



THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS – Genesis 12-15, Message 38

It seems that promises do _____ have much meaning these days; i.e. wedding vows violated, broken business contracts, bounced checks, corporate fraud and deceit, bankruptcy, poor credit reports, delinquent loan payments, crooked politicians, lies, scams, and dirty deals. All are running rampant. A simple handshake has even _____ its meaning in our culture. “*I promise*” is just another cliché.

While we may not be able to count on the word of others, one thing is for sure; we can count on the _____ of _____. About 4,000 years ago God made a series of promises to a man named Abraham. Today in 2009 we are able to read the newspapers and watch the news broadcasts as they unwittingly proclaim the truth of those past promises and _____ to the world that the Bible is true and that our God is a great God who can be trusted to keep what he promised to his people.

ABRAHAM – GOD’S PROMISES TO HIM AND HIS LINEAGE

1. The Abrahamic covenant – Genesis 12:1-3; 13:4-17; 15:8-18

- The terms are _____ conditional
 - This covenant is _____ based upon any conditions. Its strength is in the Word of God who is the benefactor of the covenant. The promises are not founded upon any act or deed that must be accomplished by Abraham or his lineage. In this case, the covenant is _____ solely upon the benevolence of God.
- The pact is with Abraham and his descendants
 - The blessings of this covenant _____ with Abraham and are handed off to Isaac (*not Ishmael – Genesis 17:19*), then passed on to Jacob (*Genesis 27:29*), carrying through his sons and their generations (*Numbers 26:53-56*), and ultimately to our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. History bears witness to the _____ of the Jewish race and nation.

2. The course of the covenant

- The promises are _____ – Genesis 12:1-3
 - The sevenfold nature of God’s promise
 - 1) *I will make of thee a great _____*
 - 2) *I will bless thee*
 - 3) *I will make thy _____ great*
 - 4) *Thou shalt be a blessing*

- 5) *I will _____ them that bless thee*
- 6) *I will _____ them that curseth thee*
- 7) *In thee shall _____ the families of the earth be blessed*

- The promises are _____ – Genesis 13:14-17

- The two-fold nature of the confirmation:

- 1) *God promises a land – Genesis 17:8; I Chron. 16:18; 2 Samuel 7:10; Ps. 105:6-11*
- 2) *God promises a people – 2 Chron. 9:8; Isaiah 66:22; Jeremiah 31:35-36*

- The promises are perfected – Genesis 15:8-18

- Abraham's _____ – verse 8

- God's answer – verses 9-17

The promises are now official – sealed with _____

The promises are accompanied by a seven-fold prophecy:

- 1) *Abraham's descendants will be strangers in a foreign land*
- 2) *They will be servants in that land*
- 3) *Their servitude will last 400 years*
- 4) *God will judge the nation that enslaved them*
- 5) *Abraham will be spared the experience*
- 6) *Abraham's descendants will be released from captivity to return to the land*
- 7) *When they depart, they will leave with great substance*

- A blood covenant – verses 18-21

*The Promised Land occupies the same basic area as the _____ of _____.
Modern day Israel is at least 1/10 the size of God's original promise.*