



The Covenant with Abraham

Why Abraham?

Genesis 14:17-20

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; **now he was a priest of God Most High**. He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.

Genesis 15:6

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Then **he believed** in the LORD; and He **reckoned it to him as righteousness.**

Hebrews 11:13

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Hebrews 11:8-10

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. **By faith** he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Romans 4:1-3

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say?

"ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Jubilees 15:23

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And **Abraham did according as God had said unto him**, and he took Ishmael his son, and all that were born in his house, and whom he had bought with his money, every male in his house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin.

Jubilees 24:11

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, **because thy father obeyed My voice, and kept My charge and My commandments, and My laws, and My ordinances, and My covenant;** and now obey My voice and dwell in this land.'

A Promise of Descendants

Genesis 15:1-7

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; (Continued...)"

but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "**So shall your descendants be.**" Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it."

Genesis 17:1-8

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And **I will multiply you exceedingly**." Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, **And you will be the father of a multitude of nations**. "No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham;
(Continued...)

For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you. "I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and **to your descendants after you.** (Continued...)

A PROMISE OF DESCENDANTS

"I will give to you and to **your descendants after you,**
the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for
an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Genesis 17:19-22

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and **I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.** "As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. (Continued...)

"But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year." When He finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

Genesis 22:15-19

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, **and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand** which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. (Continued...)

"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba.

Jubilees 14:1-7

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

After these things, in the fourth year of this week, on the new moon of the third month, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a dream, saying: 'Fear not, Abram; I am thy defender, and thy reward will be exceeding great.' And he said: 'Lord, Lord, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go hence childless, and the son of Maseq, the son of my handmaid, is the Dammasek Eliezer: he will be my heir, and to me thou hast given no seed.' And he said unto him: (Continued...)

'This (man) will not be thy heir, but one that will come out of thine own bowels; he will be thine heir.' And He brought him forth abroad, and said unto him: '**Look toward heaven and number the stars if thou art able to number them.**' And he looked toward heaven, and beheld the stars. And He said unto him: '**So shall thy seed be.**' And he believed in the Lord, and it was counted to him for righteousness. And He said unto him: (Continued...)

'I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee the land of the Canaanites to possess it for ever; and I will be God unto thee and to thy seed after thee.'

Jubilees 12:22

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And he made an end of speaking and praying, and behold the word of the Lord was sent to him through me, saying: 'Get thee up from thy country, and from thy kindred and from the house of thy father unto a land which I will show thee, and I shall make thee **a great and numerous nation.**

Jubilees 14:5

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And he looked toward heaven, and beheld the stars.
And He said unto him: '**So shall thy seed be.**'

Jubilees 24:10

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

For to thee and to thy seed will I give all this land, and I will establish My oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father, and I will **multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed** all this land.

Jubilees 25:16

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And may He make thy sons many during thy life, And may they arise according to the number of the months of the year. **And may their sons become many and great beyond the stars of heaven, And their numbers be more than the sand of the sea.**

A Promise of Land

Assumption of Moses 2:1-2

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And now they will go by means of thee **into the land which He determined and promised to give to their fathers**, In the which thou shalt bless and give to them individually and confirm unto them their **inheritance** in me and establish for them **the kingdom**, and thou shalt appoint them prefectures according to the good pleasure of their Lord in judgment and righteousness.

Genesis 12:1-9

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, **To the land which I will show you**; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. (Continued...)

Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. **Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem**, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land.
(Continued...)

The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "**To your descendants I will give this land.**" So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.

Genesis 13:14-18

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; **for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.** "I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; (Continued...)

for I will give it to you." Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Genesis 15:7

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, **to give you this land to possess it.**"

Genesis 17:8

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

"I will give to you and to your descendants after you,
the land of your sojournings, **all the land of Canaan,**
for an everlasting possession; and I will be their
God."

Hebrews 11:9-10

(ASV, American Standard Version)

By faith he became a sojourner **in the land of promise**,
as in a land not his own, dwelling in tents, with Isaac
and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: for
he looked for the city which hath the foundations,
whose builder and maker is God.

James 2:5

(ASV, American Standard Version)

Hearken, my beloved brethren; did not God choose them that are poor as to the world to be rich in faith, and **heirs of the kingdom which he promised** to them that love him?

Colossians 3:24

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

knowing that from the Lord **you will receive the reward of the inheritance**. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Hebrews 11:13-19

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

(Continued...)

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God;
for **He has prepared a city for them**. By faith
Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and
he who had received the promises was offering up
his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said,
"IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED."
He considered that God is able to raise people even
from the dead, from which he also received him back as
a type.

Jubilees 13:20

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

For all the land which thou seest I will give to thee
and to thy seed for ever, and I will make thy seed as the
sand of the sea: though a man may number the dust of
the earth, yet thy seed shall not be numbered.

Jubilees 13:3

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And the Lord said to him: 'To thee and to thy seed will I
give this land.'

Jubilees 14:7

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And He said unto him: 'I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, **to give thee the land of the Canaanites to possess it for ever**; and I will be God unto thee and to thy seed after thee.'

Jubilees 22:27-29

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And he blessed him with all his heart and said: 'The Most High God, the God of all, and Creator of all, who brought me forth from Ur of the Chaldees that **he might give me this land to inherit it for ever**, and that I might establish a holy seed-blessed be the Most High for ever.' And he blessed Jacob and said: 'My son, over whom with all my heart and my affection I rejoice, may Thy grace and Thy mercy be lift up upon him and upon his seed alway. (Continued...)

And do not forsake him, nor set him at nought from henceforth unto the days of eternity, and may Thine eyes be opened upon him and upon his seed, that Thou mayst preserve him, and bless him, and mayest sanctify him as a nation for Thine inheritance;

A Promise of Eternal Life in that Land

The "Reward"

First Corinthians 3:8

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Now he who plants and he who waters are one; **but each will receive his own reward** according to his own labor.

Mark 9:41

(ASV, American Standard Version)

For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink,
because ye are Christ's, verily I say unto you, he shall in
no wise lose **his reward**.

Psalm 62:12

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

And lovingkindness is Yours, O Lord, **For You
recompense a man according to his work.**

Revelation 22:12

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, **to render to every man according to what he has done.**

Hebrews 11:26

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than
the treasures of Egypt; for **he was looking to the
reward.**

Colossians 1:12

(ASV, American Standard Version)

giving thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be
partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light;

First John 2:25

(ASV, American Standard Version)

And this is **the promise** which he promised us, even
the **life eternal**.

Hebrews 9:15

(ASV, American Standard Version)

And for this cause he is the mediator of a new covenant, that a death having taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they that have been called may **receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.**

James 1:12

(ASV, American Standard Version)

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, **he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord promised** to them that love him.

Revelation 21:7

(ASV, American Standard Version)

He that overcometh shall inherit these things; and I
will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Second Peter 1:3-4

(ASV, American Standard Version)

seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue; whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and **exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Luke 24:49

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

"And behold, I am sending forth **the promise of My Father** upon you; but you are to stay in the city until **you are clothed with power from on high.**"

The Requirements of the Promise

Faith

Genesis 15:6

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Then **he believed** in the LORD; and He **reckoned it to him as righteousness.**

Romans 4:1-3

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say?

"ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Circumcision

Acts 7:8

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

"And He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

Genesis 17:9-14

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

God said further to Abraham, "**Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant**, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. "**This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.**" And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.

(Continued...)

"And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. "A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; **thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.** (Continued...)

"But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

Romans 4:11

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,

The Genesis 15 Covenant Meal

The account varies by translation

The account varies by translation

Genesis 15:10

(KJV, King James Version)

And he took unto him all these, **and divided them in the midst**, and laid each piece one against another:
but the birds divided he not.

The account varies by translation

Genesis 15:10

(LXX, Brenton's Septuagint)

So he took to him all these, and **divided them in the midst**, and set them opposite to each other, **but the birds he did not divide.**

The account varies by translation

Genesis 15:10

(ABPE, Aramaic Bible in Plain English)

And he took to him all of these and **divided them equally** and laid the members against its counterpart and he **did not divide the birds.**

The account varies by translation

Genesis 15:10

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Then he brought all these to Him and **cut them in two,**
and laid each half opposite the other; **but he did not**
cut the birds.

The account varies by translation

Genesis 15:10

(NIV, New International Version)

Abram brought all these to him, **cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other**; the birds, however, he **did not cut in half**.

Instructions for a Burnt Offering

Leviticus 1:10-13

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

But if his offering is from the flock, of the sheep or of the goats, for a burnt offering, he shall offer it a male without defect. He shall slay it on the side of the altar northward before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle its blood around on the altar. **He shall then cut it into its pieces with its head and its suet, and the priest shall arrange them on the wood which is on the fire that is on the altar.** (Continued...)

The entrails, however, and the legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall offer all of it, and offer it up in smoke on the altar; it is a burnt offering, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

Leviticus 1:14-17

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

But **if his offering to the LORD is a burnt offering of birds, then he shall bring his offering from the turtledoves or from young pigeons.** The priest shall bring it to the altar, and wring off its head **and offer it up in smoke on the altar;** and its blood is to be drained out on the side of the altar. He shall also take away its crop with its feathers and cast it beside the altar eastward, to the place of the ashes. Then he shall tear it by its wings, **but shall not sever it.** (Continued...)

And the priest shall offer it up in smoke on the altar on the wood which is on the fire; it is a burnt offering, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

The Smoke & Fire

Jubilees 14:17-20

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And he awoke from his sleep, and he arose, and the sun had set; **and there was a flame, and behold ! a furnace was smoking, and a flame of fire passed between the pieces.** And on that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: (Continued...)

'To thy seed will I give this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates, the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Perizzites, and the Rephaim, the Phakorites, and the Hivites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites. And the day passed, and Abram offered the pieces, and the birds, and their fruit offerings, and their drink offerings, and the fire devoured them.

(Continued...)

And on that day we made a covenant with Abram,
according as we had covenanted with Noah in this
month; and Abram renewed the festival and ordinance
for himself for ever.

Genesis 15:17-21

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared **a smoking oven and a flaming torch** which passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: (Continued...)

the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite and the
Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim and the
Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the
Jebusite."

Genesis 15:8-16

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

He said, "O Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?" So He said to him, "**Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.**" Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; **but he did not cut the birds.** The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; (Continued...)

and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him.

God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. "As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age.

(Continued...)

"Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."

Testament of Abraham [1Q20, Column 21] 1:1

(RHCVKJ, R.H. Charles Translation, Edited by Ken Johnson, Th.D.)

I stopped at each of my former encampments until I arrived at Bethel, **the place where I had built the altar**. I then rebuilt it and offered up burnt offering in a meal offering to the Most High God. **There I called on the name of the Lord of the Ages.**

YHWH remembers the Covenant

Deuteronomy 1:8

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

See, **I have placed the land before you**; go in and **possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham**, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and their descendants after them.'

Exodus 2:24

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

So God heard their groaning; and **God remembered His covenant with Abraham**, Isaac, and Jacob.

First Chronicles 16:14-18

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. **Remember His covenant forever**, The word which He commanded to a thousand generations, **The covenant which He made with Abraham**, And His oath to Isaac. He also confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant, Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan, As the portion of your inheritance."

Leviticus 26:42

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and **My covenant with Abraham** as well, and I will remember the land.

Psalm 105:1-15

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders. Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad. Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually. Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth, O seed of Abraham, His servant, O sons of Jacob, His chosen ones! He is the LORD our God;
(Continued...)

His judgments are in all the earth. **He has remembered His covenant forever**, The word which He commanded to a thousand generations, The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac. Then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant, Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan As the portion of your inheritance," When they were only a few men in number, Very few, and strangers in it. (Continued...)

And they wandered about from nation to nation, From
one kingdom to another people. He permitted no man
to oppress them, And He reproved kings for their
sakes: "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My
prophets no harm."

Psalms 105:42-45

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

For He remembered His holy word With Abraham His servant; And He brought forth His people with joy, His chosen ones with a joyful shout. He gave them also the lands of the nations, That they might take possession of the fruit of the peoples' labor, So that they might keep His statutes And observe His laws, Praise the LORD!

Heirs of Abraham

Acts 2:39

(ASV, American Standard Version)

For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him.

Ephesians 2:11-13

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands-- remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers **to the covenants of promise**, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 3:4-6

(ASV, American Standard Version)

whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ; which in other generations was not made known unto the sons of men, as it hath now been revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to wit, **that the Gentiles are fellow-heirs**, and fellow-members of the body, and fellow-partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

Galatians 3:1-29

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain? (Continued...)

So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. **Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.** The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU. (Continued...)

" So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM." Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM. (Continued...)"

" Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us--for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"-- in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. (Continued...)

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. (Continued...)

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one. Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. (Continued...)

But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Continued...)

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 4:4-7

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, **that we might receive the adoption as sons**. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then **an heir through God**.

Romans 4:13-25

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

For **the promise** to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be **heir** of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the Law are **heirs**, faith is made void and **the promise** is nullified; for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

(Continued...)

For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that **the promise** will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, (as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. (Continued...)

In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; (Continued...)

yet, with respect to the **e promise o**f God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.
(Continued...)

Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

Romans 9:4-8

(ASV, American Standard Version)

who are Israelites; whose is the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; whose are the fathers, and of whom is Christ as concerning the flesh, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. But it is not as though the word of God hath come to nought. For they are not all Israel, that are of Israel: neither, because they are Abraham's seed, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. (Continued...)

That is, it is not the children of the flesh that are children of God; **but the children of the promise are reckoned for a seed.**

Galatians 3:7

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Therefore, be sure that it is **those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.**

Romans 8:17

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

and if children, **heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,** if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be **glorified** with Him.

Was the promise fulfilled?

Sarah did have a child

Genesis 21:1-5

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, **and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised.** So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which **God** had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac. Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as **God** had commanded him. Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Hebrews 6:11-15

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." And so, having patiently waited, **he obtained the promise.**

Sarah did have a child

Romans 9:6-9

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED." That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, **but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."**

Sarah did have a child

Hebrews 11:33

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, **obtained promises**, shut the mouths of lions,

They did receive a land for a time

They did receive a land for a time

Acts 7:17

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

"But as the time of the promise was approaching which God had assured to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt,

They did receive a land for a time

Deuteronomy 34:4

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Then the LORD said to him, "**This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'**"; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there."

They did receive a land for a time

Exodus 3:8

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

"So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land **to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey**, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

They did receive a land for a time

Hebrews 11:9-19

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

By faith he lived as an alien **in the land of promise**, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, **fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God**. By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered **Him faithful who had promised**. (Continued...)

They did receive a land for a time

Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE. All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.
(Continued...)

They did receive a land for a time

And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 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 a city for them. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;
(Continued...)

They did receive a land for a time

it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR
DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." He considered
that God is able to raise people even from the dead,
from which he also received him back as a type.

We are still looking for a Heavenly
Kingdom

We are still looking for a Heavenly Kingdom

Acts 2:37-40

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **"For the promise is for you and your children** and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.

(Continued...)

We are still looking for a Heavenly Kingdom

" And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

We are still waiting for our
spiritual (glorified) bodies

We are still waiting for our spiritual (glorified) bodies

Hebrews 10:35-39

(ASV, American Standard Version)

Cast not away therefore your boldness, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, having done the will of God, **ye may receive the promise**. For yet a very little while, He that cometh shall come, and shall not tarry. But my righteous one shall live by faith: And if he shrink back, my soul hath no pleasure in him. But we are not of them that shrink back unto perdition; but **of them that have faith unto the saving of the soul**.

We are still waiting for our spiritual (glorified) bodies

Hebrews 11:39-40

(ASV, American Standard Version)

And these all, having had witness borne to them through their faith, **received not the promise**, God having provided some better thing concerning us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

We are still waiting for our spiritual (glorified) bodies

Hebrews 6:17-20

(NASB, New American Standard Bible)

In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the **heirs of the promise** the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.
(Continued...)

We are still waiting for our spiritual (glorified) bodies

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has **entered as a forerunner for us,** having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

We are still waiting for our spiritual (glorified) bodies

Jubilees 48:8

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And **the Lord did everything for Israel's sake, and according to His covenant, which he had ordained with Abraham** that He would take vengeance on them as they had brought them by force into bondage.

We are still waiting for our spiritual (glorified) bodies

Shepherd of Hermas 3:4

(JBLT, J. B. Lightfoot Translation)

"Behold, the God of Hosts, Who by His invisible and mighty power and by His great wisdom created the world, and by His glorious purpose clothed His creation with comeliness, and by His strong word fixed the heaven, and founded the earth upon the waters, and by His own wisdom and providence formed His holy Church, which also He blessed-behold, He removeth the heavens and the mountains and the hills and the seas, and all things are made level for His elect, that He may fulfill (Continued...)

We are still waiting for our spiritual (glorified) bodies

to them the promise which He promised with great glory and rejoicing, if so be that they shall keep the ordinances of God, which they received, with great faith."

We are still waiting for our spiritual (glorified) bodies

Shepherd of Hermas 6:5-6

(JBLT, J. B. Lightfoot Translation)

For the Master sware by His own glory, as concerning His elect; that if, now that this day has been set as a limit, sin shall hereafter be committed, they shall not find salvation; for repentance for the righteous hath an end; the days of repentance are accomplished for all the saints; whereas for the Gentiles there is repentance until the last day. (Continued...)

We are still waiting for our spiritual (glorified) bodies

Thou shalt therefore say unto the elders of the Church,
that they direct their paths in righteousness, **that they**
may receive in full the promises with abundant glory.

How the people of Israel obtained
"the Law"

Jubilees 1:25

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And **do thou write down for thyself all these words which I declare unto thee on this mountain**, the first and the last, **which shall come to pass in all the divisions of the days in the law** and in the testimony and in the weeks and the jubilees unto eternity, until I descend and dwell with them throughout eternity.'

Jubilees 1:5

(RHCV, R.H. Charles Version)

And He said: '**Incline thine heart to every word which I shall speak to thee on this mount, and write them in a book** in order that their generations may see how I have not forsaken them for all the evil which they have wrought in transgressing the covenant which I establish between Me and thee for their generations this day on Mount Sinai.