

LESSON 6: SIX PROMISES

Genesis 11 & 12

MEMORY VERSE: “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” (Genesis 12:2).

Abram was a man who believed and obeyed God. That was unusual since his father, Terah, and most of those around him worshiped idols (Joshua 24:2). God told Abram to leave his country and his father’s house and go to a land that he would receive for an inheritance. The Hebrew writer tells how Abram obeyed God, as he wrote, “and he went out, not knowing whither he went” (Hebrews 11:8). God later changed Abram’s name to Abraham (Genesis 17:5).

God made Abram six promises if he would continue to hear and obey Him (Genesis 12:1-3).

1. God would make of Abram a great nation.
2. God would bless Abram (with material blessings).
3. God would make Abram’s name great.
4. Abram would be a blessing to those around him.
5. God would bless those who blessed Abram and curse those who cursed him.
6. Through Abram, all families of the earth would be blessed.

Abram was living in the city of Ur of Chaldees when God first called him (Genesis 11:31 and Acts 7:2). He left Ur and moved to Haran where the promises were renewed. After his father died in Haran, Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and his servants and left for Canaan. As he traveled the long journey, Abram built altars unto God along the way.

As they traveled toward Canaan, a famine came upon the land. Abram and his family went to Egypt to stay where there was food. Sarai was a very beautiful woman. Abram was afraid that the rulers in Egypt might kill him and take his wife. He told Sarai to tell the people that she was his sister. Pharaoh heard about the beautiful Sarai, and had her brought to his house to be his wife. God sent plagues on Pharaoh’s house because of Sarai. Pharaoh then sent them all out of Egypt.

All the blessings God promised Abram were good. But the last one, that through Abram all families of the earth would be blessed, is far greater than the others. God fulfilled that promise when He sent His Son Jesus, a physical descendent of Abram, into the world to die for our sins.

Abram believed God and obeyed Him. God kept all the promises He made to Abram. Abram (Abraham) became the father of the Israelite nation. He was very rich in material possessions. His name is mentioned often as the father of the faithful (John 8:56; Romans 4:1, 12). He was a blessing to those around him, and those who did evil to him were punished. And it was through the seed of Abraham that all the world was blessed with our Lord Jesus. God always keeps His promises. He promises us a home in heaven if we will hear and obey His Word (Mark 16:16).

WHO?

1. To whom did God give the promises in the memory verse? _____
2. Abram's name was changed by God to _____ (Genesis 17:5).
3. Read Genesis 12:3. God promised Abram (Abraham), "in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." In whom was this blessing fulfilled? _____ (Matthew 1:20-21).
4. Who was Abram's wife? _____
5. Other than his wife, who was the relative that Abram took with him when he left Haran? _____ This is found in Genesis 12: _____.
6. Who was Abram's father? _____

WHAT?

1. What was the name of the great earthly nation (Genesis 12:2) that God promised Abram would come from his descendants? _____ (Genesis 35:10 and 46:1-7).
2. What did Abram do that caused God to bless him? _____ (Genesis 12:1, 4-5).
3. What can we do TODAY to please God? _____
4. What was the name of the land God said He would give to Abram's seed (descendants)? _____ (Genesis 12:5-7).

THINK IT OVER AND TALK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:

1. How are we blessed today by Abram's trust in and obedience to God?
2. Where do we get all the spiritual blessings we receive? (Ephesians 1:3).
3. Can one have spiritual blessings outside of Jesus? Why or why not?
4. How does one get into Christ or put on Christ? (Galatians 3:26-27).
5. The descendants of Abraham were born into God's "favored nation" of Israel. That is, when they were born as babies they were automatically a part of the nation of Israel. We do not automatically become Christians (God's family today) when we are born of our parents. How are we "born again" to become a child in God family today? (John 3:1-7 and Romans 6:1-6).
6. Would God have blessed Abram if he had not gone to the land of Canaan, but had instead told God he thought it would be better for him to go to Egypt?
7. Would you be willing to leave your home and family to serve God?
8. Abram's father worshiped idols. How do you think Abram knew about God and had so much faith in Him?