

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Hebrews 11:13-16, we are encouraged by seeing 5 characteristics of the Patriarch's faith.

- I. The Patriarchs died according to faith (v. 13a).
  - A. Though they did not receive what was promised (v. 13b),
  - B. They saw & greeted what was promised by faith from afar (v. 13c).
  - C. And they knew this earth was not their true homeland (v. 13d).
- II. The Patriarchs demonstrated they sought a homeland (v. 14).
- III. The Patriarchs could have returned to their earthly homeland, but . . . (v. 15).
- IV. The Patriarchs desired a better country (v. 16a)
- V. The Patriarchs' faith led God, who prepared for them a city, to not be ashamed to be called their God (v. 16b, c).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 28, 2021  
Memory Passage: Hebrews 11:16

Passage: Hebrews 11:13-16

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read Heb. 11:13-16. Write a brief synopsis of what you learned last week during your study of Heb. 11:8-12.
- (b) In what ways did you apply these truths you learned last week from your study of Heb. 11:8-12?
- (c) To whom does “These all” refer (v. 13) and upon what evidence do you base your answer (i.e., from the text)?
- (d) What do you notice about the way “faith” is mentioned in v. 13 compared to the rest of the chapter? Why do you think this difference exists?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read Heb. 11:13-16. What does it mean that these all “died in (lit. ‘according to’) faith?”
- (b) Why is it important for our author to provide this interlude of explanation that they all “died in (according to) faith?”
- (c) What promises were seen and greeted from afar but not received (for help, see Gen. 12:2-3, 15:5, & 17:1-8)?
- (d) How did they “see” and “greet” things they never physically saw and experienced (cf. Heb. 11:1; John 8:56)?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read Heb. 11:13-16. In what way were Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob “strangers and exiles on the earth?”
- (b) Was their experience different than those who came after them (cf. Ps. 39:12) including you (cf. 1 Pet. 2:11-12)?
- (c) In what ways do you experience the challenges of being a “stranger and exile on the earth,” how do you navigate those challenges by faith, and how does the example of those who have come before dying “according to” their faith empower you?
- (d) How do the words spoken by Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob, and anyone else who “speak thus,” “make it clear they are seeking a homeland” (Greek πατρις [patris]; lit. “fatherland; a land with family or ancestral roots”)?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read Heb. 11:13-16. Is this “homeland” they sought physical or spiritual and how do you know (cf. vs. 15-16)?
- (b) What was the physical land “from which they had gone out?”
- (c) Do the terms “homeland,” “country,” & “city” in vs 13-16 refer to the same place or different places? How do you know, and to what place/places do these terms refer (cf. Heb. 12:22-24; Phl. 3:20-4:1; Rev. 21:1-22:4)?
- (d) Explain the statement, “Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city” (v. 16).

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read Heb. 11:13-16. In what ways is your life characterized by the kind of faith exemplified in Heb. 11:13-16?
- (b) How does the exemplary faith described in Heb. 11:13-16, the faith that looks past this earth and forward to a heavenly city prepared by God, empower and motivate you to live your life “according to faith” even unto death?
- (c) In what ways might your walk of faith cause God to be ashamed to be called your God? How might you rectify this?
- (d) Think of 3 difficult circumstances in which you have recently walked or are currently walking. How, specifically, will you apply (or could you have applied) what you learned this week to these circumstances?

DATE: February 28, 2021

PASSAGE: Hebrews 11:13-16

*True Faith Seeks a Heavenly Country*