

## Faith Under Fire Study 1: *Starry Skies*

by Lt. Ashley Koebel

### The Story

Sarah smiled. She was thinking about her husband. Sarah knew him as the strong, brave, wise leader he was in his community, but she also recalled his most frightened moments. She thought of their many travels together. Her smile turned to a frown momentarily. In Egypt, Abraham had been so afraid that Pharaoh would take his beautiful wife from him that he made her tell everyone they were brother and sister. He was not so brave then. It had angered her, but how could she be angry when she saw how truly worried he was. Of course, then there was the drama of the pharaoh taking Sarah into his house. But, Abraham's God made it very clear to the whole house that Sarah was already taken. Her frown burst into a smile again. She always knew that God had a special relationship with her husband, but it was in those moments that she remembered that God had a special relationship with her too.

That was so long ago. Abraham wouldn't have to worry about lying to anyone anymore. He did not have to worry because God had proven his care for their little family, and he did not have to worry because Sarah's wrinkles meant no young pharaoh would ever try to take her again. She chuckled under her breath. It was a good-natured laugh. Sarah loved to laugh. God told them to name their son laughter. It was another reason Sarah knew that God had a special affection for her and not just Abraham.

She thought back to that day God had told her they would have a son. She probably would have bowed to the ground and said, "so may it be," ... if she had been forty years younger! But, she was old, and one thing she had learned with each year and each new wrinkle is that old women cannot do the same thing young women do. She had laughed. God did not seem angry, but He asked Abraham why she laughed. It made Sarah think. Did she believe God to do the impossible?

Sarah stiffened at her loom. All these thoughts had been running through her mind, and she had no idea how long she had been under that hot sun, at the loom. She felt queasy. Abraham often left home for days, and she missed him when he was gone, but such was the life of a shepherd. He and his hired shepherds would set up the tents and then take the sheep to graze in the area while the women were left behind to make the tent a home. It was not easy work, especially not in that heat. Sarah knew her husband worked hard to raise the sheep, and she was his match at home. Her hands were the fastest at weaving. She often did several tasks at once. Things had been getting more difficult now, and her hands were moving noticeably slower but her mind was as sharp it had always been. Her hand touched her stomach. What was that she felt? Was she sick?

## The Scripture

### Hebrews 11:8-10

8 *It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.*  
9 *And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise.* 10 *Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.*

## Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs are admired in our society. Well, successful entrepreneurs are admired. Entrepreneurs and risk-takers who do not have any success to show for their risks are viewed with caution. Abraham was an entrepreneur, and he was not what might be considered a “successful” entrepreneur. Read the scripture again. “It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land *that God would give him as an inheritance.*” Abraham left in faith, to lead the life of a wandering shepherd. Did he make money? Yes he did. Did his little group of shepherds grow into an army of men and women? Yes they did. But, Abraham had put all of his hopes into this “inheritance” that God was going to give him, and though he had been successful in acquiring money and befriending the people of the land there was one thing that he did not have. That one thing was an inheritor. He did not have a child to carry on all of the work he had done.

## Start Your Journey

It is a miracle that Abraham was willing to set out to claim an unknown land for his family. It was a bigger miracle that he went to claim an unknown land without anyone to pass it onto. It is a miracle of faith. What we learn about faith from Abraham is that faith requires a first step. We have to start the journey of faith somewhere. Maybe God has called you to do some mighty act for Him. Following Him starts by taking that first step. The first steps are never easy. It would take years for Abraham to build up courage and develop trust in His God. Not by any mighty act of Abraham, but by the grace of God did Abraham inherit the promised land. If Abraham had never taken that first step, he would have never been able to see God’s grace

## What is your first step?

### Start Your Journey.

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