

6. What did God do for Sarah according to verse 11? Just how far past the “proper time of life” was Sarah? See Gen. 11:30; 17:17; 18:1-15.

7. What was Sarah’s original response to God’s promise for her? See Gen. 18:10-15.

8. What does verse 11 say about how Sarah responded to God’s promise?

9. The Bible is silent about what happened between Sarah’s response in Gen. 18:10-15 and her reaction in Heb. 11:11. What do you think happened to her? How can that be an encouragement to you if you discover your first response to a situation is not of faith?

10. Sarah’s initial response to God was one of unbelief, yet she is listed here among the faithful. What does this teach you about God?

11. What is the result of Sarah believing God’s faithfulness to honor His word (verse 12)?

12. From verse 13, what do you learn about the promises made to the “by faith” people?

13. What promises did they see at a distance? See Gen. 22:18; Luke 2:25-32; Jn. 8:56; Acts 3:19-22; Gal. 3:6-9; 1 Pet. 1:10-12.

14. What are some promises we see at a distance *now*? See Rom. 8:18-25; 1 Cor. 13:8-13; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 5:6-8; 1 Jn. 3:2.

15. What did the “by faith” people say so clearly in verses 13-14?

16. Why is this the response of all true believers? See Eph. 2:19; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1-3.

17. Sometimes that clear-eyed view of heaven grows dim with the distractions of this world. How can you maintain a gaze on that heavenly country?
 - a. Think about this week. Has your view of heaven been clear, hazy, or entirely obscured? Why? Do you need to make any adjustments so you can see heaven clearly?

18. Explain what the author of Hebrews means in verse 15.
 - a. How does that clarify the meaning of verse 14?

19. When we declare we are waiting for our better, heavenly country, what is the result (verse 16)?

20. What kind of people does God prepare a city for? What kind of people does God claim as His own? See Mark 8:38; 2 Tim. 2:11-13; Heb. 2:11; 8:10.
21. What do you learn about the city God has prepared for us? See Matt. 25:34; Heb. 12:22; 13:14; Rev. 21:2, 10-27; 22:1-5.
22. God is not ashamed of you. He has prepared a city for you. All the promises we live on by faith will be fulfilled in that heavenly realm when we see our dear Lord Jesus face to face. How do those truths inspire greater faith, diligence, and determination to finish the race and receive the promises?

Far Off I See the Goal

by Robert Roberts

Far off I see the goal—O Savior, guide me;
I feel my strength is small—be Thou beside me;
With vision ever clear, with love that conquers fear,
And grace to persevere, O Lord, provide me.

Whene'er Thy way seems strange, go Thou before me;
And, lest my heart should change, O Lord, watch o'er me;
But, should my faith prove frail, and I through blindness fail,
O let Thy grace prevail, and still restore me.

Should earthly pleasures wane, and joy forsake me;
And lonely hours of pain at length o'ertake me,
My hand in Thine hold fast till sorrow be o'erpast,
And gentle death at last for Heav'n awake me.

There, with the ransomed throng who praise forever
The love that made them strong to serve forever,
I, too, would seek Thy face, Thy finished work retrace,
And magnify Thy grace, redeemed forever.