

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **2** Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. **8** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. **10** For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. **11** By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. **12** Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-6

1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." **2** But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" **3** And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." **4** But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." **5** He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." **6** And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.