

God had a plan, Abraham Departed

Introduction:

- NYC Jewish lady says you do not see use out here proselytizing.
- Everything written about Abraham **Romans 15:4** For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.
- Abraham stands as the greatest figure to be found in the ancient world. Three world religions—Islam, Judaism, and Christianity—revere him as the father of their faiths.
- The National Geographic once expressed, that “Abraham the patriarch conceived a great and simple idea: the idea of a single Almighty God” (Dec. 1966, p. 740).
- Abraham’s importance is not just in the fact that he is today a prime model of saving faith. No, the importance of Abraham in Genesis is that through Abraham God reveals His purpose and His goal for the universe. **In promises to Abraham God revealed that He had a plan!**

Genesis 12:1–3

12 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: **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: **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.

I. Promise Given

A. For a Great name. **Genesis 15:5** 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.

1. Contrast this to the Tower of Babel.
2. They thought “great” meant power. God teaches greatest will be a blessing.

B. He is blessed **Genesis 15:6** And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

1. David’s definition of “blessed” in **Romans 4:6** Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,
2. Abraham looks away from himself (in a grand reversal of Adam's sin) and trusts God to keep his word!

C. Be a blessing to all nations.

D. For a land. **Genesis 15:18** 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:

1. Why did God give them someone else's land?
 - a) **The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Psalm 24:1.** The land pledged to Abraham was part of God’s provision for the Jewish people. After the Exodus from Egypt, the Jews were given the Promised Land, confirming God’s power to predict the future and fulfill His promises.
 - b) Second, giving the land to Abraham’s descendants was, in part, a judgment on the sinful Canaanites. **Genesis 15:16** But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full. **Deut. 9:4** Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the Lord thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the Lord hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the Lord doth drive them out from before thee.

Obama offers hope to Israel. Should have read the Bible.

Here is the speech that should have been written for him.

Talking Point #1: The Land of Canaan, renamed Israel by the Lord, was given by God to Abraham and his descendants as an everlasting possession. **Genesis 12:7a**

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.

Talking Point #2: The gift of this Land to Abraham and his descendants was based on an unconditional covenant from God Himself. **Genesis 17:7-8**
7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. 8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Talking Point #3: This land was not given to the descendants of Ishmael (one ancestor of the Arab peoples), but rather to the descendants of Isaac.

Genesis 17:18 **And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!**
19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. 20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

Talking Point #4: Israel's sin and subsequent exile from the Land did not change their divine right to this Land given to them by the Lord in covenant.

Leviticus 26:44 **And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the Lord their God.**

Key #5: The name of this Land is not Palestine, but Israel.

Twenty-five hundred years ago, the prophet Ezekiel spoke of the restoration of Israel to its land in the last days. Ezekiel spoke of dry bones coming to life. Never before in history has a nation been destroyed and scattered all over the world, and then been brought back to life. It is a miracle and a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. We read in Ezekiel 37:11-12

Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

Key #6: The stranger (Gentiles) will live among you and be treated with respect. Provision is made for the stranger.

Talking Point #7: The Land was given to Abraham and his descendants as part of God's redemptive blessing to the world.

Israel was located in the center of the ancient world, and all transportation and communication between the continents had to pass through this territory to reach the other. In doing so, the travelers, merchants and traders, and even the armies encountered the Children of Israel.

Ezekiel 5:5 Thus saith the Lord God; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her.

You see when God makes a Promise for us to act upon.. His provisions are always guaranteed!

remember this it will come in handy in a moment.

II. Promise found throughout the Bible

A. The Abrahamic Covenant is first found in Genesis 12:2–3.

2. God **repeats** the covenant **five** times.

1. three times to **Abraham** (Genesis 12:2–3; 18:17–18; 22:18)

2. once to **Isaac** (Genesis 26:4)

3. once to **Jacob** (Genesis 28:14)

B. There are nearly **400** passages which are **paraphrased** abridgements of the Abrahamic Covenant throughout the Bible.

C. NT writers demonstrate their **knowledge** of the promise (Acts 3:22–26). Peter

22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. **23** And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. **24** Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. **25** Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. **26** Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

a. Peter **quotes** the promise (v. 25).

b. He then names **Jesus** as the **descendant** of Abraham (the “seed” –singular) who is the **Blessor** (v. 26).

c. Peter also identifies the **Blessing** (v. 26) – “...in turning away every one of you from his iniquities” (Salvation).

d. Paul helps us understand this in **Galatians 3:13** That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. **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.

e. God's promise to Abraham discloses the destiny of **every nation** on the planet. God **accomplishes** His plan and **keeps** His promise (Revelation 5:9; 7:9–10; Isaiah 61:11).

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

III. God's plan seen in the promise.

E. The Abrahamic Covenant contains two main parts.

1. "I will bless you" – we refer to this as the "Top Line" (Blessing). This is God's desire to bless the Israelites.
2. "...in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed" – we refer to this as the "Bottom Line" (Responsibility). This is God's desire to have the **nations** ("families") blessed.

F. Quote– Warren Wiersby's definition of ministry. "Ministry is accomplished when human needs are met by Divine resources, through loving channels to the Glory of God.

- A. We are in a (parenthesis) in History. God is not done with the children of Israel.
- B. God is allowing us, the church, to be used of Him to share this message of blessing to the world!
- C. Cat and dog theology. How are you stewarding your blessings?

We are not the nation of Israel but we Gentiles are part of the nations that are blessed by them in Jesus!

4 So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. **5** And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; **and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. 6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. 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. **8** And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.

IV. Abraham's response to the Promise.

A. He went. (v. 4)

1. He went into the land they would possess.
2. He acted in faith.
3. His obedience was evidence of his faith and not the payment/work for His faith.

B. He worshipped. (v. 7–9)

1. There is no way to build an alter and not be public.
2. There is not way to build an alter and not be confrontational
3. There is no way to build an alter and people not watch your lifestyle

Church how we doing today acting upon what God has given us to do?

What has he told you to do? I will give you a moment to think about it. Let me know if this sounds familiar. God still has a plan!!

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

We have see in Romans if you are a believer we have the faith of Abraham. We have seen that it is the the size of faith but the substance of our faith. **It is time for some of us to "depart"**.