

God's Promise to Abraham

Read Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 15:1-6

When we first meet Abram, later Abraham, he is living in the city of Ur, in modern-day Iraq. He then moved with his father's household northwest to Haran, now in Turkey. There the Living God came to him as He had come to Noah, making lavish demands and lavish promises. God said:

“Follow me!
Leave your homeland and all that is safe and familiar,
and go to a far-away country that I will show you.
There I will make you a great nation.
I will bless you beyond your wildest dreams,
and you will be a blessing.
All who bless you, I will bless.
All who curse you, I will curse.
All peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

As with Noah, only one who truly trusted God would follow such a call. Abraham did. God considered him righteous because Abraham simply trusted God. From that point on, Abraham's entire life, told in Genesis chapters 12 through 25, became an amazing story of blessing and faith.

When Abraham received God's promise of becoming a great nation, he was childless. It's hard to have a multitude of descendants with no children! But God repeated His promise over the coming years as Abraham aged. Still no child. When the long-awaited heir was finally born, Abraham was 100, and his wife, Sarah, was 91. The situation God had created was such a mixture of wild joy and unbelievable absurdity that the boy was named Isaac, a form of the Hebrew word for “laughter”.

Before God fulfilled all His promises to Abraham, many other improbable and impossible births would punctuate the story:

Jacob (Genesis 25:19-26)
Joseph (Genesis 29:31 – 30:24)
Moses (Exodus 2)
Samson (Judges 13)
Samuel (1 Samuel 1)
John the Baptist (Luke 1)

These culminated in the birth of Jesus Christ Himself, born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit of God.

Each of these individuals played an important role in God's plan. With each unlikely birth, the Sovereign Lord seemed to be shouting, “Look! I am doing this! I am keeping My promises!”

Ultimately, all God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled in his descendent, Jesus Christ:

1. In Christ, Abraham is the father of a great nation—a “holy nation” even greater than the people of Israel (1 Peter 2:9). Galatians 3:7 says, “All those who believe are children of Abraham”.
2. God had promised Abraham, “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you”. Jesus is that kind of definitive turning point in the destiny of every individual. Each person's entire future is determined by his or her response to Christ—blessing or cursing, life or death, heaven or hell.
3. Every nation, every people, every family, tribe, and tongue are blessed in Jesus Christ.

Each of us can share in the lavish promises made to Abraham and fully please our Holy God the same way Abraham did: by simply trusting Him.

*Father,
Your Son brings all Your greatest riches to us—
forgiveness,
holiness,
peace,
constant sufficiency,
unbroken oneness with You—
and all by simple faith.
Thank You, Lord, for Your unspeakable gift!*

Hymn: [All We Need](#)

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