



## THE GREAT PROMISE OF BLESSING



### In this chapter you will ...

- (1) Understand the significance of the promise made to Abraham.
- (2) Recognize the foreshadowing of a father sacrificing his son.
- (3) Observe the chain of flawed men in the “seed-line”.
- (4) Identify the missionary nature of God’s promise.

### Genesis 12:1-3 - The Text the Rest of the Bible Explains



Abraham was not picked by God for his beauty, wisdom, or strength. There was nothing in him that made him admirable. In fact, he was an idolater and God chose him. He told him to leave his country and go to a land that God would show him. By faith Abraham went. Why? Because of the massive promises God made to him. Promises that went far beyond himself and his own family, to all the nations in the world. Promises that would be unfolded in the rest of the story. Promises that will take the rest of the Bible ... and human history to fully realize. Great promises of a future blessing to all the world that would come through father Abraham. That blessing propels every missionary endeavor throughout history. That all the nations might know Jesus, the seed of Abraham ... and the blessing of salvation He alone brings.



### God, Our Missionary God

Many Bible scholars have suggested that these words begin the real story of the Bible. That’s not to say there is no Genesis 1-11, but that they are the prologue setting the stage for this great promise. The rescue and recovery project of Paradise Lost is now underway. God intends to make a great nation out of Abraham (the Jews), and through that family (nation), all the nations would be blessed (in Jesus, the Jew, of the seed of Abraham). This is the basis for missions, and our God is the great missionary God!

### A Sacrificial Son -



Abraham was a man of faith, and his faith pleased God and it was counted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6). Abraham was made righteous the same way anyone is made righteous before God ... by faith and not by works. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). And by faith, Abraham obediently offered up his son to God as he was told to do. He believed the promise God had made to make a great nation out of his family, and believed that God could raise Isaac back from the dead to fulfill that promise. Instead, God provided a substitute to take the place of Isaac, a ram caught in the bushes. Jesus is that lamb, caught in the bushes, offered by a loving Father for the sins of faithless people ... that we might live by faith like our father Abraham. Friends, your futile works are always futile - trust the sacrificial Son offered up for you!

### Story-Tellers Takeaways ...

- (1) The promises made to Abraham are made to you, for your family, and for your mission to the world.
- (2) Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, what Isaac couldn’t do Jesus did.
- (3) Every time we see a “good man” in Genesis we see a “flawed man” desperately in need of rescue.
- (4) God had a chosen people, but it was never His plan to limit that blessing to the Jews, but that *through* this family *all* the families of the earth would be blessed.

# My Notes:

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## **How to Read the Story ... the Big into the Small, and the Small into the Big ... all to Penetrate Our Hearts!**

*Feathers* - You must have an understanding of the epic narrative of God's story ... this is Biblical Theology that guides our reading of the story.

*Shaft* - You must approach each text of Scripture honestly and openly ... this is Exposition of Scripture that shapes our understanding of the story.

*Point* - You must have a soft heart to worship the author of the story ... this is Gospel Centeredness that changes life.

## For Discussion:

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- (1) Talk about the steps of faith God asked Abraham to take ... Genesis 12 & 22.
- (2) Discuss the idea of God as a missionary God. Talk about how He is on mission in the world.
- (3) How do we view the flawed Patriarchs of the Old Testament? What can we learn from them?
- (4) Interact with the concept of a substitutionary sacrifice, and the story of Isaac and the true Lamb of God.