

Hebrews 11:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

Analysis

Abraham 'sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country' living in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were 'heirs with him of the same promise.' Though God promised him the land, he lived as a foreigner never possessing it. This demonstrated faith that looked beyond earthly inheritance to heavenly reality. His pilgrim lifestyle testified that he sought something better than earthly possession.

Historical Context

Abraham lived in Canaan for 100 years without owning any of it except his burial plot (Genesis 23). This pilgrim existence distinguished faith from sight—he believed God's promise while living as an alien.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Do you live as a pilgrim in this world or are you too attached to earthly things?

2. What promises of God are you believing without yet seeing them fulfilled?

Interlinear Text

Πίστει παρώκησεν εἰς τὴν γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς
By faith he sojourned in the land of promise as
G4102 G3939 G1519 G3588 G1093 G3588 G1860 G5613

ἀλλοτρίαν ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ
in a strange country in tabernacles dwelling with Isaac and
G245 G1722 G4633 G2730 G3326 G2464 G2532

Ἰακὼβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς·
Jacob the heirs with him of promise of the same
G2384 G3588 G4789 G1860 G3588 G846

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 12:8 (Parallel theme): And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, having Beth-el on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

Genesis 13:18 (Parallel theme): Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

Hebrews 6:17 (Covenant): Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

Genesis 18:9 (Parallel theme): And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.

Genesis 13:3 (Parallel theme): And he went on his journeys from the south even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Hai;

Genesis 35:27 (Parallel theme): And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org