

WCCC 2016

A Cloud of Witnesses Surrounding Us (1)

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Hebrews 12: 1 – 2. *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

I would like to underline the part, ‘surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses’. These witnesses referred to the witnesses in chapter 11.

Hebrews 11: 1 – 2. *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.*

I would like to underline a good testimony. The same statement appears at the end of chapter 11: 39 – 40. *‘And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us that they should not be made perfect apart from us’.* Here at the end of chapter 11, the author also said ‘having obtained a good testimony’. So, the author said ‘these witnesses obtained a good testimony’ both at the beginning and at the end of Hebrews 11.

11: 3 – 4. *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.*

Here I would like to underline this remarkable phrase, ‘through it he being dead still speaks’.

11: 5 – 6. *By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”, for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Most of the version said in verse 6 ‘believe He is’. Another thing about Enoch I want to underline is that before he is taken, he has this testimony that he pleased God.

11: 7. *By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

Here I would like to underline ‘he condemned the world’.

11: 13 – 16. *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God for He has prepared a city for them.*

This is about Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Jacob. I would like to underline ‘God is not ashamed to be called their God’.

Lord, we come to You to seek Your grace. This afternoon You have words You want to tell us. You have Your own witnesses You want to show us. And You have lessons for us to learn from them. Lord, we pray that Your Spirit sets us free so that we can truly see them; see the preciousness of them in Your own sight. So, we can also learn lessons from them. Lord has mercy on us. In the name of the Lord we pray, Amen.

Brothers and sisters, we are going to talk about a cloud of witnesses around us. As we know the theme of this conference is ‘You are My Witnesses’. Hebrews 12:1 brings us to the real-life examples of chapter 11. The first session we will look at the first four witnesses in chapter 11: Abel, Enoch, Noah and Abraham. Hopefully we can see why God is not ashamed to be called their God. And the second session we will look at David and a little at Paul. There we hope to see God’s witnesses lived under an open heaven. In fact, their whole life was under an open heaven. We pray that the Lord will help us actually know them. Brothers and sisters, those examples really deserve our attention. Hebrews 12:1 said, ‘Therefore we also’. The idea here is that if we want to be God’s witnesses, we also should have such a life, now that we have seen so many witnesses and especially the lives of these witnesses. It is not just a matter of talking. It is a matter of living that life. I think this is what the author of Hebrews wanted to convey.

In chapter 11:2 it said, ‘For by it the elders obtained a good testimony’. Thus it is saying that God’s true witnesses are actually God’s good testimony. So they were witnesses who both

witness and testify. As in verse 2 and verse 39 it said they have obtained good testimonies. Who gave them the good testimony? It is God Himself who gave them the good testimony. This is what Hebrews 11 trying to tell us. A good witness is also a good testimony. If God does not bear good testimony through him, then he is not really a good witness. This is what the Hebrews author tried to emphasize.

We all know at the beginning God created heaven and earth and then God created man. How did God create man? God created man according to His own image. This is Genesis 1:27. This phrase said a lot. God did not create anything else according to His image. He only created man according to His image. That said God has a high expectation of man. He has this declaration that He created man according to His image. Thus, the idea that anyone who sees man, they ought to see God. This is in the beginning of Genesis. When we come to Isaiah 43:7, God actually said we are created for His glory. Not only do we have His image, we now have an expression and the expression is for His glory. When the other people see us, they ought to see God's glory. Brothers and sisters, this is a high expectation. This is a high calling. This is the meaning of testimony. When other people see us, they ought to see God's glory. So, we come to the theme of this conference in 43:10 'you are my witnesses'. Why did God say that? This was basically what God was saying to the Israelites at that time. 'Other people may not know me, but you should know me. You are my witnesses'. So, God's calling to His people was: one, to be My testimony; and the other was to be My witness. At the latter part of this Hebrews 11, it said 'God is not ashamed to be called their God'. So essentially God is pointing to these witnesses and said I am not ashamed to be called their God.

So, brothers and sisters, here we see God wants us to be both His testimony and His witness. A testimony does not have to speak. A witness usually does not speak. You stand there and God points to you and tell other people, this is My testimony; I have created him for My glory. He is created according to My image. He has lived his whole life and I am not ashamed to be called his God because he indeed had My image. And he indeed lived his whole life for My glory. God has a message to say. God has a work to do. Before this witness speaks, God's words are already true in him and God's message is already true in him. Let us pay real attention to our life. If our life is a life according to God's will, then God can point to us and say this is My testimony. I think this is what the author of Hebrews was trying to convey.

Now we would like to talk about the first three witnesses: Abel, Enoch and Noah. They are the first witnesses recorded in the bible. The first few verses in chapter 11 said their lives pleased God. When we look into this, we find that it is the right relations between a witness and God. Abel represented the worship. Enoch represented the walk. Noah represented the work. Worship speaks of our heart attitude towards God. Walk speaks of our daily life with Him. And work speaks of what we are making before Him.

This is how Abel's story was recorded in Genesis 4:4. 'Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering'. Here I want to note that Jehovah looked upon Abel and his gift. There were two things, Abel the man and the offering. In fact the man was probably the issue. The offering just reflected the heart of this man. When Abel grew up, there was a beautiful garden that he could not go in. And his dad and mom were often sad. And the God who created them seemed to be far away. When Abel grew up he started to understand what was going on before. He realized that God's purpose was compromised because of what his dad and mom did. That was how he grew up. But the wonderful thing was something then came into his heart. He wanted to say sorry to the Lord. He wanted to say sorry for his dad and mom and for the whole family. When he looked at his own life, he wanted to have this relationship restored. Years ago, his dad and mom lost that relationship. But now he wanted to restore that relationship. He wanted to live before the Lord from then on. In a sense in his heart there was this idea of sin offering and burnt offering. Sin offering was for the past; Lord we were really sorry. Burnt offering was for now and from now on. He wanted to tell the Lord that he wanted to live before Him. And he offered a lamb. The bible tells us that the Lord looked upon his offering. So, the Lord saw both his heart and his gift. And that gift represented his heart. How this thought of offering a lamb came into Abel's heart, the bible was not explicit on that.

The Holy Spirit said in Revelations 13:8, 'the Lamb is slain from the foundation of the earth'. Before man was even created, God already had this thought of creating man. Our brother said this morning; our wonderful God gave man a complete freedom, freedom to choose. But God also knows that one day man would fall. But God has this idea of this Lamb slain so that man can be restored back to Him. How can men come back to God in the Old Testament and in the New Testament? In the Old Testament, God told the children of Israel, three times a year you should come to me and bring a gift. When I was a young Christian, I thought God was poor. He needed people to bring Him things. God was never poor. I also thought God maybe an angry God. People have to bring gifts so that God would not be angry. Brothers and sisters, this is not the case. God gave this idea of a lamb to the people in the Old Testament. God wants us to come back to Him. This is the deepest love of God from the very beginning. In New Testament time the real Lamb came. The real sacrificial Lamb came. Today you and I can come to God through this Lamb. This eternal truth, a lamb slain from the foundation of the earth is God's great love to us. It is His great wisdom. Later when the Lord Jesus came, He offered His body as a living sacrifice. This was what Jesus said in Hebrews 10: 6 – 7 when He came, 'sacrifice and gifts You desire not, You have prepared for Me a body. Sin offering and burnt offering You do not desire, I have come O, God to do Your will'. We see the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God came. Now He came as a man. He said God, I want to offer My body as a living sacrifice. I have come, O God, to do Your will.

We are all familiar with Romans 12:1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice. That talks about you and me. Thank the Lord many of us, if not all of us, have already offered our body as a living sacrifice. Brothers and sisters, you remember offering our body as a living sacrifice is not an easy thing. It takes a while for us to understand. It takes us a long, long while to be willing to do that. Now Paul said he had a reason to do that. And his reason for us to offer our body as a living sacrifice was by the mercy of God. Mercies of God is that Lamb. So, we thank the Lord, it is the Lamb that makes us willing to offer our body as a living sacrifice.

This time when I read Hebrews 11 about Abel's story, the verse that strikes me is that 'he being dead still speaks'. When I was a young Christian, I thought what he was saying is that Lord, my brother killed me. If you read Genesis 4, you might get this idea. This is a mysterious statement, 'being dead, still speaks'. What was he speaking about? Hebrews 12 gave us a clue. Here it talks about in that city, it said there is Jesus, and the sprinkling of His blood speaks better things than Abel. I believe this does not refer to Abel saying my brother killed me. There it said something very, very deep and very, very good. The blood of Jesus is better than that. I believe this is what Abel was saying. Lord, I want to worship You. I want to offer You a lamb. Now he was saying that. But he was already dead. Brothers and sisters, this is hard for us to understand. But on the other hand, when you see the martyrs throughout the ages, at the end of their life, there was a Lamb in their heart that no one could take away. Man might persecute them. Man might put them to death but no one could take the Lamb out of them. And maybe everyone had the last word and I believe for many of them the last word is Jesus, my Lord. No one could take that away. I believe this was what Abel is saying.

One of these days we will come to the end of our life. But is there any one thing that really grabs our heart. Is it this Lamb? Is this the position of this Lamb in your heart and my heart? The word martyr and the word witness are the same word. Now we got hold of that Lamb and live our life faithful to Him. If we are still alive, we are witnesses. If we die we are martyrs. There is no difference in these two. What is it that grabs our heart? For Abel, it was that Lamb. For these witnesses, it was that Lamb. For these martyrs, it was this lamb. Brothers and sisters, for you and me, it should be this Lamb. So, this is Abel's testimony.

When Enoch was sixty-five years old, something happened in his life. The bible did not say what it was. And for the next three hundred years, he walked with God. Along the way, he had sons and daughters. Finally, God took him. He did not die. The bible has this wonderful statement before his departure. He obtained testimony that he had pleased God. This is in Hebrews 11: 5-6. Three hundred years is a long time. For me to walk with God one year I will be going up and down. Just one month is difficult. But he walked with God three hundred years. And the wonder is that at the end God said he walked well. At the end of three hundred years God said, Enoch's walk pleased me. How could Enoch walk with God for so long and so well?

What was his secret? The bible immediately said two things. First, he believed that God is. 'God is' means that God is what He said He is. And this is what Enoch believed. Some translation said Enoch believed God exists. This is much too weak. Because Enoch had known God for so long, to know God exists was not a question. The question was when God revealed what He is, it was whether Enoch would believe it or not. One day God might reveal to Enoch that 'I am a holy God'. Now could Enoch believe that? Another day God could reveal to Enoch 'I am a God of love'. Could Enoch believe that? Another day God might reveal to Enoch that 'I hate sin'. The wonder was that Enoch believed all the way. He did not have the bible. He did not have brothers and sisters or preachers to tell him how God is. Everything he knew about God was what God had gradually revealed to him. Could he or could he not believe? Three hundred years he believed. I believe that since he had sons and daughters he had to have a lot of problems. When God revealed something to him, it was hard for him to catch up with God. Enoch might be unhappy with his wife and God said you have to love her. And Enoch might be angry and beat his son and God said you should not beat your son. It was very, very hard to walk with God. There had to be ups and down in his life. But the wonder was that he did not leave God. He did not say, God, it was too hard. Forget it. So, he continued to walk with God for three hundred years.

Brothers and sisters, it tells us a very encouraging thing. It is possible to walk with God for a whole life; and at the end, He is happy with us. The key is that we have to receive His revelations and we have to obey it. Every week, every month the Lord reveals something to us. We have to keep our eyes open to receive it, to understand it and to be willing to walk in His way. And to obey it and never despise it. That was the story of Enoch.

The second secret is that he believed that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Actually, in English it is pretty strong because it said those who diligently seek Him. And Darby translation is who seek Him out. So, the idea is that when we seek God, we not only seek but we find Him. It actually is very active, positive seeking. And it is an earnest desire to know God and diligently find Him. Last night our brother talked about Paul. Paul pursued the knowledge of the excellency of Christ. He wanted to gain Christ. Here Enoch was the first one who did that. So, it is very encouraging for us. When I was a young Christian, I actually admired Enoch because he did not die. Later when I grow as a Christian I admire Enoch for a different reason. God was pleased with his life at the end. There were not too many people who did not die. But there were so many people that at the end of their life, they pleased God. In Hebrews 11, we see also Moses and David and Paul. There are many more who at the end of their life, God found them pleasing to Him. This is great encouragement to us. Moses died but at the time that he was about to die, God brought him to a high mountain and showed him the entire land of Canaan. Then God buried him. No one knows where God buried him. So here in effect God is saying Moses is mine.

Brothers and sisters, may that be an inspiration to us. To die or not to die is not an issue. The issue is whether we can live through our life and at the end we are pleasing to God. And walking with God is a constant thing. In the New Testament, our Lord Jesus wanted us to abide in Him. We abide in Him and He in us. And if we do that, the Holy Spirit will do something in our life and will produce these fruits of the Spirit which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, obedience, meekness and self-control. These things together are the character of Jesus. So, if we yield to the Holy Spirit and let the Holy Spirit daily and hourly does things in us, what is being produced will then be the fruits of the Holy Spirit and we will be a testimony to the character of Christ. When others see us, they see something wonderful, something literally out of this world. What is the testimony of the Lord Jesus? If we have these fruits of the Spirit, we are naturally the testimony of the Lord Jesus. So, at that time Enoch walked with the Lord for three hundred years. And today we abide in Christ.

The third person is Noah. The bible said that at Noah's time the world was wicked. It was an unbelieving world and they despised God's warnings. However, the bible said this person Noah feared God and took God's warning seriously. God then told him to build an ark in preparation for the flood to come. God also gave him the exact detail for building this ark. Noah spent the next hundred years to build the ark. The bible said Noah preached the righteousness of God. And what happened was that people laughed at him. Where was the flood? Where was the rain? You built this big thing, one year, ten years, and twenty years. Was not that foolish? Where was God's promise? But Enoch persisted. He trusted God and preached righteousness. Now the bible said God counted him righteous. When the flood came, God saved the whole house through the ark. Brothers and sisters, Noah's work was very special. This ark was exactly according to God's command. Every detail of it, Noah did according to God.

It reminded us of when Moses built the tabernacle. When Moses built the tabernacle, every detail was according to the command of God. Now later when we see the story of David, he also did exactly God's work according to God's will. When he became king, he took Jerusalem. After he took back Jerusalem, he brought the ark back to Jerusalem. A few years later, the thought of building a house for God came to him. God did not allow him. But God told him how this temple, His house should be built. And David prepared everything. He found a place for the temple. David did God's work exactly according to His will. When we come to the apostle Paul in the New Testament, you heard our brother said yesterday that he did exactly according to what God wanted him to do especially when Christ was revealed to him. Everything he did was according to Christ. Why is this important? Why is it important to do the work of God according only to His will? Why can we not do things for God according to our own way? Hebrews 11:7 has a remarkable statement which is 'by which he condemned the world'.

So, Noah and his ark not only symbolized of the salvation to come, it also spoke of God's testimony against a wicked world. It was a testimony against an unbelieving world, against the spirit and wisdom of the world. The world mocked at Noah. They mocked at the ark and they mocked at what Noah said. And they despised God. But Noah and his ark proved that God was right. Everything else was false. God said the flood would come. The flood did come. God said this ark would save your entire household plus more. And that ark indeed did that. Finally God vindicated Noah who seemed to be foolishly using a hundred years to build this ark. Brothers and sisters, this testimony was according to God's power. The world at that time and today is not only wicked but also powerful. The wisdom of the world and the spirit of the world want to tear apart anything you say. If what we did have a breach that they come in, they will destroy. But if this is God's work and according to God's design, and according to God's will there is a power of God there. No one can destroy it. So, brothers and sisters, whatever we do, maybe we are teaching Sunday school, or maybe we are there having some activities, sometimes our own beautiful ideas come in. So, we often have to ask ourselves, is this God's work? Is this what God wants? If we ask that question, we will pay attention to it. And when we do, the Holy Spirit will correct us and we will do something right in God's eyes. Then there will be power. And when the world sees us, they give glory to God. So, this is the story of Noah.

I would like to go on and talk about Abraham. The wonderful thing about Abraham is that he walked the heavenly way. In Acts 7:1 – 2, when Stephen gave a testimony, he told the story of God's people. In a way, it was totally different from the way Judaism interpreted it. At the very beginning, he said our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, the God of glory appeared to him. Here it said the God of glory. In Joshua 24, it said when they were at Ur they actually worshipped foreign idols. That was how Abraham grows up. You asked him about God and he would point out all these idols. But one day something happened. This God of glory appeared to him. God of glory is a holy God. He is different from idols. And the God of glory dwells in unapproachable lights. And these idols lived in darkness. And this God of glory cannot be bribed. You cannot just bring some money and ask him to listen to you. He will not listen. And he will not compromise. Sin is sin and righteousness is righteousness. There is no compromise. And this God is a living God. These idols cannot talk, smell or do anything. But this God is a living God. The bible said the God of glory appeared to Abraham. Then Abraham went out to a place that he did not even know. He never came back. All along he followed only one thing. He followed this God of glory. Now when he came to this place called Canaan, things were not easy. There was famine. There were hostile neighbors. But God provided for him. God protected him and God also said 'I will be your shield; I will be your exceeding great reward'. At that time, Abraham was eighty-five. So, God appeared to him. 'I want to bless you'. And Abraham said 'I do not even have a son. Now I have this person that grew up in my family, Eliezer and he will be my heir'. The Lord said, 'no not him. There is one who will come out of you and he will be your heir'.

You know brothers and sisters, when God called Abraham out, God said 'I will bless you and you will be a blessing'. This is in genesis 12. And God said 'all the families on the earth will be blessed because of you'. This God of glory said all these things to Abraham in the beginning. So in Abraham's heart there was this thing that all the families would be blessed because of me. I do not think he could understand that. After that for a long time, he had no son. But God said out of you would come a son. And he would be your heir. And that night the Lord brought him out of the tent, 'look at all the stars in heaven, if you can count, all your descendants will be that many'. How could Abraham believe that? But the bible said Abraham believed and God counted him as righteous. Brothers and sisters, how could Abraham believe? He did because he knew that God is a God of glory. This God never cheats. God is always faithful. Although I did not understand, He is right and I have to believe him. Then he and Sara begot Ishmael from Hagar. For the following fourteen years God did not talk to Abraham. But when he was ninety-nine, God appeared to him again. God said 'I am going to bless you'. And Abraham said 'may Ishmael live before you'. So he was saying I had no other, bless him. And the Lord said, 'I will bless Ishmael. But you are going to have a son from your wife and his name is to be called Isaac. And my covenant is only to be with Isaac. Although I will still bless Ishmael but my covenant is only with Isaac'. Later on, Ishmael became rich and prosperous. But God had no relationship with him. God only recognized Isaac. God's covenant was only with Isaac.

Twenty years later, God said to Abraham, 'offer your only son as a sacrifice, a burnt offering to Me'. This was very hard for Abraham. I tried to get you a son but you did not like him. And then by your promise, I got Isaac. I loved Isaac. You loved Isaac. You have a covenant with him. When I die, your covenant would be with him. But now you wanted me to offer him up as a burnt offering; killed and burnt? Where then was the covenant? It was very difficult for him. He walked three days with Isaac and the servants. Finally they came to Mount Moriah. He put his things down and he and Isaac went to the mountain. Isaac asked 'the wood is here; the fire is here. Where is the lamb?'. Abraham said 'God will provide'. He got Isaac to the mountain and just about when he was ready to kill Isaac, a voice from heaven said, 'Abraham, Abraham, do not touch this lad'. So, the Lord gave Isaac back to him. And finally, the Lord told him that all nations would be blessed through Isaac.

So dear brothers and sisters, did he offer? He offered. Did Isaac die? He actually died and now he actually lives. Now where was the covenant? It was still there. This was when Isaac was about twenty. This thing really struck Abraham. The resurrection was a very hard concept to understand. But Abraham experienced this thing first hand. And another twenty years passed by and Isaac was about forty years old. Abraham needed to find a wife for Isaac. The servant was very wise. The servant said 'when I go there and find a good girl, and if this woman does not want to come to Canaan, can I bring Isaac there?'. Abraham said 'no, you cannot do that. Never bring him outside of Canaan because God's covenant is with him on this land'. This time God did not force him at all. It was out of Abraham's inside. My son Isaac belonged to here and

nowhere else. It was another matter about getting a wife. But my son belonged to here. Because the God of glory said so. Through these sixty years, this issue of Isaac brought Abraham to walk a heavenly way. All these things were very hard. Think about it, he could say over and over again, Lord, you were so hard to please. Nothing I did pleased you. But God is so wise. His hand of grace always led Abraham. Through these very personal experiences, Abraham learned heavenly way, the way of God.

Thinking back there were three things Abraham learned. First, a spiritual life comes only out of the promise of God. And it is through faith by grace. This is the story of Isaac. But today this applies also to us. Without going through Jesus Christ, without going through Him we got nothing from heaven. Remember Nicodemus came to see Jesus, the Lord said you need to be born anew. You had to be born above. That was about being born. Then how about when we grow? The Lord has given us the Holy Spirit for a purpose. And the purpose is that we do not live by ourselves anymore. There is a leading, a beacon in us leading us forward. We ought to be just like Abraham. When the Lord leads, we follow, whether we understand or not. So, dear brothers and sisters, think about our spiritual growth. We have to pay a price. If we do not pay the price, then we do not have spiritual growth. The promises of God usually are something we do not see with our naked eyes. But thank the Lord, we know that is from the Lord and just like Hebrews 11:1 it said by faith we experience that.

The second thing that Abraham learned was a very difficult lesson of resurrection. He learned that God's covenant and the living sacrifice did not contradict each other. He thought that these two things would contradict each other. In his offer of Isaac as the living sacrifice, he thought about what would happen to the covenant. These two things were closely related together. Today we have this new covenant; we have the Lord Jesus as the mediator of this new covenant. God's faithfulness makes that covenant work. Our Lord Jesus wants to make that covenant work. But there is a requirement on us. If we do not cooperate, even though this covenant is great, yet it is true with my brother but not true with me. How can this covenant be real? The bible tells us over and over again that it is by the principle of death and resurrection. We have to die with Christ, then raise with Christ and then we can walk in the newness of life. And this new covenant will be true to us. This is the whole meaning of baptism as stated in Romans 6 and Galatians 2. Thank the Lord, this thing that we sometimes think is very difficult, Abraham experienced it long ago. And then we thank the Lord for Jesus here today. By His leading and His grace, all of us as long as we are willing, we can experience it.

And the third thing he learned was about his descendants. Somehow Abraham figured out and saw that this particular descendant is so very important in God's heart. He is the center of God's heart. All God's promises are found in Him. And all the rewards from God are in Him and all of God's rewards are in Him. And then it is deeper than he knew. Brothers and sisters when we come to the New Testament times, the Lord Jesus once said in John 8:56 'Our father Abraham

rejoices to see my day. He saw it and was glad'. The Lord Jesus was talking to people about Abraham. Abraham in his time when he walked through this heavenly way, all these things seemed to be so difficult. All these promises seemed to be unseen. One lesson after another lesson. But throughout this whole thing, Abraham was actually glad. And he saw God's whole promise and God's whole inheritance are in this seed. Although it was so difficult, yet he was happy, as if he had seen Christ. This was what Lord Jesus said.

And then Apostle Paul in Galatians 4 said that seed is singular, not plural. It speaks of Jesus Christ. Is this heavenly way applicable? Brothers and sisters, it is very applicable. We only have a few limited decades on this earth. Man can choose just to walk day in and day out on earth, earn money, try to build own house, try to get promoted until one day one dies. Or man can choose something else. Look to the heavenly way. Let the Lord lead us. So, in our very limited time on earth, we come to the very heart of God. We experience that God will reveal Himself to us – His highest and deepest to us – and that is Himself. And He will show us His son. And we will walk a difficult life, even called the way of the cross. But we will feel so happy at the end and we will be just like Abraham when God promised him – I will bless you and you will be a blessing. Everyone around us will see something different. It is out of the world. It is something so good I cannot even describe. And they do not know this is Christ. But we know. Thank the Lord that this is what the heavenly way brings us into.

Lord we thank You for these wonderful witnesses before us. From their lives we learn that it is not because they are good, but because You are so good. Lord, you are the God of glory and that is why these brothers did not want their own country. They did not desire their own country. They admired a much better country which is in heaven. There they could have the God of glory. Lord, we really thank You for having done this and have all these wonderful lives in front of our eyes. Lord we just pray You give us humility and a heart of willingness to also work with You and to follow the Lamb wherever He goes. All praises to You. In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.