

Abraham The Promises

Genesis 12:1-3 “The LORD had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you’”

The “Promises” are the basis of the “Abrahamic Covenant.” They became codified in the “Covenant of Circumcision.” This covenant was between God, Abraham, and Jesus, the Seed.

The Promises were given 24 years before the Abrahamic Covenant. This is important because it is the foundation of the Doctrine of “faith-righteousness,” a doctrine that simply makes a person “right with God” because they believe Him. and that He is a “rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

The “promise of Abraham” is the basis of Paul’s “Mystery of the Gentiles” whereby they were included into the Redemptive Plan of Israel. It was without covenant or observance of the Law of Moses. It was by “grace through faith and faith alone.” It was the same way that Abraham was considered righteous before God.

What were the Promises made to Abraham before the Covenant of Circumcision?

Six promises found in the **Abrahamic Covenant** (called the “Covenant of Circumcision”)- **Genesis 12:2-3**

- Promise of a land of his own which would be passed to his heirs
- Promise to be made into a great nation
- Promise to make his legacy great in history
- Promise to make him a blessing for all the world
- Promise to bless those who would honor and bless him
- Promise to protect him by cursing and bringing a condemning judgment to those who would come against him

Why is the Covenant of Abraham also known as The Covenant of Circumcision important?

- Abraham begins the process for the Seed (Jesus) to become the Redeemer for Israel and the Savior for the World (Gentiles)

Gal. 3:16 “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "and to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.:

- Jesus, the Seed”, is the awaited Messiah, the Anointed One, the Kindred Redeemer for Israel grows ever clearer as we study.

****Romans 4:1ff The Promise to Abraham was made BEFORE the Covenant of Abraham

- And this important verse...”
For all the promises (of blessedness) of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”
(2 Corinthians 1:20)
This verse is saying that Jesus is the "Yes" spoken by God to every one of His promises. We reply "Amen" through Jesus Christ, and that gives glory to the Father.

SEE the following scriptures:

Romans 4:13-20 The Promise to Abraham brings Blessing not curse

Romans 9:8-9 The true children of Abraham are offspring of the Promise

Galatians 3:14-29 The Promise is not nullified by the Law of Moses given to Israel
The Law could not produce the life of God in a person who followed it
The Promises provided the true heirs of the Blessing of Abraham

Galatians 4:23-29 The Covenant of Circumcision was for both Ishmael and Isaac.
The Promise of Blessing applied only to Isaac

Ephesians 1:13 The Gentile also receives the Blessing through faith

Ephesians 2 Full explanation of “How the Gentile was included in redemption”

Ephesians 3:6 The Gentiles receive the Promise of Abraham because of Grace not covenant

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Galatians 3:7-9

7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that **God would justify the Gentiles by faith**, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.”

9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham

Galatians 3:13-14

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),

14 that the **blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles** in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith

Galatians 3:15-18

15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.

16 Now to **Abraham and his Seed were the promises made**. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.

17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.

18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise

Romans 15:15-16

15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God,

16 that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the **offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable**, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus came the “Servant of Israel”

1. The fulfillment of the promises made to the fathers
2. Purpose was to make a New Covenant with Israel exclusively (no Gentiles)
3. Gentiles were included in the Blessings of Abraham “by grace through faith” without a covenant.

The understanding of God was very distorted by those under the Law of Moses when Jesus appeared. He was seen as merciless, unloving, and uncaring. Jesus presented God as loving, merciful, forgiving, faithful, protective, and “very relational.”

Romans 15:8-9 [Read Chapter 15 in Context]

8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers,

9 and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written

Psalm 89 supports this text

Conclusion:

- The Blessings of God for the Gentile came as a result of the “Promises of God made to Abraham AND to the SEED.”
They did NOT come because Jesus FULFILLED the Law. The Gentile was not under the Law...and still is not under the Law! The Gentile entered “by grace through faith.”
- The Blessings of God were SECURED because the SEED “confirmed the Promises of God made to the fathers of Israel” for the Gentile.” i.e., “through the Seed (and the seed -Israel) all the nations will be blessed.”

Genesis 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 18:18 since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall

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be blessed in him?

Genesis 22:18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Genesis 26:4 And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;

Galatians 3:8-9

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.