

The Promises To Abraham

Intro: As a basis for our study turn in your Bibles to Gen. 12:1-3 “¹ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” God called Abraham out of the country where he was living, in doing so God gave unto Abraham certain promises. I want us to study these promises in this lesson.

I. A GREAT NATION.

- A. **Gen. 12:2** “² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.”
- B. **Going down to Egypt.**
 - 1. This is the beginning of the fulfillment of this promise.
 - 2. Gen. 50:20 “²⁰ But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.”
 - 3. Exo. 1:7, 9, 12, 20 “⁷ And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.... ⁹ And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we:... ¹² But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.... ²⁰ Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.”
 - 4. When the children of Israel left Egypt, they numbered anywhere from 2.5 million to 7 million (probably around 5 million).
 - 5. Deu. 26:5 “⁵ And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God, A Syrian ready to perish *was* my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous:”
- C. **1 Kin. 3:8** “⁸ And thy servant *is* in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.”
- D. **While in Egypt God makes of Abraham a great nation and fulfills this promise.**

II. A GREAT LAND.

- A. **Gen. 12:1** “¹ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee:”
- B. **When God brings Israel out of Egypt, He begins fulfilling this promise. This is what the Period of Conquest is all about.**
- C. **This promise was fulfilled.**
 - 1. The cities of refuge.
 - a. Deu. 19:7-9 “⁷ Wherefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt separate three cities for thee. ⁸ And if the LORD thy God enlarge thy coast, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, and give thee all the land which he promised to give unto thy fathers; ⁹ If thou shalt keep all these commandments to do them, which I command thee this day, to love the LORD thy God, and to walk ever in his ways; then shalt thou add three cities more for thee, beside these three:”
 - b. Jos. 20:7-8 “⁷ And they appointed Kedesh in Galilee in mount Naphtali, and Shechem in mount Ephraim, and Kirjatharba, which *is* Hebron, in the mountain of Judah. ⁸ And on the other side Jordan by Jericho eastward, they assigned Bezer in the wilderness upon the plain out of the tribe

of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan out of the tribe of Manasseh.”

2. Jos. 21:43-45; 23:14 ⁴³ And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. ⁴⁴ And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. ⁴⁵ There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.... ^{23:14} And, behold, this day I *am* going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, *and* not one thing hath failed thereof.”
3. Neh. 9:7-8 ⁷ Thou *art* the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham; ⁸ And foundest his heart faithful before thee, and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give *it*, *I say*, to his seed, and hast performed thy words; for thou *art* righteous.”

D. Was the promise forever?

1. Gen. 13:15 ¹⁵ For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.”
2. The term forever in the Old Testament is not always used in an unlimited sense.
 - a. Circumcision: Gen. 17:13 ¹³ He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.”
 - b. Passover: Exo. 12:14 ¹⁴ And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.”
 - c. Aaronic priesthood: Num. 25:13 ¹³ And he shall have it, and his seed after him, *even* the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.”
3. The land promise was a conditional promise.
 - a. Deu. 4:25-26 ²⁵ When thou shalt beget children, and children’s children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt *yourselves*, and make a graven image, *or* the likeness of any *thing*, and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God, to provoke him to anger: ²⁶ I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong *your* days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed.”
 - b. Deu. 30:20 ²⁰ That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”
 - c. Jos. 23:15-16 ¹⁵ Therefore it shall come to pass, *that* as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you. ¹⁶ When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.”
 - d. They had to remain faithful to God in order to keep possession of the land, they did not.

III. ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLEST.

- A. **Gen. 12:3** “³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”
- B. **The rest of the Bible is preparing for, and fulfilling this promise.**
- C. **This was fulfilled in Christ.**
 1. Acts 3:25 “²⁵ Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.”
 2. Gal. 3:8, 16 “⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed...¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”
 3. This is one of the purposes of the genealogies of Christ.
 - a. Mat. 1:
 - b. Luke 3:
 4. Thus, Jew and Gentile can be blest, have the forgiveness of sins and salvation, through Christ.

Conclusion: From this lesson we can see: (1) how the Bible revolves around the promises made to Abraham, and (2) that these promises have been fulfilled and thus we are not to look for a future fulfillment of them.