

The Emergent and the Out-Dated Christian

--By Terry Carter



No doubt you are familiar with the parable that Jesus told about the Pharisee and the Publican who went to the temple to pray.

"9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men [are], extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as [his] eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." **Luke 18:9-14 KJV**

What you may not know about is the new version of this parable. It's about an Emergent and an Out-Dated Christian who began to pray. It goes something like this...

"9 And He spoke this parable unto certain who trusted in themselves that they were relevant and authentic and looked down their noses at the unenlightened, old-fashioned, frankly square Christians in their grandmother's churches: 10 Two people began to pray;

one a hip, liberated, Emergent, Christ-Follower, and the other a stiff, tradition-bound, Christian. 11 The Emergent walked in a labyrinth and prayed in her deeply spiritual meditative state thusly, 'Great Spirit in the Sky, I thank you that I am not as mainstream churches are, irrelevant, intolerant, judgmental, political, boring, or even as this out-dated Christian. 12 I finger paint twice a week, I incorporate hip-hop music in my worship, I welcome homosexuals and Muslims into my fellowship, I profess global warming and celebrate earth day, I have twelve tattoos and ten body piercing, I drink alcohol socially and worship in bars, I encourage women to lead in the church over men, I watch R-rated movies, I reject the notion of facts, I never dress up for worship, I use the words 'missional', 'community', 'relationship', and 'dance' frequently, I search for truth even though it can't actually be found, I always talk about how little I know while being sure that I know more than other poor, unenlightened souls, I share my story and listen to the stories of others in this journey and conversation we are in, my favorite movies are *The Matrix* and *Alice in Wonderland*, I embrace post-modernism and decry imperialism'. 13 And the out-dated Christian stood out in the sticks in his small rural church building and would not so much as read Brian McClaren's latest book, but clung to his New Testament, saying, 'God be merciful to me an unprofitable servant.' 14 I tell you that this man went to his house forgiven rather than the other: for everyone who conforms to society shall be converted to it, but he that obeys My Words will be converted to Me."

Lest you think that I am making this up, let me quote to you from a door hanger that a local congregation has been distributing in my hometown. What follows is a word-for-word quote; only the names have been changed to protect the guilty.

"The myth: All churches are judgmental, boring, political, intolerant, and irrelevant. We dare you to prove this myth wrong by going to the brook: casual, relevant, authentic. First, let's be honest, many churches are judgmental, boring and all that crap [yes they used that word]. But the brook is a newer church now meeting at Peak Middle School. It will explode the negative stereotypes you've had of church. In fact, it's a church for people who don't like church. We're pretty sure you'll actually enjoy and get something out of it, and if you don't ummmm, whoops, sorry."

The reverse side had a package of Pop Rocks candy and said the following:

"The myth: Eating Pop Rocks and Coke together will kill you. We dare you to prove this myth wrong by eating these Pop Rocks with some Coke. We're pretty sure you won't die and, if you do, ummmm, whoops, sorry!"

Underneath the package of Pop Rocks it says, *"If your Pop Rocks candy is missing, check with the middle school kid down the road!"*

I wonder if it was a middle school kid that put this door hanger together. I also wonder if they take people's salvation as lightly as they take their lives. I can just picture them saying, "We're pretty sure you can swallow false teaching and not die, and if you do, ummmm whoops, sorry!"

This is just one of many examples of a group that loudly and boldly claims that they are relevant and authentic. A couple of thoughts occur to me about this.

First - Proclaiming yourself to be "authentic" is somewhat like proclaiming yourself to be "humble".

The longer and louder you say it, the less I believe it. It's a bit like sounding a trumpet before you do a charitable deed or praying on the corner of the street to be seen by men - **Matthew 6:1-6**. I don't think authentic (meaning real) Christians spend much time telling everybody how authentic they are. They simply obey the Lord's commands and let Him decide if they are authentic or not.

Second - Being relevant depends entirely upon to what or whom you want to be relevant.

I teach high school math and science. Everyday students complain that the class material is not relevant to them at all. They don't believe that it is relevant to them now, nor do they believe it will be relevant to them in the future. But after they graduate they soon sing another tune. A semester or two of college convinces them that what I taught them was very relevant to their future. Suddenly these things are vitally important. I've even had some students complain that I wasn't hard enough on them. They wish I had required them to learn more of this "irrelevant" stuff.

The problem is that while they are in high school they don't know what is relevant and what is not. Once they discover what is truly relevant and what is not, it's too late.

I wonder how much of what people believe to be relevant to them is relevant to God. I wonder how much of it is relevant to their eternal futures. I wonder how many things that are relevant to God and their eternal salvation are things they consider irrelevant now. How many will face an eternity in hell having spent all their time and energy on what they thought was relevant, but was not?

Unfortunately it will be too late to do anything about it then. Personally, I prefer to trust God to tell me what is relevant and what is not. He's done this already in His Word.

Third - Saying that "...many churches are judgmental, boring, and all that crap", sounds kind of judgmental and even intolerant to me. Maybe the pot is calling the kettle black here.

Fourth - While the door hanger I quoted above did not say that your grandmother's church is irrelevant, I've heard such statements in many other places and I believe the door hanger implied it.

I'm tired of hearing about how irrelevant your grandmother's church was and is. Evidently it's not irrelevant to your grandmother. If you give it a chance you might discover that it's not irrelevant to you, either. If the Gospel is being preached, it is relevant. If the Gospel is not being preached at your church, it is about as irrelevant as you can get. I'll take granny's Gospel preaching church over some hip church without the Gospel any day.

Here's a novel idea: Let's stop throwing around buzzwords like "relevant" and "authentic" and start obeying the commands of God. Let's make His Word the priority. Let God decide what is relevant and who is authentic.

The only way I know to be truly relevant and authentic is to preach and practice God's Word.

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A Model for National and Church Destruction

Former Colorado Governor Richard D. Lamm stood up and gave a stunning speech on how to destroy America. The audience sat spellbound as he described eight methods for the destruction of the United States.

He said, "If you believe that America is too smug, too self-satisfied, too rich, then let's destroy America. It is not that hard to do. No nation in history has survived the ravages of time. Arnold Toynbee observed that all great civilizations rise and fall and that 'An autopsy of history would show that all great nations commit suicide.' "Here is how they do it," Lamm said. "**FIRST**, to destroy America, turn America into a bilingual or multi-lingual and bicultural country." History shows that no nation can survive the tension, conflict, and antagonism of two or more competing languages and cultures. It is a blessing for an individual to be bilingual; however, it is a curse for a society to be bilingual. The historical scholar, Seymour Lipset, put it this way: "The histories of bilingual and bi-cultural societies that do not assimilate are histories of turmoil, tension, and tragedy." Canada, Belgium, Malaysia, and Lebanon all face crises of national existence in which minorities press for autonomy, if not independence. Pakistan and Cyprus have divided. Nigeria suppressed an ethnic rebellion. France faces difficult times with Basques, Bretons, and Corsicans."

Lamm went on: "**SECOND**, to destroy America, invent 'multiculturalism' and encourage immigrants to maintain their culture. Make it an article of belief that all cultures are equal, that there are no cultural differences. Make it an article of faith that the Black and Hispanic dropout rates are due solely to prejudice and discrimination by the majority. Every other explanation is out of bounds.

THIRD, "We could make the United States an 'Hispanic Quebec' without much effort. The key is to celebrate diversity rather than unity. As Benjamin Schwarz said in the Atlantic Monthly recently. "The apparent success of our own multiethnic and multicultural experiment might have been achieved, not by tolerance but by hegemony. Without the dominance that once dictated ethnocentricity and what it meant to be an American, we are left with only tolerance and pluralism to hold us together."

Lamm said, "I would encourage all immigrants to keep their own language and culture. I would replace the melting pot metaphor with the salad bowl metaphor. It is important to ensure that we have various cultural subgroups living in America, enforcing their differences rather than as Americans, emphasizing their similarities."

FOURTH, I would make our fastest growing demographic group the least educated. I would add a second underclass, unassimilated, undereducated, and antagonistic to our population. I would have this second underclass have a 50% dropout rate from high school.

My **FIFTH** point for destroying America would be to get big foundations and businesses to give these efforts lots of money. I would invest in ethnic identity, and I would establish the cult of 'victimology.' I would get all minorities to think that their lack of success was the fault of the majority. I would start a grievance industry, blaming all minority failure on the majority population.

My **SIXTH** plan for America's downfall would include dual citizenship, and promote divided loyalties. I would celebrate diversity over unity. I would stress differences rather than similarities. Diverse people worldwide are mostly engaged in hating each other - that is, when they are not killing each other. A diverse, peaceful, or stable society is against most historical precedent. People undervalue the unity it takes to keep a nation together. Look at the ancient Greeks. The Greeks believed that they belonged to the same race; they possessed a common language and literature; and they worshipped the same gods. All Greece took part in the Olympic games. A common enemy, Persia, threatened their liberty. Yet all these bonds were not strong enough to overcome two factors: local patriotism and geographical conditions that nurtured political divisions. Greece fell. "E. Pluribus Unum" -- from many, one. In that historical reality, if we put the emphasis on the 'Pluribus' instead of the 'Unum,' we will balkanize America assuredly as Kosovo.

NEXT TO LAST, I would place all subjects off limits; make it taboo to talk about anything against the cult of 'diversity.' I would find a word similar to 'heretic' in the 16th century -- that stopped discussion and paralyzed thinking. Words like 'racist' or 'xenophobe' halt discussion and debate. Having made America a bilingual/bicultural country, having established multiculturalism, having the large foundations fund the doctrine of 'victimology,' I would next make it impossible to enforce our immigration laws. I would develop a mantra: That because immigration has been good for America, it must always be good. I would make every individual immigrant symmetric and ignore the cumulative impact of millions of them."

In the last minute of his speech, Governor Lamm wiped is brow. Profound silence followed. Finally he said, "**LASTLY**, I would censor Victor Hanson Davis' book, *Mexifornia, A Sate of Becoming*. His book is dangerous. It exposes the plan to destroy America. If you feel America deserves to be destroyed, don't read that book." There was no applause. A chilling fear quietly rose like an ominous cloud above every attendee at the conference. Every American in that room knew that everything Lamm enumerated was proceeding methodically, quietly, darkly,

yet pervasively across the United States today, ripping the foundation of our educational system and national cohesiveness. Even barbaric cultures that practice female genital mutilation are growing as we celebrate 'diversity.' American jobs are vanishing into the Third World as corporations create a Third World in America - take note of California and other states - to date, ten million illegal aliens and growing fast. It is reminiscent of George Orwell's book "1984." In that story, three slogans are engraved in the Ministry of Truth building: "War is peace," "Freedom is slavery," and "Ignorance is strength."

Governor Lamm walked back to his seat. It dawned on everyone at the conference that our nation and the future of this great democracy are deeply in trouble and worsening fast. If we don't get this immigration monster stopped within three years, it will rage like a California wildfire and destroy everything in its path, especially the American Dream. If you care for and love our country as I do, take the time to pass this on just as I did for you. NOTHING is exactly what will happen if you don't! (END)

APPLICATION OF ABOVE TO THE CHURCH

By George L. Faul:

The same thing will work to destroy the Church. Use words that are the language of Ashdod and non-biblical so there is a complicity of language. Bilingual, Denominational language is a great curse to the Church.

Be bicultural, as well. Do both what the Bible says and what Denominations, Catholics, and cults do. Confusion, contradiction, and conflict will result. Encourage denominational people who come to the Bible believing church to maintain their customs, traditions, and practices. Celebrate diversity of ideas, concepts, practices, and music rather than unity. Stress tolerance and pluralism, not Biblical mandates.

Let the people become Biblically illiterate and substitute the knowledge of the Word with the theories of men; especially be pragmatic. Let the idea of our diversity be praised and favored by our educational and benevolent institutions. Let the congregation celebrate the diversity from which they come. Have no pride in Biblical practice, speech, or concepts.

Put some subjects off limits. Do not discuss abortion, homosexuality, creation, modesty, or the women's role in the Church. Freely call those who do discourse on these things heretics, bigots, women haters, male chauvinists, patriarchal dominators, fanatics, quaint, dinosaurs, cavemen, flat earthers, Neanderthals, separationists, sectarian, unloving, traditional, ego centrics and hate mongers. These concepts are destroying the Church. Lastly, get rid of the Bible. Do not let people read it and whatever you do, don't let going to Church be anything like it used to be. Be tolerant of all.

Dear Brother Faul:

What about **Romans 9** and Pre-destination?



ANSWER:

Romans 9 does not teach what Calvinists think it teaches.

God is no respecter of persons. He does not elect one to salvation and another to damnation.

HE DOES ELECT PERSONS FOR SERVICE AND NOT ANOTHER. He did in the past and He does today in the Church. He elected the nation of Israel to be His people for service.

He chose Shem to be the race, Abraham to be the nation of that race, Judah to be the tribe of that nation, Jesse to be the family of that tribe, David to be the house of that family, and Mary to be the individual of that house through whom Messiah would come and **BLESS ALL NATIONS.**

He did not choose Shem to be saved and Ham and Japheth to be lost.

He did not choose Abraham to be saved and Nahor lost.

He did not choose Judah to be saved and his 11 brothers lost.

He did not choose to save Jesse and damn his brothers, nor did He choose David to salvation and his brothers to be lost.

He did not choose to save Mary and her siblings lost.

HE CHOSE THEM FOR SERVICE, NOT SALVATION!!!

It was through them that the Messiah would come. It was through them that the Incarnate Word would be given.

What advantage hath the Jew? Much every way, chiefly that unto them were committed the oracles of God, to whom pertaineth the adoption, the glory, the covenant, the giving of the Law, the service of God, and the promises. **Romans 3:2** and **Romans 9:4**

Not all of Abraham's seed were chosen for service. The election was Isaac, not Ishmael nor his second wives' children.

Likewise, Jacob was not chosen for salvation over Esau. Jacob was chosen for service. It was not of him that wills or runneth that God gives the privilege of being the

chosen vessels of service. He chooses whomsoever He wills to be the one through whom He works.

Sometimes, due to His foreknowledge, He would raise up a particular man to earthly honor and elevate him to be King as he did the Pharaoh of the Exodus. He knew that man. He knew he would resist Him and God would be able to display His power over all the gods of the Egyptians because of their stubbornness.

He did not want to raise up some weak milquetoast at that time that would obey Moses. He raised up this Pharaoh whom God knew would harden his heart and rebel against Him so God could show His power to Israel and the world.

Notice that the first few times it says, "Pharaoh hardened his heart". Then after a few more times when he was really in rebellion, God is said to harden his heart. God provoked him to wrath by His miracles as each one made him more hardened.

It is like a son who is rebellious and hard-hearted already, but when the father puts more on him the father is said to harden the son's heart. God did not have to do anything to him to harden his heart initially. He raised up that particular man because He knew him and that each plague would harden him that much more. He was chosen to be the king so that God could show His power.
Romans 9:17, Exodus 9:16-17

We have no right to complain that He uses one lump of clay to glory and another lump to dishonor. God, in His mercy, has made us both Jews and Gentiles, to His glory. How? "As many as receive him to them gave he power (the authority) to become the Sons of God, even those who believe on his name." **John 1:12**

Gentiles can, like Abraham, attain unto the righteousness of faith. The Jews continue to try to be saved by law. They do not seek righteousness by faith, as our father Abraham did, but go about to establish their own righteousness.
Romans 10: 3

Let me illustrate a Biblical election to service:

A sodbuster in 1888 had five kids. He said to his oldest son, "Lets go into town and get some supplies." "But Dad I wanted to go hunting," said the boy. "Well, bring your gun along and we're bound to see something on the way back," said the father.

All the kids wanted to go to the town overnight with them to get the supplies. The father laughed and said, "If I took the whole family there would be no room for the supplies. We will bring back some goodies for all of you. This trip is for all of the family." So they left.

Once they got to town it was evening, as it was a long way to town. The boy was excited because there was a

circus in town. He got to see a lot of strange sites, a shooting display, the fat lady, the midget, the elephants and lions and even a ventriloquist. He got to sleep in the hotel and eat in a restaurant. Dad even let him try some of the new fangled ice cream.

The next morning they went to the general store and the boy got to eat some new candy as he helped load the wagon. He had a lot of privileges that the other 4 kids did not have, but Dad had chosen him, not because he loved him more, but he was the strongest. He could help load the wagon and watch for trouble on the way home. He got to shoot a deer on the way home and he and his father lifted the heavy carcass into the wagon.

When they got home, the other kids came running and were given some goodies. The whole family was blessed for the winter because they had gone. Now the older son was chosen for service. It was not that he was the favorite even though he had special opportunities. The whole family was blessed as the father intended them to be all along.

Now note Abraham. "I am going to bless you, make you a great nation, and in thy Seed (Singular, Christ) **ALL** the nations of the earth will be blessed." He was told, "You shall be a blessing." God blessed Abraham and used him to bless all men. When Jesus was born it was said, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to **ALL** people." (Not just an elect few that God chose to save.)

What a damnable, ugly doctrine Calvinism is. God is no respecter of persons. The offer is to **whosoever will**. Come unto me **All** ye that labor and heavy laden and I will give you rest.

The secret of understanding the Bible is not to use the difficult passage that seems to contradict the simple ones. The thing to do is to take the simple ones that are plain and try to understand the difficult one. Calvinism likes to use **Romans 9** with their blasphemous doctrine of TULIP and make **John 3:16, Mark 16:15-16**, and the great commission and a zillion more that promises salvation to any believer, untrue.

Remember that God chooses specific men and women for service, not salvation. "He's not willing that any should perish but all should come to repentance." **II Peter 3:9**

"He wills all men to be saved." **I Timothy 2:4**

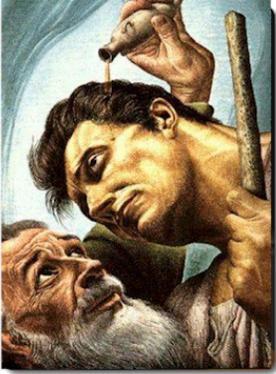
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CONSEQUENCES OF A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT



--By Kendall Faulk

I Samuel 8:11-20, "He said, 'This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and other to plow his ground

and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day.'" But the people refused to listen to Samuel. 'No!' they said. 'We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.'"

In this passage the people of Israel reject the form of government God gave their forefathers. Rather than being governed by the Law of Moses administered by judges and elected Elders of the 12 tribes, they chose a strong central government with a KING who was above the law. In so doing, they created a tyranny that led them into a civil war that permanently split the nation within a couple generations. And after a hundred years these kings guided them into national captivity and the destruction of their nation.

Here are the things that Samuel warned them would come with the tyranny of a strong, central government:

1. A military draft – vs 11.

"'He said, 'This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots.'"

2. Nationalization of agriculture and development of a military industrial complex – vs 12.

"Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and other to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still

others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots"

3. Forced national service of young men and women – vs 13.

"He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers."

4. Abuse of eminent domain to give the best real estate to those political insiders and cronies – vs 14.

"He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants."

5. High taxes on your profit will be used to line the pockets of political cronies – vs 15.

"He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants."

6. You will have to work in a way dictated by the government to pay the government so the government will provide your basic needs in return. You won't be able to afford to own anything substantial or take care of yourself. In other words, you're a slave – vs 16.

"Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use."

7. High taxes on your possessions to line the pockets of political cronies – vs 17.

"He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves."

8. The people will cry out for relief but won't get any from their leaders whom rule over them tyrannically – vs 18a.

"When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen..."

9. Because people have turned from God and put their 'hope' in men, God will not answer their cries – vs 18b.

"...and the LORD will not answer you in that day."

10. The reason people give up their independence, liberty, and rights is because they want a strong central government to protect them, provide for them and because they want to "be like the other nations." – vs 19-20

"But the people refused to listen to Samuel. 'No!' they said. 'We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.'"

Does any of this sound familiar? What do we do? Verse 9, "Now therefore hearken unto their voice: **howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.**"



The Promises to Abraham

INTRODUCTION: In general, what was the promise made to Abraham? It is this: That he should be heir of the world.

Romans 4:13-16, "13 For the promise, **that he should be the heir**

of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if they which are of the law *be* heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: 15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression. 16 Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,"

PROPOSITION: The specific promises were made to Abraham. These were not based on any other thing than the fact that through Noah we were told, "Blessed be the God of Shem". **Genesis 9**

Abraham was a 75-year old man of the race of Shem who had no children. Yet God chose him because he was of Shem and made him unconditional promises after he had obeyed God and left Ur of the Chaldees to go to a land that God would show him.

The faithfulness of Abraham resulted in the following promises: (Keep in mind that these promises were before the rite of circumcision and the Law of Moses. This proves that it was the faith of Abraham, not circumcision or Law keeping, which made him the heir of the world.)

THE GENERAL PROMISE

Genesis 12:2, "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:"

Note the four promises in these verses:

1. **He would be blessed.** Fulfilled in:
 - a. **Genesis 14:19,** "And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:"
 - b. **Genesis 24:1,** "And Abraham was old, *and well* stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things."

2. **He would be given a great name.** Fulfilled in:
 - a. **Genesis 17:5,** "Neither **shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham;** for a father of many nations have I made thee."

God added a letter of His own name to his.
 - b. **Genesis 24:35,** "And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; **and he is become great:** and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses."
3. **He would be a blessing.** Fulfilled in:
 - a. **Genesis 14:16-20,** "16 **And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.** 17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that *were* with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which *is* the king's dale. 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all."
4. **He would become a great nation.** Fulfilled in:
 - a. **Deuteronomy 26:5,** "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:**"

THE BLESSING PROMISES

Genesis 12:3, "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."

Note the two promises fulfilled:

1. **God would bless them that bless Him and curse them that curse Him.** Fulfilled in:
 - a. **Numbers 24:8-11,** "8 God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce *them* through with his arrows. 9 He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed *is* he that blesseth thee, and cursed *is* he that curseth thee. 10 And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together: and Balak said unto Balaam, **I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed *them* these three times.** 11 Therefore now flee thou to

thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath kept thee back from honour.”

Fulfilled in:

- b. **Joshua 23:4-5**, “4 Behold, I have divided unto you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, even unto the great sea westward. 5 **And the LORD your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the LORD your God hath promised unto you.**”

2. **In his seed (singular) all the families of the earth would be blessed.** Fulfilled in:

- a. **Galatians 3:7-9, 16, 27-29**, “7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. 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.** 9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. 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.** 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

THE LAND PROMISE

Genesis 12:7, “And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, **Unto thy seed will I give this land:** and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.”

Genesis 13:14, 15, 17, “14 **And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:** 15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. 17 **Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.**”

Genesis 15:18-21, “18 **In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land,** from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: 19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, 20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, 21 And the Amorites,

and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

1. **He would be given a great land** that He describes.

Fulfilled in:

- a. **Joshua 21:43-45**, “**And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware 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 sware 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.**”

- b. **Acts 13:19**, “And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.”

- c. **I Kings 4:21, 25**, “21 **And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.** 25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.”

- d. **II Chronicles 9:26**, “**And he reigned over all the kings from the river even unto the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt.**”

- e. **I Kings 8:56**, “**Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.**”

- f. **Nehemiah 9:7-9**. “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:** 9 And didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by the Red sea;”

THE “MANY SEED” PROMISE

Genesis 13:16, “And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered.”

1. **He would have many descendants.** Fulfilled in:

- a. **Hebrews 11:12**, “Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, **so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.**”

THE “RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH” PROMISE

Genesis 15:5-6, “5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”

1. Fulfilled in:

- a. **Romans 4:16-20**, “16 Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;”
- b. The Scripture that Abraham believed God was proven when he was willing to sacrifice Isaac.

Hebrews 11:17-19, “17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”

Romans 4:16, 21-25, “16 Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

James 2:20-24, “20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 **Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.**”

CONCLUSION – SO WHAT?

The Promises to Abraham Have All Been Fulfilled, Except One!

- × By the end of Genesis, Abraham was greatly blessed and had a great name and was a great blessing to others.
- × By the end of Exodus he had become a great nation.
- × By the end of Deuteronomy, his blessors were blessed and cursers were cursed.
- × By the end of Joshua, they were in the Promised Land as a great multitude.
- × By I Kings and II Chronicles, Solomon said that they had possessed all the land that God had promised.
- × After the captivity, Nehemiah recognized that the land promises were fulfilled.
- × Finally in the New Testament, Jesus came. Those of a nation who believe on Him are blessed.

This blessing is not based upon circumcision or the Law of Moses or being his physical descendant, but having his faith. He is the father of all who believe.

Abraham believed that Isaac would rise from the dead. Do you believe Abraham's seed, Jesus Christ, arose from the dead? If you will believe about Jesus what father Abraham believed about Isaac, and you demonstrate your faith by being baptized into Him, you, too can be an heir of the world.

Galatians 3:27-29, “27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**”

Remember that the righteousness of Abraham was not in obedience to circumcision, the law, or being his physical child. It is being like him in believing God and then acting upon your faith in the resurrection of his promised Seed.

Abraham found that obedient faith results in the substitutionary death of an innocent victim. Jesus is our ram in the thicket that God provided for us who trust Him and raised Him from the dead.

Genesis 22:13-14, "13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and **Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.** 14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, **In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.**"

Romans 4:24-25, "But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

The Unfulfilled Promise – a City.

Hebrews 11:9-10, "9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 **For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**"

Hebrews 11:13-16, "13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and **confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.** 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 **But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.**"

Like Abraham, we are not looking for a city in the Holy Land. We are looking for a Heavenly City and confessing we are pilgrims and strangers on the earth.

You can have Abraham's blessing of righteousness when you have his faith.

You can join him in that city!

Hebrews 11:39-40, "39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."



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