

“THROUGH THE BIBLE”
Union Chapel M. B. Church
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GENESIS
OUTLINE 10
August 17, 2022

“God’s Promises to Abraham,” Genesis 12:2-3

“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: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 12:2-3 KJV).

God promised Abraham greatness, fruitfulness, and good relationships, by which meant he and his family would bless the whole world, and in due course be blessed themselves beyond imagining (Genesis 22:17).

Unlike others, Abraham realized that an attempt to fully embrace such promises on his own power would be futile, or worse. Instead, he trusted God and depended every day on God's guidance and provision (Genesis 22:8-14).

I. Greatness versus Fame

“...and make thy name great...”

What’s the difference between greatness and fame? Let’s talk about that...

II. For Abraham God’s promise was more important than the fulfillment

Although these promises were not fully realized by the end of Genesis, they initiated the covenant between God and the people of God through which the redemption of the world will come to completion in the day of Christ (Philippians 1:10).

III. When God blesses you He intends to bless your family and others as well.

God promised to bless Abraham’s family, and the nations that received Him, but curse the nations that rejected Him.

“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: and I will bless that that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 12:2-3 KJV)

IV. Realizing the promises of God requires work, action, participation, and co-laboring with God.

“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” (II Thessalonians 3:10)

Making use of land requires many kinds of work, so a gift of land reiterates that work is an essential sphere of God’s concern.

Working the land would require occupational skills of shepherding, tent-making, military protection, and the production of a wide array of goods and services.

Moreover, Abraham’s descendants would become a populous nation whose members would be as innumerable as the stars in the sky.

This would require the work of developing personal relationships, parenting, politics, diplomacy and administration, education, the healing arts, and other social occupations.

To bring such blessings to all the earth, God called Abraham and his descendants to “walk before me, and be blameless” (Genesis 17:1).

This required the work of worship, atonement, discipleship, and other religious occupations.

In conclusion, Joseph’s work was to create a solution responding to the impact of the famine, and sometimes our work is to heal brokenness. All these types of work, and the workers who engage in them, come under God’s authority, guidance, and provision.

Research Question: What are the meanings of the names Abram and Abraham?

Next Week: We’ll examine Abraham and Lot’s relationship.