

Abraham:

The Father of the Jews

VISION

The vision of the Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Virginia will reach and reproduce within its surrounding community, a people inspired and equipped with a passion for the truth of God's Word and His compassion for others who will be enablers of change.



Moving Forward as a Growing Church



Abraham:

The Father of the Jews

Genesis Chapter 11 v. 27 – Chapter 25 v. 10

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The Review of the Summons



Genesis 12:1-3

REVIEW **of the Summons**

- The summons, though extremely significant, was quite short.
- The summons was composed of two parts:
 - 1: Precepts and
 - 2: Promises.

REVIEW **of the Summons**

The Precepts:

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee.” (12:1, KJV)

“God told Abram: “Leave your country, your family, and your father’s home for a land that I will show you.” (MSG 12:1)

REVIEW **of the Summons**

The Precepts:

The precepts were twofold. Abraham was to leave one place and go to another. To obey these precepts, four significant things were required of Abraham:

- Separation
- Sacrifice
- Labor
- Faith

REVIEW of the Summons

Separation:

“**Get thee out**” is the command to separate. The call of Abraham was a call of *separation*. He was to separate from a place (“thy country”) and a people (“thy kindred, and from thy father’s house”).

- If one is to do the will of God and live for and serve Him acceptably, s/he will oftentimes have to separate from places, people, and practices which go counter to obeying God.
- Note the separation commanded here of Abraham. He was to come out that he might go in. He was to leave one place that he might go to another place.

REVIEW **of the Summons**

Sacrifice:

- In order to obey the Divine summons, Abraham had to do much sacrificing. He had to give up the land of his nativity, his friends, and relatives; all of which would be very dear to him.
- “The summons of God will ever involve a wrench from much that nature holds dear. We must be prepared to take up our cross daily if we would follow where He points the way. Each step of real advance in the divine life will involve an altar on which some dear fragment of the self-life has been offered; or a cairn [pile of stones making a tomb] beneath which some cherished idol has been buried” (F. B. Meyer).

REVIEW **of the Summons**

Sacrifice:

- Failure to sacrifice is one of the greatest hindrances to Christian service. Many have greatly limited their service or even missed God's calling altogether because they were unwilling to sacrifice much of anything for God. They will not sacrifice position, possessions, family, friends, wealth, time, or comforts.

REVIEW **of the Summons**

Labor:

- To obey God's precepts required much labor (WORK) for Abraham. He had to drive his large flocks, move tents, furnishings, and family members hundreds of miles (it was some 600 miles just from Ur to Haran) to get to Canaan. This was anything but an easy task, but it was necessary to do if he was to obey the Divine summons.

REVIEW of the Summons

Labor:

- Anyone who sets out to obey the Lord will find that labor will be a very prominent feature of obedience. Much toil and sweat will be involved to fully obey the precepts of God. Therefore, lazy folk will never do well in obeying the Lord. They will never serve much at all.
- On the other hand, one of the reasons Apostle Paul served so well was that he was not afraid of work. In his epistles, he speaks much about labor and says in one place, “I labored more abundantly than they all” (1 Corinthians 15:10).

REVIEW of the Summons

Labor:

- When Christ chose His twelve disciples, He chose good workers. A number of the disciples were fishermen, and one of the early notations made of them in Scriptures is that they “toiled all the night” in their fishing business (Luke 5:5). These men were not lazy men. They were not afraid of work. And, therefore, with the exception of Judas, these men all made good disciples.
- To be a good disciple, one has to be a good worker.

REVIEW of the Summons

Faith

- That faith is very much involved in these precepts is seen in “unto a land that I will show thee.” (12:1) God ordered Abraham to go to a place that He did not reveal to Abraham at the time He gave Abraham the summons.
- The writer of the book of Hebrews emphasizes this faith aspect of the precepts when he says that Abraham, “went out [from Ur], not knowing whither he went” (Hebrews 11:8). Hence, Abraham must by faith walk step by step and day by day trusting that God would reveal the directions to him as necessary.

REVIEW of the Summons

Faith

- God did not tell Abraham everything at once. It was piece by piece. To obey under this situation is scorned by human nature. We want everything revealed at once. We want the destination, route, and purpose all revealed before we take one step towards the destination.
- However, that is not faith; and the precepts require faith if we are going to obey them. We must have the faith that God will show us what we need to know when we need to know it. We must have faith in God's wisdom and way. Without such faith, we cannot honor God well and will not serve God well.

REVIEW of the Summons

Faith

- It is important to note here the necessity for the application of faith in summons, “I will show thee.” A number of professing believers excuse their indecision and inactivity on the fact that God has not yet shown them His will. They talk much about the will of God and that someday God will show it to them. They claim He has not yet revealed His will to them—so they sit.
- You will note, however, that Abraham did not sit just because “I will show thee” had not come to pass; for there was much Abraham could and should do without, “I will show thee”, being fulfilled.

REVIEW **of the Summons**

Faith

- And when we do those things which we already know to do, then someday we will indeed find out what the “I will show thee” is all about.
- Christians who sit in idleness regarding the Lord’s service, or who seem to forever sit in a state of indecision, cannot excuse their attitude and conduct based on they are waiting for “I will show thee.” Furthermore, if they continually sit in idleness, they will never see much fulfillment of the, “I will show thee” PROMISE.

REVIEW **of the Summons**

Faith

- Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.
(Hebrews 11:1)

REVIEW **of the Summons**

Faith

- Faith is the vehicle that teaches us to believe God even when situations turn life upside down. We know that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6), but what about doubt?

REVIEW **of the Summons**

Faith

- When we doubt we are expressing our thoughts of uncertainty, suspicion, disbelief, or skepticism. Thus, we seek clarity, self-satisfaction, verification, and confirmation through questioning. Doubt can be antagonistic (opposed, incompatible, unfriendly) to faith.

REVIEW **of the Summons**

Faith

- However, we should understand that doubts are normal. We're human, so, naturally, we'll have doubts. Doubt doesn't weaken our faith. Because doubt is natural, having doubts doesn't diminish our belief in God or your faith. Coincidentally, doubts can strengthen our trust in God and make His will for our lives stronger.

REVIEW **of the Summons**

Faith

- The Word of God is fueled with faith. When doubt comes about, it's the time to immerse yourself in prayer and douse your spirit and mind with encouraging scriptures. Arm yourself with the Word and when you feel your mind drifting away from the firm belief of God's faithfulness, combat it with the timeless truth of Scripture.

REVIEW **of the Summons**

Faith

- Having doubts is a part of the faith journey and growing as a Christian. There are just some things in life we will never fully understand. Human reasoning often refuses to accept this and therefore seeks to understand everything. The danger is that we're finite beings trying to understand an infinite God. When understanding is not granted, humble yourself and allow faith to forge ahead instead. God will steer the way.