

Recap of 5/19/19 (Nehemiah 9:7-8):

1. Abraham is cited in verses 7-8 as one whom God chose and who was found faithful by God. Abraham is included in the “Hall of Faith” in Hebrews 11. Hebrews mentions his call from the security of home to the unknown; God’s enabling him and Sarah to conceive when they were past child-bearing age; and God’s testing him. Abraham was considered faithful by God.
2. “Faith gave Abraham his security. God would be Abraham’s protector; God would prosper his life; God would take fear from Abraham’s heart and give him courage. God, who sent this man into foreign territory, would show him truth that no one had yet uncovered. All this for Abraham, and all of it by faith. Abraham could have said, ‘No way!’ Not enough assurance; too much risk. Abraham, however, heard the Lord speak—and believed.” (365 Life Lessons)
3. “God gave Isaac to Abraham by miracle. He then asked Abraham to sacrifice this precious son of his, even though it seemed essential for the fulfillment of the divine promise, that Isaac should live.” (Foster)
4. “God is the Master Designer, and He allows adversities into your life to see if you can jump over them properly—‘By my God I can leap over a wall’ (Psalm 18:29). God will never shield you from the requirements of being His son or daughter. First Peter 4:12 says: “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you....’ Rise to the occasion.” (Chambers)
5. What Abraham can teach us:
 - Sometimes God will call us to follow Him without knowing our destination. Where is our security? In ourselves, our things, our career, our family. We need to believe God and find our security in Him.
 - We must not try to fulfill God’s plan in our flesh (as Abraham and Sarah did with Hagar), but wait for His timing.
 - We must expect that our faith will be tested.