

Genesis 12:1-4 – Lesson 22

The Promise to Abram

1. 11:10-32 - Shem to Abram

- a. This chronology of Shem links the Messiah and Jacob to Adam and Noah
- b. This chronology also shows the diminishing of ages to the present span
- c. Sarai was barren, the first of 7 women who were recipients of God's blessing
- d. Abram's kindred served other gods, God took Abram - Joshua 24:2,14; Deu 26:5
- e. Abraham and Sarah become examples for Israel – Isa 51:2, Isa 54:1
- f. 11:31 - God brought them out of Ur – Gen 15:7, Acts 7:2-5

2. 12:1

- a. God starts to separate a people for his purpose – by giving one man a promise.
- b. God is changing the way he operates with humanity – a new dispensation.
 - i. When God promises, he does not lie. He obligates himself – Heb 6:13
- c. “*I will shew thee*” - Abraham did not know where he was going – Heb 11:8

3. 12:2-4

- a. There are many parts to the promises, but are summed up in: land, seed, blessing
- b. The other covenants given to Israel have their origin in these promises to Abram
- c. 1) “*a great nation*” – multiplied seed, authority, power... leads to a kingdom
- d. 2) “*I will bless thee*” – Abram has a special blessing– “his friend” – Isa 41:8, Jam 2:23
- e. 3) “*make thy name great*” – not just popular, but known as a great man – Rom 4:16-18
- f. 4) “*shalt be a blessing*” – The channel of God's blessing – Mal 3:12, Ps 72:17
- g. 5) “*bless them... and curse them*” – Fulfilled in Abraham's family and nation
- h. 6) “*shall all families be blessed*” - God foresaw the gospel to all in Christ- Gal 3:8
- i. A child of Abraham has access to blessing, is faithful, is God's people.
 - i. Jesus ministered these promises to Israel – Rom 15:8, John 8:35-41
 - ii. Jesus was before Abraham – John 8:56-58

4. The Dispensation of God's Promise

- a. This promise was unconditional and given freely to Abraham by God's election
- b. Man's responsibility was to respond to God through his promises.
- c. The law cannot nullify the promise - Gal 3:16-18
 - i. God still has respect toward Israel and his promises – Rom 11:25-29
- d. Today, Israel is fallen, and salvation is sent to the Gentiles – Acts 28:28
 - i. There is neither Jew nor Gentile – Gal 3:28, only in Christ or not – 3:29