

vs.11- Sarah's faith in the birth of Isaac may seem out of place at first

(In Gen.18:10-15, she initially "laughed" within herself at the thought of conceiving)

- the word "laugh" means she didn't take it seriously or thought of it as a joke

- the faith she did have was shown in her continual cooperation in carrying out God's plan

(This took considerable faith considering she had been barren her whole life)

- "past age"- she was 90 years old when Isaac was born

- "she judged Him faithful"- her faith did get tested but the faith of her husband and her faithfulness to him convinced her- Rom.4:19-21

(At first, she only saw human impossibility- then she began to understand Heaven's ability)

vs.12- "good as dead"- this means that he was well past years for having children as life span and fertility rates decreased after the flood

*the writer uses hyperboles to emphasize a whole nation that would come from Abraham

Truth- the entire nation of Israel is founded on a promised birth (Isaac)

(vs.13-14)- "These"- meaning the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)

*they didn't experience the fulfillment of the promise in their lifetimes but did see them at a distance (John 8:56)

*just like us today- we have the promise of a rapture

(Even if it doesn't happen in our lifetime, its going to happen)

*their faith caused them to see God's plan, fully convinced (persuaded) that God would fulfill, and caused them to greet it with gladness (embraced)

- "strangers and pilgrims"- strangers are away from home and pilgrims are on their way home

14- "say such things"- this comes off the term "confess" in the previous verse

("confess"- (homologeo) to say the same thing as another, to agree, or to declare openly)

*they knew they were a part of God's divine plan

vs.15- "mindful"- (mnemoneuo) to hold to memory

*Abraham could have turned back but Ur and Haran weren't even in his thoughts anymore

*his faith was defying logic but God was with him the whole time

vs.16- Abraham was called out of a city that worshiped Sin, he dwelled in Canaan, but was going to a better country

- Canaan was the place that God sustained him as a sojourner and provided for all his needs (It was simply God's Will for Abraham on this earth)

Truth- we too are called out of "sin", sojourn in this world under God's direction and supplication, and are looking for a better country that's been built by God

(its better because its Heavenly and prepared by God for those who live "by faith")

vs.17- here we find the difficulty between God's promise and God's command

- "tried"- (peirazo) to test or to make trial

- "offered up Isaac"- this is Gen.22:1-14

Truth- Isaac is a foreshadow of Christ in that he was the 1-promised son 2- God would make a people through his incarnation 3- he carried wood up a hill to be sacrificed (Gen.22:6)

- "offered up"- Abraham was willing to do whatever God told him to do

(vs.18-19) - How was Isaac supposed to father a nation when he was made to be sacrificed?

- this gives us insight to Abraham's mind that is not given to us in Genesis

(Here it tells us that Abraham believed God would bring Isaac back to life)

- he trusted that God would provide a substitute and He did

- he trusted in a resurrection and He did

- he trusted God to make good on His promise and He did

- he trusted God to make a city with foundations and He did

- "in a figure"- Abraham received Isaac back from the dead in a sense, even though he was not slain