



The Good News

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Trusting in the Unknown

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When the phrase “unknown” is uttered in certain contexts, it is often accompanied by fear, panic, or stress. While it is “the unknown” that keeps our lives from being monotonous, it is also fear of “the unknown” that brings such desires to avoid it. Have you ever considered trusting in something that you have never seen? Most would scoff at the prospect, but we have a few examples in the Bible of men who trusted in things that they had never seen. We want to understand the unknowns in which they trusted and ask ourselves how they could have acted as they did in obeying God.

Abraham – We find Abraham given the promise of a son in **Gen. 21**. Despite his and Sarah’s advanced age, Abraham believed that God would indeed do as He promised, and a son, Isaac, was given to him. However, in **Gen. 22** we find God making a very odd request of Abraham. God tells Abraham to take Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice to God on an altar. Seemingly without hesitation, Abraham prepares the items he will need, takes Isaac his son, and they go to a mountain where Abraham binds Isaac, places him on the altar, and, knife in hand, is prepared to kill his son on the altar to follow God’s command. Before Abraham is able to actually kill Isaac, the Lord speaks to Abraham, telling him not to harm Isaac. The Lord reveals that the command was a test to see if Abraham truly trusted in the Lord. Obviously, Abraham passed. However, our point of interest is found in what the Hebrew writer reveals was Abraham’s thoughts as he prepared himself to kill Isaac on the altar. In **Heb. 11:17-19** we learn that Abraham believed that, even if he killed Isaac, God would raise him from the dead! Our point of interest is that, to our knowledge, Abraham had never witnessed God’s power over death. Yet, Abraham believed and trusted that God, being all-powerful, was fully capable of raising Isaac, thereby remaining faithful to the promise He

made to Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his seed.

Noah – In **Gen. 6-8** we find the account of God telling Noah that He was planning to destroy the earth in a great flood. We find that Noah follows the command of the Lord to build an ark and he and his family are saved. However, the Hebrew writer gives us more in **Heb. 11:7** when he says that Noah was “divinely warned of things not yet seen...” and that he obeyed the voice of God. It appears that this is a reference to rain, or at least flooding. Noah had never seen rain or flooding, so when God said that the world was to be destroyed by it, Noah, without complete understanding of what this meant, obeyed anyway. He, like Abraham, believed and trusted that God was all-powerful, capable of fulfilling His words, even though what God said He would do had never been seen before.

How did these two men trust and believe in something they had never seen before? It was because God said it. Their trust in God was so strong that they believed what God said without question. God no longer works in the same obvious ways as He once did. He has left the testimony of His Son and the saints as evidence of His works and power. However, God is still working in the kingdoms of men today. God’s providence is working to bring about His will on this earth, and we must trust that God knows best. We must recognize that God alone sees the “big picture” and we must trust Him to guide us in our small piece of that picture. Our God is a masterful weaver, guiding the boundless tapestry of life. Let’s let God handle the loom, as we focus on simply being thread.

God has promised that one day we will all be raised to face the Judgment. Do you believe that Day will come? Will you obey His voice, as Noah and Abraham did?