



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.**"