

## GENESIS 12:2-3 GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAM!

6/24/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente

### THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE Thomas Oliver - ben Judah/Yigdal (Leoni) #30 (0, -2)

1. *The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above; Ancient of everlasting days And God of love. Jehovah, great I Am! By earth and heaven confessed; I bow and bless the sacred name, Forever blest.*
2. *He by Himself has sworn; I on His oath depend. I shall, on eagle wings up borne, To heaven ascend. I shall behold His face; I shall His power adore And sing the wonders of His grace Forever more.*
3. *The God who reigns on high, The great archangels sing, And "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King! Who was and is the same. And evermore shall be: Jehovah, Father, Great I Am! We worship Thee!"*
4. *The whole triumphant host, Give thanks to God on high. "Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry. Hail, Abraham's God and mine! I join the heavenly lays: All might and majesty are Thine, And endless praise!*

### Biblical Background:

The Covenant (*Gen\_12:1-3*) - God had called Abraham in Ur of the Chaldees (*Acts\_7:2-4*), but he had lingered at Haran until the death of his father (*Gen\_11:27-32*). God demands total separation to Himself, even if death must accomplish it. This call was completely of grace and the blessings of the covenant wholly from the Lord's goodness. **God promised to give Abraham (1) a land; (2) a great name; (3) a great nation; and (4) a blessing that would spread to the whole world.** It took a good deal of faith for Abraham to respond to these promises for he had no children, and he and his wife were getting old (*Gen\_11:30*). Note the repeated "I will" (5 times!) from the lips of God. God would do it all if only Abraham would believe. **Certainly God has fulfilled His promises;** for Israel has her land (and will get more); the Jews have blessed all nations by giving us the Bible and Christ; and Abraham's name is revered by Jews, Moslems, Christians, and even unbelievers. The men of Babel wanted to make a name for themselves and failed (*Gen\_11:4*); but **Abraham trusted God and God gave him a great name!**

### GENESIS 12:2-3 "I will make you a great nation;

God promised to make a **nation** from Abram. He will have enough children and grandchildren and further descendants to populate a nation. Has God made good on His promises to Abraham? God has certainly brought from him a great nation, and it has probably the longest tenure as a nation of any people on this earth. **No one can quite match them.** In a literal sense, as the people of the Jews were that descended from him, and **in a spiritual sense believers in all ages and of all nations, that walk in the steps of the faith of Abram, who are his children, and are blessed** with him:

### I will bless you

Not only with temporal blessings, but **principally with spiritual ones**, since Abram in person had no share of the land of Canaan; even with the adoption of children and friendship with God; **with justification by the imputed righteousness of Christ**, which blessedness came upon him when uncircumcised; **with a large measure of faith, and every other grace; with the sanctification of the Spirit**, and an increase of it **until brought to perfection; and with eternal glory and happiness, a right, title, and the full possession** of it:

### And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

God promised to bless Abram and to make his name great. There is probably **no more honored name in history** than the name of Abram, who is **honored by Jews, Muslims, and Christians**. As it was among the Jews his descendants, who boasted of having Abram for their father; and among the several nations of the world; his name is famous in profane history, and is in high esteem with the Muslims to this day; and especially his name is great and famous, and the memory of him precious among all those who have obtained like precious faith with him, in every age and in every nation:

Has Abraham been a blessing to all mankind? Yes, **through the Lord Jesus Christ he has been a blessing to the whole world. Also the entire Word of God has come to us through Abraham.** To all that knew him and conversed with him, they received spiritual light and knowledge by means of his instruction, and **to all that should hear and read of his faith and piety**, being encouraged by his example, that is, most blessed, exceedingly blessed; so a good man may be called blessing itself, extremely happy.

### [3] I will bless those who bless you,

Not the priests only that should bless his children, the children of Israel, but **all men of all nations**, and of every age, that speak well of him, commend him for his faith and holiness, and tread in his steps, these are blessed with faithful

Abraham, Gal 3:7 ***“Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.”***

### ***And I will curse him who curses you;***

This remains true today and is **a significant reason for the decline and death** of many empires.

- When the Greeks overran Palestine and desecrated the altar in the Jewish temple, they were **soon conquered by Rome**. When Rome killed Paul and many others, and destroyed Jerusalem under Titus, **Rome soon fell**. **Spain was reduced** to a fifth-rate nation after the Inquisition against the Jews; **Poland fell** after the pogroms; Hitler’s **Germany went down** after its total excesses of anti-Semitism; **Britain lost her empire** when she broke her faith with Israel.
- This is also **one reason why the United States has been so blessed**. The United States was **one of the first modern nations to grant full citizenship and protection to Jewish people**.
- This promise has also affected the church. The times **when the church took upon itself the persecution** of the Jewish people **were dark times** not only for the Jews, but also for the church.

### ***And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”***

Not only was Abram promised blessing, but **God also promised to make him a blessing**, even to the point where **all the families of the earth** would be blessed in Abram.

- *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. (Gal 3:8-9)*
- *And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Rev 5:9). The work of Jesus will touch every people group on the earth.*
- Luther said the promise that **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed** should be written in golden letters and should be extolled in the languages of all people, for who else has dispensed this blessing among all nations except the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ?”
- In his seed, as in Gen 22:18 ***“In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”***
- and which is interpreted of Christ, Acts 3:25 ***“You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’***
- meaning not every individual of all the families or nations of the earth; but that **as many as believe in Christ, of all nations, are blessed in him; and that whoever of them are blessed, they are blessed and only blessed in him, and that they are blessed for his sake with all spiritual blessings; Eph 1:3** ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”***
- such as redemption, justification, remission of sins, sanctification, adoption, and eternal life.

### **SUMMARY – GOD PROMISES TO ABRAM:**

- **Note the repeated “I will” from the lips of God. God would do it all if only Abraham would believe.**
- **I will ... show you a land!**
- **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 that bless you!**
- **I will curse him who curses you!**
- **In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed**, foreseeing that **God would justify the Gentiles by faith**, preached the gospel to Abraham!

**Pray Today For:** Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. The Cabinet and all advisors. Appointee - Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

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