

## **The Promise To Abraham**

"Now the Lord had said to Abram: Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 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 12:1-3). God's covenant with Abraham was a promise that through his seed all nations would be blessed. God repeats His promise in Genesis 18:18, "Since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of earth shall be blessed in Him?" when Abraham interceded for Sodom.

Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, we see God fulfilling His promise as we read the stories of Isaac, Jacob, the 12 tribes, the bondage in Egypt, Moses, the 40-year wandering in the wilderness, and Joshua conquering the land. We read of the nation being united during the time of Saul, then David, then Solomon. The nation will then split into two very different kingdoms, north and south. The northern kingdom was unfaithful from its first king (Jeroboam) and never recovered. Judah wavered, sometimes faithful but often following in the footsteps of Israel to the north.

God had warned the people when He gave them the covenant under Moses that if they were unfaithful He would destroy them (Exodus 23:20-33, 32:11-14). He had given a vivid sample of this during the period of the Judges as He brought nation after nation against them to discipline and rebuke them. God's purpose for such was that they would repent and be faithful (Isaiah 9:13, Hosea 7:10).

Considering the covenant promise God made with Abraham and the history displayed in the Old Testament about it helps us understand the words of Micah as he closes out his book. Time after time God had shown His mercy to His people. After being punished and rebuked for their disobedience, the Prophet Micah is required to warn the nation (now divided) yet again (Micah 7:18-20). This warning will come with dire consequences, as God will allow Assyria to destroy the northern kingdom.

While the nation as a nation would be forever gone, God had promised to redeem and reclaim a remnant of the people. God will once again show His mercy and compassion, this time by sending the seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ. Through Abraham's seed, Jesus, God will make it so that sin can be forever taken away.

Even though His people, His nation had not been faithful, God was and is faithful, allowing the promise made to Abraham to be fulfilled.

Matthew records, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1). Jesus came to fulfill God's promise to Abraham. Paul declares that if we are willing to walk in the steps of Abraham (Romans 4:12) we can be partakers in God's promise. Paul will continue this thought writing to the Christian's in Galatia, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ... And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:26-29). Let us each purpose to appreciate how blessed we are to be heirs of God's promise.