



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 052: The Promise of Abraham

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Read Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 22:18.

In these early chapters of the Bible, God makes a promise to Abraham, that he will become the source of blessing to all the nations of the earth. In Genesis 12, the promise follows a command that starts Abraham on a journey. This was not just a physical journey. Hebrews 11:8-10 tells us more. What kind of journey was Abraham also embarking on as he obeyed God's command?

What is the blessing of Abraham? Read Joel 2:28-29 in conjunction with Galatians 3:14,16.

These scriptures point to the time when the good news of the Gospel, namely the reconciliation of man with God, through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, becomes a reality in the lives of all who accept it. The Old Testament prophets foretold that this would be, not just for God's chosen people, but for everyone. The promise is available to all of humanity.

But the blessing of Abraham is two-fold. Not only did this promise of God begin to be worked out in his life, but Abraham lived the life of faith. He is an example to us as believers to do the same. This is of great importance, why? Read Hebrews 11:6 and Romans 4:3.

After Abraham's time, God continued to work through his descendants. Over the years Abraham's family became a tribe, then twelve tribes and then a nation. God gave this nation His Law, which they were to keep to distinguish them from other nations around them. This Law is also known as the Old Covenant. But even though the Law was given, the promise still stood. The blessing of God upon all nations was still to come through His promise to Abraham. No amount of telling us what to do enables us to do it; the Law cannot make us righteous in the sight of God. What do each of the following scriptures tell us about the Law?: Romans 3:20, Romans 8:3-4 and Galatians 3:24.

What connection do these verses have with the blessing of Abraham?

'The just shall live by faith'. This statement is repeated many times in both the Old and New Testaments. We have already discovered that faith is counted as righteousness before God. Read Romans 3:21-23; Galatians 3:6-7. What is 'the righteousness of God'?

As believers how do we obtain the promised blessing in our generation? Read Galatians 3:26-29.

To think about. What does the blessing of Abraham teach us about the nature of God?

To Dig deeper. Look up the scriptures that state 'the just shall live by faith' and note the context of when this statement appears.