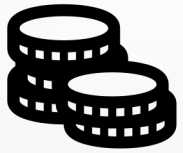


The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. They are located in the top-left, top-center, and bottom-right areas of the slide.

# HEROES OF FAITH - ABRAHAM

HEBREWS 11:8-10, 13-16

# WHO WAS THIS MAN ABRAHAM?



Rich and well settled



Father of Jewish faith and nation



The father of all those that believe

Rom 4:11-16



Native country of Chaldea, in the city of Ur



Mentioned 70 times in the N.T



Descendant of both David and Abraham

Matt 1:1



Abraham ('Father of a multitude') was called Abram (meaning 'Exalted Father')



Worshipper –

Josh 24:2

Man of great faith and one who pleased God

# GOING... WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING.

- **HEBREWS 11:8** BY FAITH ABRAHAM, WHEN HE WAS CALLED, **OBEYED BY GOING** OUT TO A PLACE WHICH HE WAS TO RECEIVE FOR AN INHERITANCE; AND HE WENT OUT, **NOT KNOWING WHERE HE WAS GOING.** GOD.
- His first act of faith mentioned involves obeying
- Abraham had a specific call from God to go and so he went, not even knowing where he was going but simply trusted God to direct.
- No Google maps
- No GPS
- No car
- There were also no reservations for where he was going to stay.
- Just went out not knowing where he was going, while realizing he would never return.

# THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

- **GENESIS 12:1-9** THE LORD HAD SAID TO ABRAM, "LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR FATHER'S HOUSEHOLD AND GO TO THE LAND I WILL SHOW YOU. (2) I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION AND I WILL BLESS YOU; I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE A BLESSING. (3) I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU, AND WHOEVER CURSES YOU I WILL CURSE; AND ALL PEOPLES ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU."
- This is the first of seven recorded times that Abraham received direct instruction and revelation from God.
- This passage records the first description of what is called the 'Abrahamic covenant' and it involves a specific command from God for Abraham to 'go forth'. If Abraham would do this, God would do the following:
  - I will make you a great nation
  - I will bless you
  - I will make your name great
  - I will bless those who bless you and curse those that curse you
  - All the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you
- Verse 4 tells us that Abraham left as God had told him. He left not only his country, not only his people, but also his extended family and stepped forth into the unknown, beginning a journey to the Promised Land. What a step of faith

# ABRAHAM'S MOTIVATION FOR HIS JOURNEY OF FAITH

- **HEBREWS 11:9-10 BY FAITH HE MADE HIS HOME IN THE PROMISED LAND LIKE A STRANGER IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY; HE LIVED IN TENTS, AS DID ISAAC AND JACOB, WHO WERE HEIRS WITH HIM OF THE SAME PROMISE. (10) FOR HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CITY WITH FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE ARCHITECT AND BUILDER IS GOD."**

- So Abraham made his way to the Promised Land
- Dwelling in tents + building altars = Pilgrim + Worshipper of God
- But what was his motivation?
- The father of the Jewish race didn't have his eyes on the Promised Land so much as the land still to come.
- He wasn't looking so much for the city of Jerusalem as he was the Heavenly city.
- His motivation and gaze was on the heavenly city whose architect and builder is God.
- In the natural he was on a journey to a land he had never seen but this was but a picture of the greater journey to the heavenly land that Abraham wanted to see.
- **How is our desire for heaven?**
- **Are we able to see past the things of this world and see this greater hope?**

# SO WHAT DID ABRAHAM KNOW ABOUT THE HEAVENLY CITY TO COME?

- **HEBREWS 11:9-10** BY FAITH HE MADE HIS HOME IN THE PROMISED LAND LIKE A STRANGER IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY; HE LIVED IN TENTS, AS DID ISAAC AND JACOB, WHO WERE HEIRS WITH HIM OF THE SAME PROMISE. (10) **FOR HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CITY WITH FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE ARCHITECT AND BUILDER IS GOD."**
- What did he know? What had he seen? We do not know.
- H.A Ironside says *'The tenth verse (of Heb 11) suggests that God had made wonderful revelations to Abraham, which are not recorded in the Old Testament; for we read, "He looked for a city which hath foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God." This city is never described for us until we come to the closing chapters of the book of Revelation. It is the home of all the saints of God and toward that Abraham looked and, because of its glory, counted things then present as of small moment (or importance).'*
- Clearly, Abraham saw more than is revealed in the Old Testament.
- Jesus told the Jews of His day: *"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."* (**John 8:56**)
  - Abraham was given revelation concerning Jesus; either
    - the day of his suffering or
    - the day of His exaltation and kingdom.
  - We don't know exactly what this was just from the Old Testament... But Abraham was glad by what He saw!

# KEEPING THE RIGHT FOCUS

- **HEBREWS 11:13-16** ALL THESE DIED IN FAITH, WITHOUT RECEIVING THE PROMISES, BUT HAVING SEEN THEM AND HAVING WELCOMED THEM FROM A DISTANCE, AND HAVING CONFESSED THAT THEY WERE STRANGERS AND EXILES ON THE EARTH. (14) FOR THOSE WHO SAY SUCH THINGS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE SEEKING A COUNTRY OF THEIR OWN. (15) AND INDEED IF THEY HAD BEEN THINKING OF THAT COUNTRY FROM WHICH THEY WENT OUT, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN. (16) BUT AS IT IS, THEY DESIRE A BETTER COUNTRY, THAT IS, A HEAVENLY ONE. THEREFORE GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD; FOR HE HAS PREPARED A CITY FOR THEM.

- Heavenly city God is both architect and builder.
- It is Jesus who has gone to prepare this place for us.
- When you are building a new home you need both a good design and a good builder to implement the design.
- Think for a moment of what has been recorded:
  - David – Psalm 17:15 and Psalm 16:11
  - Paul – 1 Corinthians 13:12
  - Jesus – Luke 10:20
  - John – Revelation 21:3-5



# CONCLUSION

## 1. The importance of obedience in his journey

- God appeared to Abraham and said 'Go' ([Gen 12:1](#)).

## 2. God doesn't reveal the whole journey but gives strength for today

- Abraham went out not knowing where he was going.
- God is with you one day at a time, gives strength for that day and simply wants you to walk each day, by faith.

## 3. Abraham held things lightly in his journey through this world

- Major Ian Thomas used to say. When it came time to split with Lot his nephew, they looked out over the land and Abraham could say 'You choose. You have first pick. If you got left, I'll go right, and if you go right, I'll go left.'

## 4. The journey is harder when we take our eyes off the glorious finish line. ([Florence Chadwick](#))

## 5. The journey has a wonderful destination and ultimately only Heaven will satisfy

- C. S. Lewis in Mere Christianity said: 'If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.'

Speaking of Heaven, the Bible says.....Adapted from a list by Henry Durbanville

- Our Father is there - [Matthew 6:9](#)
- Our Saviour is there – [Heb 1:3](#)
- Our fellow saints are there – [Heb 12:23](#)
- Our home is there – [John 14:2](#)
- Our name is there – [Luke 10:20](#)
- Our life is there – [Col 3:1-3](#)
- Our heart is there – [Matt 6:19-21](#)
- Our inheritance is there – [1 Pet 1:3-5](#)
- Our citizenship is there – [Phil 3:20](#)
- Our joy is there – [Psalm 16:11](#)