

**I. Introduction and review: This world is not my home!**

**II. By faith Abraham obeyed God's call. v. 8**

**A. God called Abraham. Ro. 8:30 9:11**

1. Why did God call Abraham? Gen. 12:1 Josh. 24:2-3 Rom. 9:11,15
2. God's sovereign call is irresistible. Ro. 8:30 John 6:37,44

**B. Abraham obeyed God.**

1. He obeyed immediately. Gen. 12:4
2. He obeyed even though he was leaving behind everything he knew and cherished.
3. He obeyed, though he didn't know where he was going. Gen. 12:1

**C. Abraham obeyed because he believed God's promise. 11:1,6 Gen. 12:2-3 15:7 22:17**

**D. Christ was called by the Father and obeyed perfectly. 5:5,8-9 1:5,2,14 6:12,17 9:15  
Rom. 8:17 Gal. 3:29**

**E. We, like Abraham, are called to obey.**

1. God has sovereignly called us. II Tim. 1:9 John 10:3
2. God continues to speak to us in His Word.
3. Your faith is proved by obedience. John 14:15
4. God calls you to make a decisive break with the world. Js. 4:4 I Jo. 2:15  
II Co. 6:14 Ro. 12:2 Mark 8:34-37
5. When you choose to follow Christ, you cannot be sure where God will lead you.
6. Sometimes God's ways may seem strange or hard to us. Pr. 3:5-6
7. *Nothing but faith in God's promises can induce a person to abandon the world and commence a pilgrimage towards heaven (Brown).*

**III. By faith Abraham lived as an alien. v. 9-10**

**A. Abraham lived as a sojourner in the land of promise. v. 9 Gen. 17:8 23:4 37:1**

1. He stood out as an alien. Ex. 22:21
2. Abraham (and Sarah) lived in tents.
3. The only land he possessed when he died was a burial plot. Gen. 23:9ff Acts 7:5
4. His descendants also lived as strangers and aliens for hundreds of years.  
v. 13-16,20-22,39 Gen. 15:13-16

**B. He believed in God's promise of a better city. v. 10 6:12-15 12:22 13:14 Ps. 48:1-2  
Rev. 3:12 21:2,19ff Isa. 33:20 Ezek. 48:35**

1. The city Abraham sought was not merely the land of Canaan. 4:8 Ps. 39:12
2. He sought the heavenly city which alone is permanent. Ps. 87:1f Rom. 4:13  
Dan. 2:34-35,44
3. God is the architect and builder of Zion. 8:2,5

**C. Jesus was a sojourner among His people in His world. Jo. 1:10-11 Mt. 8:20**

**D. Are you living as a pilgrim in this world?**

1. We are strangers and aliens in the world. I Pet. 1:1 2:11
2. Which city are you seeking?
3. Are you patiently waiting for the city of God? 10:36 6:12 Js. 5:7-8 I Cor. 2:9

#### **IV. Abraham died in faith, seeking his heavenly homeland. v. 13-16**

- A. The patriarchs died without receiving what God had promised. v. 13**
  - 1. They willingly confessed themselves to be strangers and exiles on earth. 10:23 3:1 4:14 Gen. 23:4 47:9 Ps. 39:12
  - 2. The patriarchs understood more than that for which many give them credit.
    - a. Not merely focused on land of Canaan.
  - 3. By faith they anticipated the reality of God's promise. John 8:56
  
- B. They sought the heavenly country. v. 14-16a**
  - 1. If they wanted an earthly homeland, they could have returned to Chaldea. v. 15
  - 2. Instead they desired the *better* heavenly fatherland. v. 14,16a 12:22
  
- C. Their faith was rewarded by God. v. 16b**
  - 1. God is not ashamed to be called their God. Ge. 28:13 31:5 39:9 Ex. 3:6 Mt. 22:31
  - 2. He has prepared a city for them. 12:22 13:14 John 14:2-3 Rev. 21:2
  
- D. Do you desire the heavenly city?**
  - 1. Don't go back to the world. 6:12f 10:36 I Jo. 2:15 Js. 4
  - 2. What do you desire? 13:14 I Tim. 6:10 Mt. 6:33
  - 3. Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brethren. 2:11 Mt. 10:32
  - 4. Jesus has prepared a place (city) for us. 12:22 13:14 Jo. 14:2-3 Phil. 3:20 Is. 65:17 Ezek. 48:35 Ps. 27:4

#### **V. Concluding applications.**

##### **Discussion questions**

1. Why did God call Abraham?
2. How did Abraham respond to God's call?
3. Why did Abraham choose to leave his homeland?
4. In what way is your calling like that of Abraham?
5. How was Abraham's life different in Canaan?
6. What was he seeking there?
7. What does it mean for you to live as a pilgrim here?
8. How does God reward those who seek Him?
9. What do you desire most in this life?
10. In what ways does this passage point to Christ?