

THE FAITH OF TWO

Wed 02-15-12

~Hebrews 11:11-12, "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.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."

~THIS IS THE STORY OF SARAH'S FAITH.

~HER STORY IS TOLD IN DETAIL IN GENESIS 12-23. OUR TEXT SINGLES OUT THREE ASPECTS OF HER FAITH AS WORTHY OF SPECIAL ATTENTION.

~I. IT WAS A PERSONAL FAITH.

~Verse 11 Says That *"By Faith Even Sarah Herself"* (Hcsb).

~GALATIANS 3 MAKES THIS ARGUMENT IN GREAT DETAIL TO SHOW THAT ABRAHAM WAS THE FATHER OF BOTH A PHYSICAL LINEAGE AND A SPIRITUAL LINEAGE.

~THE BIBLE HAS A GREAT DEAL TO SAY ABOUT ABRAHAM'S FAITH AND MUCH LESS TO SAY ABOUT SARAH'S FAITH...

~BUT HERE IT IS SAID VERY PLAINLY THAT SARAH HERSELF ALSO BELIEVED.

II. IT WAS A POWERFUL FAITH.

"By Faith Sarah Herself Received Power To Conceive, Even When She Was Past The Age, Since She Considered Him Faithful Who Had Promised" (V. 11).

1. SARAH WAS BARREN

(GENESIS 11:30).

2. SARAH HAD BORNE ABRAHAM NO CHILDREN (GENESIS 16:1).

3. ABRAHAM & SARAH WERE OLD (GENESIS 18:11).

4. SARAH HAD PASSED THE AGE OF CHILDBEARING (GENESIS 18:11).

5. SARAH WAS A "WORN-OUT WOMAN" (GENESIS 18:12).

6. THERE WAS NO REASON FOR ABRAHAM OR SARAH TO HOPE FOR CHILDREN (ROMANS 4:18).

7. ABRAHAM SAID HIS BODY WAS AS GOOD AS DEAD (ROMANS 4:19).

8. SARAH'S WOMB WAS ALSO DEAD (ROMANS 4:19).

9. ABRAHAM WAS AS GOOD AS DEAD (HEBREWS 11:12).

~TOGETHER THEY BECAME THE FOUNDERS OF A GREAT NATION.

~III. IT WAS A PROLIFIC FAITH.

"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." (V. 12)

~TOGETHER THEY WAITED FOR YEARS.

~TOGETHER THEY FOOLISHLY TRIED TO FIND A SHORTCUT.

~TOGETHER THEY DOUBTED WHAT GOD SAID.

~TOGETHER THEY SAW THEIR OWN WEAKNESS.

~TOGETHER THEY BELIEVED GOD.

~TOGETHER THEY HAD A SON.

~TOGETHER THEY FOUNDED A VAST NATION.

~TOGETHER THEY BECAME EXAMPLES OF FAITH.

~TOGETHER THEY SHOW UP IN HEBREWS 11.

~IN 1 PETER 3:4-6 THE MESSAGE SAYS...

"Cultivate Inner Beauty, The Gentle, Gracious Kind That God Delights In. The Holy Women Of Old Were Beautiful Before God That Way, And Were Good, Loyal Wives To Their Husbands. Sarah, For Instance, Taking Care Of Abraham, Would Address Him As "My Dear Husband." You'll Be True Daughters Of Sarah If You Do The Same, Unanxious And Unintimidated (1 Peter 3:4-6 MSG).

~SARAH NEVER SAW HER OWN LEGACY

~SARAH DIDN'T LIVE TO SEE THE ULTIMATE END OF HER FAITH.

~YOUR FAITH MAY LIGHT A FIRE FOR GOD THAT WILL BURN LONG AFTER YOU ARE GONE.

~YOUR LEGACY WILL BE MOST CLEARLY SEEN AFTER YOU HAVE GONE TO HEAVEN.