VIEWED THE WORLD

Hebrews 11:8-19

INTRODUCTION: Great to see you! Students have been engaged this weekend in understanding a biblical worldview, removing the filters that culture offers that distort our view of reality and the world.

9:00 – Thank you for your prayerful support, regular giving, and scholarships that make things like this Discipleship Week happen.

10:30 – Same above to adults. Thank you to students for investing the time and effort into The Weeken and in working to learn what a biblical worldview is like.

In the providence of God, we are finishing today our look at Abraham. And although Abraham, like every man and woman ever born and like each one of us, was a sinner, he provides for us a good example of a person with an accurate worldview. He saw God, himself, others, and life as they really are.

ABRAHAM VIEWED GOD AS HE IS, THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

- When God called, Abraham said, “Yes!”
- When God said, “Go,” Abraham went!

The texts we look at today are from some of the NT passages about Abraham.

Hebrews 11:8 NKJV By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

- Abraham said “yes” and Abraham quickly went because Abraham knew who was giving him the command.
 - Abraham is the only person in Scripture who is called the friend of God.
 - But Abraham did not think of God as one of his buddies.
 - Abraham revered God. Abraham worshiped God.
 - Abraham knew God had made the world and all that was in it and above it.

- Abraham knew God was sovereign, in full control of everything and everyone in the universe He created.
- Abraham obeyed because he trusted the Lord.
 - He was confident of God's love for him.
 - He was confident God would care for him and for his family.
 - He was confident that God's plan for his life was the very best possible.
- As we think of Abraham, we should be making an evaluation and application to our own lives.
 - Do we obey the Lord as if we know He is the Sovereign Creator and Lord of the universe?
 - Or have we become a part of the popular permissive view of God that says, "Don't worry about your sin and disobedience, God will forgive you."
 - Oh, dear friend, if you have not put your trust in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died for your sin upon the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended to the right hand of God the Father, and will one day return to this world as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to reign forever, be afraid!
 - When unbelievers stand before the Lord Jesus with their sin unforgiven, He is not going to say, "Don't worry about it. It's no big deal. I understand."
 - No! He is going to say, "... Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels..." Matthew 25:41 NKJV
 - Listen to me sir. Listen to me lady. Listen to me young person. Jesus loves you enough He died to pay the penalty for your sin. But you are forgiven only when you see Him as Abraham saw Him, as the one and only Sovereign God, and you repent of your sin and trust in Him.
 - If you do not, you remain in your sin and the penalty is paid in eternal flames.
 - Dear Christian brother or sister, it is not just the lost who live presumptuously in the presence of Holy God!
 - Believers also live believing, "Don't worry about your sin and disobedience, God will forgive you."

- Listen to the Holy Spirit just a half a chapter before the words we are reading about Abraham.

Hebrews 10:26–27 NKJV 26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

- It is to Christians who are sinning repeatedly and stubbornly, presuming upon the mercy and forgiveness of God that the Holy Spirit says,

Hebrews 10:31 NKJV It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Whom the Lord loves He chastens! Every son and daughter of God should fear fierce chastening when they stubbornly persist in sin!

A person with an accurate, biblical, life-sustaining worldview

- **knows that God is the Sovereign Creator.**
- **obeys God by trusting Jesus as his Lord and Savior.**

Secondly,

ABRAHAM VIEWED HIMSELF AS A SINNER, BLESSED BECAUSE OF THE EXTRAVAGANT GRACE OF GOD.

When Abraham was 100 years old and his wife was 90, God kept His promise and gave them a son named Isaac. When Isaac was a young man, the Jewish historian Josephus says he was 25 years of age, God tested Abraham by telling him to offer Isaac as a burnt offering to the Lord on one of the peaks of Mt. Moriah.

- Abraham trusted the Lord, so he moved to obey God's difficult command.
- But even as they approached Moriah, Abraham demonstrated his faith and confidence that Isaac was the son of God's promise, and thus must live to have children.
 - When Abraham and Isaac departed from the servants as they neared Mt. Moriah, Abraham told them that they both would return.
 - When Isaac himself asked his father saying, "We have the wood and fire, but where is the lamb for the offering?"
 - Abraham responded in faith, "God will provide for Himself a lamb."

The Holy Spirit gives us commentary on the very moment Abraham laid Isaac on the altar and reached for the knife with the intent to slay his own son, the son who in himself carried the promise God had given him back in Ur of the Chaldees.

Hebrews 11:17–19 NKJV 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

Genesis 22, where the full story is recorded, says the Angel of the Lord, who is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, appearing as He sometimes did in OT times before His incarnation, said,

Genesis 22:12 NKJV And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”

And then we read,

Genesis 22:13–14 NKJV 13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

The-LORD-Will-Provide is a translation of a name – YHWY YIREH – or anglicized, Jehovah Jireh, which many of us remember from the words of the worship song, “Jehovah Jireh, my Provider, You are more than enough for me.”

Listen, my friend,

- Abraham knew he was a sinner. He knew his journey to Egypt had been from a lack of faith.
- At this point in his life, Abraham had seen the consequences in Lot, Lot’s family, and in Hagar and Ishmael. Abraham was well aware that he did not deserve God’s favor.
- Yet God had given it!
 - God did not lower the requirements so that Abraham could enter.
 - God met the requirements for Him. God provided a lamb.
 - Abraham understood and praised and worship God for this act of extravagant grace.
- Less than a mile from that same place, on another peak of Mt. Moriah,

- Centuries later named Calvary by the Romans but called Golgotha by the Jews,
- God provided another Lamb, the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself as the sacrifice, not just for Abraham's sin, but for mine, and for yours.
 - Like Abraham, we need to see it, understand it, believe it!
 - Each of us must see ourselves for the sinners we are, having no merit of ourselves to cause God to accept us.
 - Each of us must understand that Jesus died on the cross in our place and for our sin.
 - Each of us need to believe that Jesus then rose from the dead and ascended back to the right hand of the Father.
 - And respond to what He has done for us by trusting Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

A person with an accurate, biblical, life-sustaining worldview

- **knows that God is the Sovereign Creator,**
- **that he himself is a sinner,**
- **believes that Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin,**
- **and obeys God by trusting Jesus as his Lord and Savior.**

ABRAHAM VIEWED OTHERS AS HE VIEWED HIMSELF.

When I think about Abraham's relationship with other people I think of him and his nephew Lot. What few glimpses we have of Lot's character does not make us want our nephews or cousins or any of our relatives to be like him.

To put it plainly, it seems like Lot was a pain in Abraham's side. Yet Abraham knew that when it boiled down to the essence of a person, Lot was the same as him.

- Lot was a sinner who needed God's extravagant grace.
- And I have to believe that Abraham talked to Lot about Lot's rebellion against God and his need for God's provision for his sin.
- Because we read in the NT that Lot too was made righteous.

A person with an accurate, biblical, life-sustaining worldview

- **knows that God is the Sovereign Creator,**

- **that he himself is a sinner,**
- **that every person is a sinner in need of God's grace,**
- **believes that Jesus died to pay the penalty for the sin of all the world,**
- **obeys God by trusting Jesus as his Lord and Savior,**
- **and shares with other sinners how they too can be saved by trusting Christ.**

Finally we see,

ABRAHAM LIVED ACCORDING TO THIS BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW.

Again we read from Hebrews about Abraham.

Hebrews 11:9–10 NKJV 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Seeing God as the sovereign Lord of the universe and himself as a sinner saved by faith because of God's extravagant grace, and seeing every other man and woman on the face of the earth in exactly the same predicament but faced with the same glorious prospect if they would only believe, only trust, caused Abraham to live with an eternal perspective.

Great comfort, luxury, or status meant little. He lived in tents.

- Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees where everyone lived in houses.
- Abraham was wealthy, and he could afford to build a house of mud baked bricks.
- Lot lived in a house as did all the people of Sodom and the other cities of the plain.
- But Abraham's eyes were on eternity. He waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
- Abraham's heart became one that said, "Why spend time and money now to live luxuriously when I have a better home and better city awaiting me for all eternity."
 - Right now, I need to be concerned with getting all my family members to that city.
 - I need to do all I can to get those who keep my sheep and work around the place to have a part in the city being built by God."

- And do you know, Abraham is living in that city now! John described it in Rev. 21
 - It's a big city, laid out as a huge square, 1380 miles each side; 216 ft wall
 - It has 3 gates per side, each with name of one Abraham's great-grandsons inscribed on it.
 - The foundations of the wall are made of nothing but precious stones.
 - And every building in the city, and even the streets are made of solid gold.
 - And it shines, it glows, as the glory of God and of His Son shine throughout the city causing every golden surface to reflect their glorious light.
 - And somewhere inside that huge eternal city, is Abraham's mansion, prepared for him by the one who died on the cross in Abraham's place.
 - Now all I've told you comes right out of the Bible about where Abraham is and what the city is like where he now lives.
 - But one thing I wonder that the Bible does not tell us is if there is a nameplate above the door to his house. And if there is will it just say
 - ABRAHAM
 - Or will it say MAN OF FAITH
 - Or MAN OF FAITHFULNESS
 - Or maybe A MAN WHO SAW AS GOD SEES
 - Or maybe THE FRIEND OF GOD.