

**People of the Promise:  
Abraham: Trusting God's Promises  
Genesis 12-15**

**Introduction**

NJFK—housekeys; a place to live, a people to call family, a blessing to others (hospitality)

Genesis 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

1. Promise of a Homeland (12:1; 13:14-15)
2. Promise of a People (12:2a; 13:16; 15:1-6)
3. Promise of a Blessing (12:2-3; 22:16-18)

**1. Promise of a Homeland (12:1; 13:14-15)**

Abraham left his home to find the homeland God promised him.

Genesis 12:1

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you."

When Lot chose the well-watered plain of Sodom and Gomorra for himself, Abraham still trusted God to give him the land God promised him.

Genesis 13:14-15

**14** The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, **15** for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.

But Abraham lived as a nomad in tents in the land of promise. The only plot of ground he owned in his lifetime was the cave he bought in which to bury his wife Sarah. But his real homeland wasn't on the earth.

Hebrews 11:8-10

**8** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. **10** For he was looking forward to the city that

has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

After 430 years in Egypt, God sent Abraham's descendants, the children of Israel, back to the promised land to claim it. They lost control of it because of their idolatry and sin, but today the nation of Israel lives in the same region.

But we look forward to the same homeland Abraham did. God has promised us a forever homeland.

Hebrews 11:13-16

<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

That city will one day descend from heaven and settle on the earth. A new heaven and a new earth will belong to the people of God (Revelation 21).

## **2. Promise of a People (12:2a; 13:16; 15:1-6)**

Genesis 12:2a

And I will make of you a great nation,

Genesis 13:16

I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.

Genesis 15:1-6

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Abraham's faith in God's promise of a people was so strong that he was willing even to sacrifice Isaac and still hold that God's promise would come true.

Hebrews 11:17-19

<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup> of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>19</sup> He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

We are Abraham's children if we put faith in Christ. We are people of the promise who are part of Christ's everlasting kingdom (Daniel 7:18).

Galatians 3:7-9

<sup>7</sup> Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." <sup>9</sup> So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

### **3. Promise of a Blessing (12:2-3)**

<sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so

that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

How is it that all the families of the earth would be blessed in Abraham?

Genesis 22:16-18

<sup>16</sup> and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup> and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Abraham’s offspring who would possess the gate of his enemies and in whom all the earth would be blessed was Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Savior-King. He will rule all the nations with a rod of iron. Blessed is everyone who takes refuge in Him (Psalm 2). Every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord. While we were still enemies, Christ died for us to save us. He transferred us from the kingdom of darkness into His own kingdom of light.

*How could all the earth be blessed in Abraham? Through Abraham's connection with Jesus Christ, Abraham's offspring.*

*That is true of us as well. It is our connection with Jesus Christ, Abraham's promised offspring, that makes us a blessing to people around us of all ethnicities. The more we show them who He is and what He's like, the more we tell them of what He came to do for everyone who trusts in Him, the more of a blessing we are.*

## **Conclusion**

1. Promise of a Homeland (12:1; 13:14-15)
2. Promise of a People (12:2a; 13:16; 15:1-6)
3. Promise of a Blessing (12:2-3)