

**Summer Series:
Abraham in the New Testament:**

The Father of Sojourners

July 29th, 2026

Topical study on Abraham in the New Testament. Four parts to delve into how the character, life and witness of Abraham is integral to the Christian walk and how Abraham is referenced continually in the New Testament as an example of character to the Church. Our topics will delve into these four lessons.

- **The Father of Blessing**
- **The Father of Intimacy with God**
- **The Father of Sojourners**
- **The Father of Faith**
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Sojourn or Pilgrim:

To sojourn is a temporary stay or visit in a place that is not your permanent home.

A pilgrim is a person who travels to a holy place for religious reasons, or a wanderer in a foreign land.

Abraham demonstrated a life of pilgrimage is the way of life to seek the kingdom of heaven. Abraham chose to leave his father's land and become a sojourner in the land God gave him.

“⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God...”

“¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.” - Hebrews 11:8-10,13-16

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived as nomads in their own land. Abraham was looking for the heavenly city and Kingdom of God, and sought to dwell with God. This determination made him live as if on a pilgrimage during his natural lifetime. Living by faith for the eternal.

Acts 7:2-6 “And he said, “Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, ³ and said to him, ‘Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.’ ⁴ Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell. ⁵ And *God* gave him no inheritance in it, not even *enough* to set his foot on. But even when *Abraham* had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him. ⁶ But God spoke in this way: that his descendants would dwell in a foreign land, and that they would bring them into bondage and oppress *them* four hundred years.

– God gave Abraham not even a foot’s length of possession in it!

Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- Jacob and Abraham’s descendants recognized their sojourning is to seek and be with God.

Genesis 47:9-10 “And Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The days of the years of my pilgrimage *are* one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my

fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.” ¹⁰ So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.”

Leviticus 25:23 “The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land *is* Mine; for you *are* strangers and sojourners with Me.”

1 Chronicles 29:14-15 “But who *am* I, and who *are* my people,
That we should be able to offer so willingly as this?
For all things *come* from You,
And of Your own we have given You.
¹⁵ For we *are* aliens and pilgrims before You,
As *were* all our fathers;
Our days on earth *are* as a shadow,
And without hope.”

Psalms 39:12 “Hear my prayer, O LORD,
And give ear to my cry;
Do not be silent at my tears;
For I *am* a stranger with You,
A sojourner, as all my fathers *were*.”

Psalms 119:17-20 “Deal bountifully with Your servant,
That I may live and keep Your word.
¹⁸ Open my eyes, that I may see
Wondrous things from Your law.
¹⁹ I *am* a stranger in the earth;
Do not hide Your commandments from me.
²⁰ My soul breaks with longing
For Your judgments at all times.”

Our life is but a drop in the bucket. So, to seek a heavenly call, and to hold fast to the eternal, is of more value than anything on this temporary earth. Even though Abraham was given an entire land and countryside for his inheritance of future generations, he chose to seek something eternal which he could not see and chose live for the eternal kingdom of God while walking upon the perishing earth.

For this reason, there is a consistent theme within the New Testament of being in this world but not of it. Exhorting us to walk within a narrow way like a nomad, or a sojourner, or a pilgrim, or an ambassador of another country, seeking the greater city and kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Hebrews 11:13 “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.”

John 15:19 “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 17:14-19 “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.”

Colossians 3:1-3 “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

2 Corinthians 5:20 “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

1 Peter 1:1-7 “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the pilgrims (or elect exiles) of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,”

1 Peter 2:11-12 “Beloved, *I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims*, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹²having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”