

**20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning**  
**Week 35 (August 23-29, 2015)**

Based on today's news accounts, it seems that the world has no clue about the promises God has given to the Jewish people through Abraham. We will review some of His assurances in the next few weeks.

**Sunday, August 23** (read Genesis 12:1-3)

*I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2)*

God had spoken to Abram while he lived in the pagan country of Mesopotamia (v. 1; see also Acts 7:2). Terah, the father of Abram, started out with his son, his grandson, Lot, and his son's wife, Sarai to go to the land of **Canaan**, but the family **settled** in the land of Haran, far short of their destination (11:31). I point this out because our parents can never bring us all the way to the land God has promised. After we receive the clear call of God, we must leave our family and journey there alone. Our parents will always **settle** in a territory short of where God wants to lead us, because only our **Heavenly** Father can take us there. God gives Abram seven promises, which are still valid today. We will look at those in tomorrow's devotion.

**Monday, August 24** (reread Genesis 12:1-3)

*I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. (Genesis 12:3)*

God established the **Jewish** nation through **Abram** (his name was later changed to Abraham, meaning "father of many" in Genesis 17:5), fulfilling His first promise (v. 1). The Jews have been hated by the entire world throughout history, probably because they are God's chosen people. The 2<sup>nd</sup> promise is that God said He would bless Abram as well as the nation of Israel, even though the Jews persist in their unbelief and their rebellion against Him (v. 1). Thirdly, as the Father of the Jews, Abram's name has been associated with greatness, just as God promised. The 4<sup>th</sup> promise is that Abram, because of his tremendous faith, would be a blessing to all who study Scripture (v. 2). The United States is about to find out the hard way that God blesses those who bless Israel and curses those who curse her (v. 3), promises 5 and 6. The Lord's seventh promise is being fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the One who brings salvation to anyone of any nationality who receives Him as his/her Savior and Lord. Those seven promises are just as valid today as they were in Abram's day!

**Tuesday, August 25** (read Genesis 12:4-7)

*The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. (Genesis 12:7)*

The main characteristic of Abram is his instant obedience to the will of God; therefore, the Lord uses him in a mighty way. Even today, those who choose to obey the known will of God will be powerful instruments in the Savior's hand (see John 14:15). In today's text Abram, his wife Sarai, and his nephew Lot leave for the land of Canaan, taking along all their possessions (v. 4-6). The **forever** promise is, "To your offspring I will give this land" (v. 7). As you can see in v. 7, God speaks to His children on location **after** they have obeyed His previous command. Those who ignore the Lord's individual commands will not know the joy of His further presence. I hope you are willing to follow God wherever He leads. I also hope you can build your own altar to worship Him right where you are today.

**Wednesday**, August 26 (read Genesis 15:1-6)

*Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)*

Before we look at God's covenant with Abram on behalf of the Jews, I want you to see that **salvation by faith alone** is not a New Testament teaching only. From the start, man tries to reason out how, based on his current circumstances, God can fulfill His promises (v. 2-3). God reminds Abram that the One who created the entire universe with a word can certainly complete all His promises to His children (v. 4-5; see also Philippians 1:6). Can you trust the Lord to fulfill what His mouth has spoken? After **you** have observed the vastness of the universe as God told Abram to do, click onto "Praying God's Promises" on our website (2020visionministries.org) and be amazed at what the Lord wants to do in your life. Then claim Isaiah 26:3 and rejoice in the truth!

**Thursday**, August 27 (read Genesis 15:7-11)

*But Abram said, "O Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" (Genesis 15:8)*

God reminds Abram that He has brought him this far; thus, He can be trusted to bring him into the Promised Land (v. 7). Meditate on that! What do you have to worry about if God is in control of your life? Maybe you, like Abram, want assurance of the fact that He will complete what He has started (v. 8). You have something much better than the ancient ritual God uses to reassure his servant Abram (v. 9-11). You have the blood of Jesus shed on Calvary to pay the penalty for your sins! You have the assurance of Jesus who said, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19b). Can you trust Him to fulfill the promises of His Word?

**Friday**, August 28 (read Genesis 15:12-16)

*As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. (Genesis 15:12)*

Why did God put Abram into a deep sleep? Great question! He did it to show Abram that the fulfillment of His promises depends fully on Him (God) and not on his own works. Many people need to be reminded of the same truth today. All you need to do is to believe the Lord's promises! Jesus will become your righteousness by faith alone (1 Corinthians 1:30) and He will work in you from that point on. God prophesies about the Jews' enslavement in Egypt (v. 13) as well as His punishment of the Egyptians (v. 14). He then reminds all of us that He will determine the right time to judge the sins of the nations that oppose the Jews (v. 16). I believe the time is very close. Can you afford to ignore His call any longer?

**Saturday**, August 29 (read Genesis 15:17-19)

*On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates . . . (Genesis 15:18)*

At the present, you can see that the Jews are currently living on only a portion of the land promised to them. Strangely, the world (especially the United Nations) believes that if the Jews just surrender another piece of the land to the Muslims, that they will experience peace. The Lord will punish everyone who forces Israel to divide their land when He gathers all nations to fight against Jerusalem (see Joel 3:1-2). The "smoking firepot with a blazing torch" (v. 17) symbolizes the Lord's presence to fulfill His promises. Can you trust Him enough to reject the politically correct worldview of government and the United Nations? You don't want to find yourself on the wrong side of Biblical truth!