

## Abraham

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Abraham was a great man of God. What made him, or any other great men of God, great in the eyes of God? He was a man of flesh, like all other men. He could be described like Elijah was when **James 5:17** says, "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are." This meant that Elijah was human like everyone else. The same was true for Abraham, yet he was a great man of God.

He is considered great, not for who his parents were, or his size, wealth, or any other thing that man would count as being great. What made him great was something that any person can have - he believed and trusted God. Sounds too simple doesn't it? We like to think that it takes something special, something that we don't have. It makes people feel better about their lack of closeness to the Lord.

God put Abraham to the test as we read in **Genesis 22:1**, "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham,

and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. 3. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him."

What a test that Abraham had to face. Yet, he didn't falter, or fuss, he obeyed. Not knowing just what the Lord would do to fulfill his promise, he trusted that the God he believed in would do it somehow. The promise was to be through Isaac and here he was told to offer Isaac to God.

**Hebrews 11:17-19**, "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. That is faith that moves mountains and receives blessings

from God. He obeyed because he knew that God wouldn't break a promise to him."

I hope that each of us has such faith. If, and when, we are put to the test will we move to resist, or to obey what is put before us? While we are not called upon to do as Abraham did, we will face situations where our faith will be tested. Those who resist God will fail, while those who trust him will be blessed. It's easy to talk of faith and love for God on a pleasant Sunday morning, but when things are going badly and we are hurting, that's when we, and the Lord, see how much faith we really have.

If Abraham had not had faith in the Lord he would have refused to even consider what God had told him to do. Instead he obeyed, not knowing just how God would work it out, just knowing that he would work things out to where his promise would come true. Even if it meant raising Isaac from the dead. That is faith! Abraham had it while so many fail to find enough faith to endure even a small ordeal. Faith is the key that opens the door to blessings from God. Trust God and obey him always while remembering - don't lose the key of faith.

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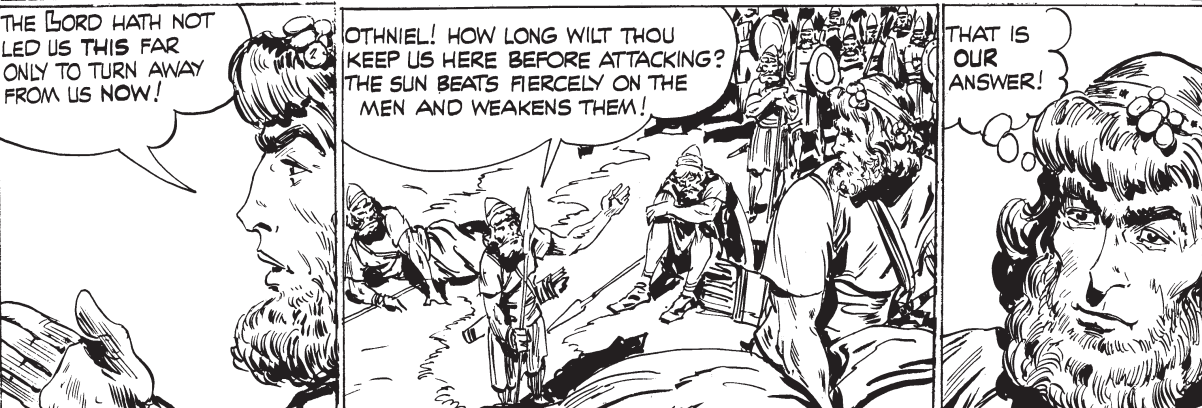
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