

[Heb 11:1 NKJV] Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

[Heb 11:1 NASB] Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Faith in operation: Abel's act of faith: worship, the sacrifice. Enoch's act of faith: walking with God. Noah's act of faith: works

Abraham, the most important man in the world.

[Heb 11:8-11 NASB] **By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed** by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and **he went out**, not knowing where he was going. **By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise**, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Abram came from Ur of the Chaldees. Did it make sense to leave?

Ur if the Chaldees: southern Mesopotamia: The city's patron deity was Nanna (in Akkadian, Sin), the Sumerian and Akkadian (Assyrian-Babylonian) moon god, and the name of the city is in origin derived from the god's name.

Images:

1. Aerial view of Ur
2. Excavated Ur
3. Abraham's journey

STEPHEN

- [Act 7:2-4 NASB] And he said, "Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR RELATIVES, AND COME INTO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.' "Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. From there, after his father died, [God] had him move to this country in which you are now living.
- [Act 7:5-7 NASB] "But He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground, and [yet,] even when he had no child, He promised that HE

WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM AS A POSSESSION, AND TO HIS DESCENDANTS AFTER HIM. "But God spoke to this effect, that his DESCENDANTS WOULD BE ALIENS IN A FOREIGN LAND, AND THAT THEY WOULD BE ENSLAVED AND MISTREATED FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS. " 'AND WHATEVER NATION TO WHICH THEY WILL BE IN BONDAGE I MYSELF WILL JUDGE,' said God, 'AND AFTER THAT THEY WILL COME OUT AND SERVE ME IN THIS PLACE.'

- [Rom 4:1 NASB] What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

FOUNDATION

[Psa 89:14 NASB] Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.

[Isa 28:16 NASB] Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes [in it] will not be disturbed.

[1Co 3:10-11 NASB] According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

STRANGERS AND ALIENS

[Eph 2:19-22 NASB] So then **you are no longer strangers and aliens**, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

[Rev 21:14 NASB] And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them [were] the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

[Rev 21:19 NASB] **The foundation stones of the city** wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone.

WHAT SHOULD WE BE SEEKING?

[Mat 6:33 NASB] "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.