

leave his father's house, his kindred and his country, and go out, *not knowing whither he went*. In the exercise of unconquerable faith he obeyed, and wandered long ere he reached the promised land of Palestine. There, after various discipline, he was called to a trial of his faith, probably the most severe which God ever imposed on man — I mean the command to offer up his only son as a burnt offering. Yet, having obeyed, he became well entitled to be called the father of the faithful.

But although descended from such a progenitor, it was necessary that the Hebrew nation should pass through a long and bitter experience to make them worthy of being called the chosen people of God. Four hundred and thirty years of hard bondage could alone train them for the work God had assigned them; and appropriate instruments must be prepared to bring about this result. Joseph was appointed to lead the way in bringing the whole of the descendants of Abraham into servitude. Mildness and quiet submission to whatever God laid upon him seem to have been the predominant traits in his character. Such a man could bear to be made governor over all Egypt without losing his humility and fraternal sympathies, even though sold as a slave by his brethren. Thus were the Israelites decoyed, as it were, into servitude. They found one of their own number to protect them, and place them in the richest part of the country, so that they multiplied exceedingly. Ere long, however, they began to feel the rigors of their bondage, and sighed for a rescue. The appointed time at length came. But now a different set of instruments must be prepared for the work; and God knew how to provide them. On the one hand, it was necessary that a leader of great energy and wisdom should be ready to undertake the gigantic labor. And such a man was