

Hebrews Series

Lesson #179

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Heb. 11:8, "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."

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Main clause:

Abraham obeyed

when he was called

to go out...

Gen. 12:1, "Now the LORD had said to
Abram:

'Get out of your country,
from your family
and from your father's house,
to a land that I will show you.' "

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

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Genesis 12:1–13

“land”

“seed”

“blessing”

ISRAEL LAND COVENANT

Deuteronomy 30

“land”

DAVIDIC COVENANT

2 Samuel 7

“seed”

NEW COVENANT

Jeremiah 31

“blessing”

Heb. 11:9, "By faith he dwelt in the land of
promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in
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him of the same promise;"

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Promise: 13x in Hebrews; 5x in Hebrews 11

Heb. 11:10, "for he waited for the city
which has foundations, whose builder and
maker is God."

The Provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant

- 1. To develop a great nation from Abraham. 12:2, 13:16; 15:5; 17:1, 2, 7; 22:17**
- 2. Land, an actual piece of real estate in the Middle East. 12:7; 13:14, 15, 17; 15:7–21; 17:8**
- 3. Abraham himself was to be blessed. Went into effect immediately. 12:2; 15:6; 22:15–17**
- 4. Abraham's name will be made great. 12:2**
- 5. Those who bless Abraham and his descendants will be blessed. 12:3**

The Provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant

- 6. Those who curse will be cursed. 12:3**
- 7. In him all will be blessed. 12:3; 22:18**
- 8. Sarah will have a son. 15:1–4; 17:15–21**
- 9. The Egyptian bondage is promised. 15:13–15**
- 10. Other nations will come from Abraham. 17:3–6, fulfilled in the Arab states.**

The Provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant

- 11. Change of name from Abram to Abraham. 17:5 – “exalted father” to “father of a multitude.”**
- 12. Sarai is changed to Sarah. 17:15 – “princess” to “the princess.”**
- 13. The sign of the covenant is circumcision. 17:9–14**

Abraham's 13 Tests for Spiritual Advance Qualifying Him for Inheritance

1. The test to go to a new land and to leave the family behind.

Gen. 12:1–9

Partial obedience (he took Lot with him)

2. The test to trust God by staying in the land during the famine.

Gen. 12:10–20

Failure:

He went to Egypt for food without divine authorization

3. The test to treat Lot with grace and generosity.

Gen. 13:1–17

Passed:

Family tension: handled with grace.

4. The test to protect and defend his neighbors.

Gen. 14:1–17

Passed:

Defeated the Chedarlaomer alliance, rescued Lot, returned the plunder stolen.

5. The test to express his gratitude to God.

Gen. 14:18–24

Passed:

Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek. A tithe means one-tenth.

6. The test to not be worried about the seed but to trust God.

Gen. 15:1–21

“Do not fear, I am a shield to you”

“Your reward shall be very great”

Passed:

**Restatement of the Abrahamic
Covenant**

7. The test to use Hagar to have a descendant.

Gen. 16:1–16

Failed:

He listened to Sarah.

But later ...

Heb. 11:11, “By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.”

Gen. 17:16, “ ‘And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her.’ ”

Gen. 17:17, “Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, ‘Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?’ ”

Gen. 17:19, “Then God said: ‘No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.’ ”

Gen. 21:1, “And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken.

Gen. 21:2, “For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

Gen. 21:3, “And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac.”

8. The test to be circumcised.

Gen. 17:1–25

Passed

9. The test of hospitality to his visitors.

Gen. 18:1–15

Passed:

Grace orientation to his visitors.

**10. The test of intercession to one
who had abused his generosity.
Gen. 18:16–33**

Passed:

Grace orientation toward Lot.

Impersonal love toward Lot.

**11. The test to protect the seed
during the visit to Gerar.**

Gen. 20:1–18

Failed:

**Tried to pass Sarah off as his
sister, *again*.**

**12. The test to protect the heir from
the jealousy of Ishmael.**

Gen. 21:1–21

Passed:

Sent Hagar and Ishmael away.

13. The test to sacrifice the promised seed.

Gen. 22

Passed:

Was willing to kill Isaac, but God stayed his hand.

Heb. 11:11, “By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

Heb. 11:12, “Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.”

Heb. 11:13, "These all died in faith,
not having received the promises, but
having seen them afar off were assured
of them, embraced them and confessed
that they were strangers and pilgrims
on the earth."

Heb. 11:14, "For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland."

Heb. 11:15, "And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return."

Heb. 11:16, "But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."