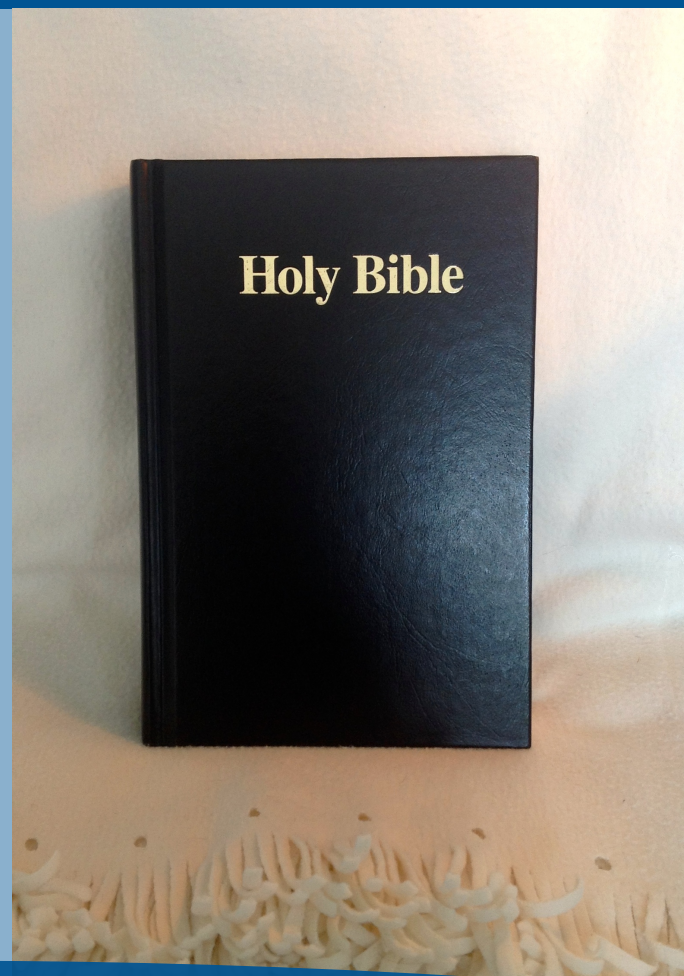


*Unlock the passages of the Bible for yourself*

# Learn to Read the Bible More Effectively

Exploring  
Geographical  
Context

The Ancient  
World & the  
Land of Promise



Page 1

Today we saw the benefit of Exploring Geographical context which lead us to the land of promise.

Jesus preached the 'good news' of eternal live in "the kingdom of God".

**Mark 1:14** Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the **gospel of the kingdom of God,**

But was this entirely 'New' or was it rooted in the Bible, (as they had it) at that time? (i.e.. The Old Testament scriptures)

Paul gives us the answer:

**Galatians 3:8** And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the **heathen** [Gentiles] through faith, preached before **the gospel** unto Abraham, saying, **In thee shall all nations be blessed.**

Paul instructs us here that the Gospel was preached to Abraham!

We looked at the Promises made to Abraham from which Paul quoted, namely:

**Genesis 12**

**1** Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

**2** 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:

**3** And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

Paul renders this "**In thee shall all nations be blessed.**"(Galatians 3:8 above)

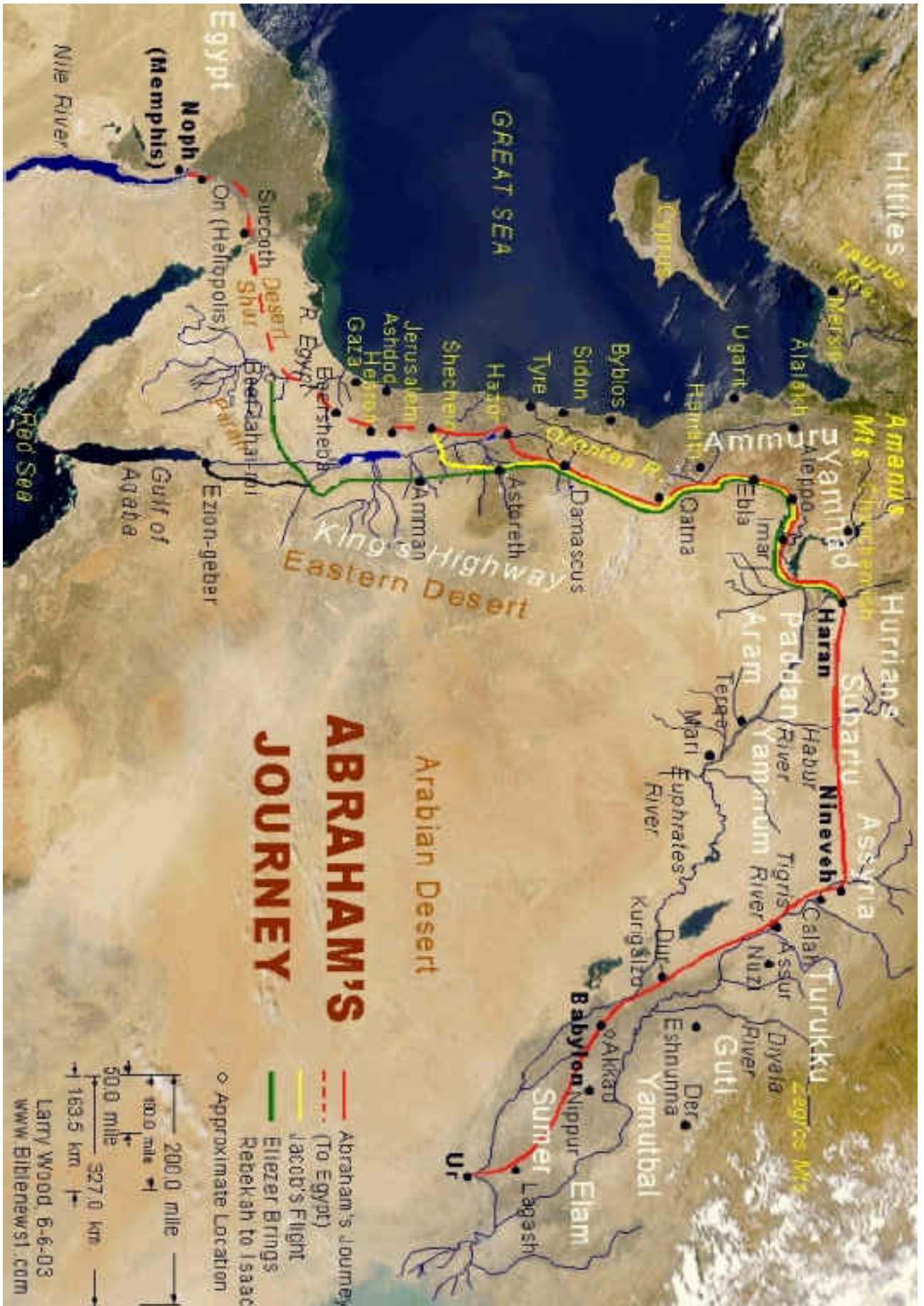
We see that, included in the promises to Abraham, is a promise that a way would be provided for Gentiles to be "**blessed**" with salvation "**in**" Abraham by sharing God's promised blessings (gospel) to Abraham (also known as Abram).

It goes on to tell us in the Genesis account, concerning the land of promise that:

**Genesis 12**

**5** And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; **and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.**

We took a look at the Geographical Context here to see how it could help us to understand things more fully.





The boundaries of the promised land are defined later in:-

**Genesis 15:18** In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

(You see these places marked on the map above)

Earlier it was emphasised to Abraham, that he and his "seed" would personally inherit this land of promise "for ever";bodily immortality being thus also implied.

**Genesis 13:**

14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

15 For all the land which thou seest, **to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.**



16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I **will give it unto thee.**



We saw that although it was promised that Abraham would father a great multitude, the promises themselves were personally to him and a particular seed or descendant- The Christ! As Paul explains:-

**Galatians 3:**

**16** Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And **to thy seed**, which is **Christ**.

Paul further explains how anyone from any nation can be blessed with salvation in Abraham and his promised descendant-Christ:

**Galatians 3:**

**6** Even as Abraham **believed** God, and it was **accounted to him for righteousness**.

**7** Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, **the same are the children of Abraham**.

**8** And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

**9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.**

**26** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

**27** For as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ.

**28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

**29** And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

This is the Gospel, that in Christ we can be counted fellow heirs of the promises made to Abraham, through the imputed righteousness of the same faith. as:

Paul also refers us to what we read in Genesis 15 as to why Abraham was so favoured. It was because, when given the "Gospel" promises "Abraham **believed** God, and it was **accounted to him for righteousness**."(Galatians 3 verse 6) as:-

**Genesis 15:**

**5** And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

**6** And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

**13** And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

**14** And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

**15** And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.

At this time, it was made clear to Abraham that he must wait till the day of the resurrection, before he would personally inherit the final fulfilment of the promises.

Yet after his death his descendants did become a great nation and a kingdom under David and Solomon, in the promised land, as here illustrated:



But by the time of Christ the kingdom had passed away and become just a Roman province. Yet Paul links the “Gospel of the Kingdom” (Mark 1:14 with which we began) which Jesus preached, with the promises to Abraham and his seed the Christ. Paul explains further in:

### **HEBREWS 11**

**8** By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he **should after receive for an inheritance**, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

**9** By faith he sojourned in **the land of promise**, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

**13** These all died in faith, **not having received the promises**, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

**39** And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

**40** God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

So the promise remains to be fulfilled, when Abraham and his seed the Christ, and all those in Christ, must “be made perfect” in bodily nature by resurrection, to inherit that land of promise, when God’s Kingdom shall come, and His will be done on earth. Then the Gospel preached to Abraham, and by Christ, shall be fulfilled. Jesus foretells of that day in:

### **Luke 13:**

**28** There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

**29** And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

V.29 “They shall come”, where too? To where Jesus was when he he promised that people of other lands would be chosen to come from all the points of the compass to inherit the kingdom of God-the promised land of Abraham. The points of the compass only apply to this planet, as do the promises to Abraham.

But is there a stronger link between Abrahams land of promise, which became the Kingdom of David, and Jesus? Yes, if we consider the promise made regarding Jesus:



## **Luke 1**

**:31**And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS

**:32** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the **Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:**

**:33** And **he shall reign over the house of Jacob** for ever; and **of his kingdom there shall be no end**

Is this clear enough? Is this not what his disciples were hoping for? Is this not what he promised them?

## **ACTS 1**

**3** To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to **the kingdom of God:**

**6** When they **therefore** were come together, **they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

**7** And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

**9** And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

**10** And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

**11** Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

After 40 days instruction “pertaining to the kingdom of God” (Act 1v.3) it only remained for them to enquire as to the “time” when this promise should be fulfilled (Act 1v6). Christ’s answer is that its not for them “to know the times”, (Act 1v7) but as they are told in verse 11, it shall be when “this same Jesus....shall so come in like manner” as he ascended.