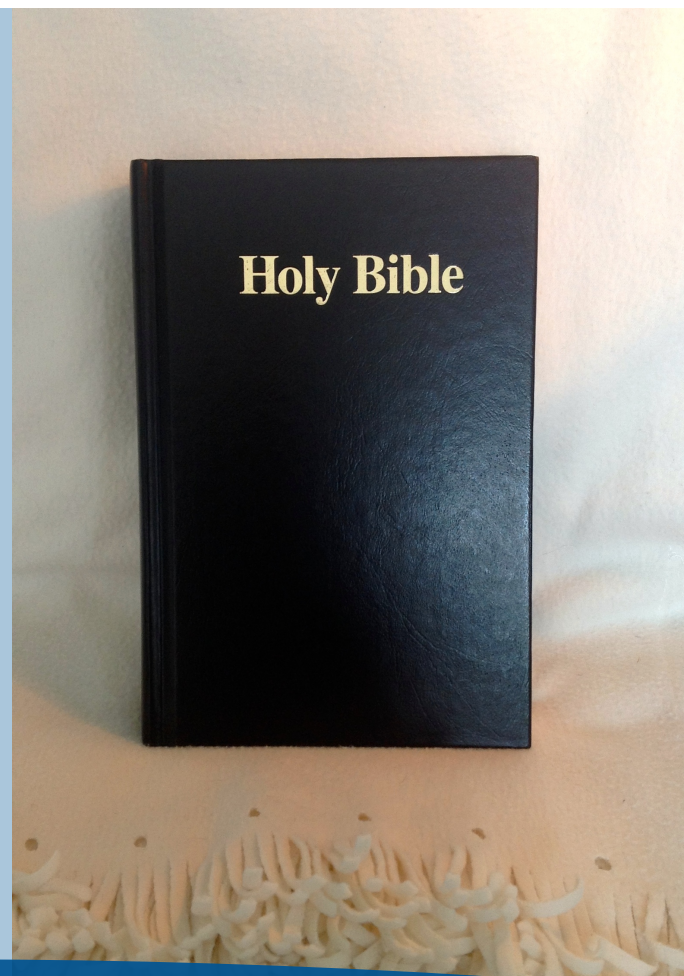


*Unlock the passages of the Bible for yourself*

# Learn to Read the Bible More Effectively

EXPLORING  
THE GOSPEL  
PREACHED TO  
ABRAHAM



Page 1



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# THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO ABRAHAM IS THE ONLY HOPE

This is a bold statement! but let the Apostle Paul explain:-

**GALATIANS 3 :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.

Paul here in his letter to the Galatians is quoting from Genesis 12:3, we quote from verse one for connection:-

## **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.**

### **So the Gospel is:**

(Gal.3:8) **"In thee shall all nations be blessed."**

(Gen.12:3) **"in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."**

Paul in Galatians 3:8 is quoting Genesis 12:3. The slight difference in the wording is due to him quoting from a Greek translation of the original Hebrew, but the meaning is the same.

So the good news here is that anyone of any nationality can share the blessings bestowed by God upon Abraham, but

### **What are those blessings?**

Well **Genesis 12:1** said that God led Abraham to a land he would inherit in the future.

And **Genesis 12:2** said that the promise of God was **"I will make of thee a great nation"**

So the blessings upon Abraham include his descendants becoming a great nation in the land of promise.

## But what land is promised?

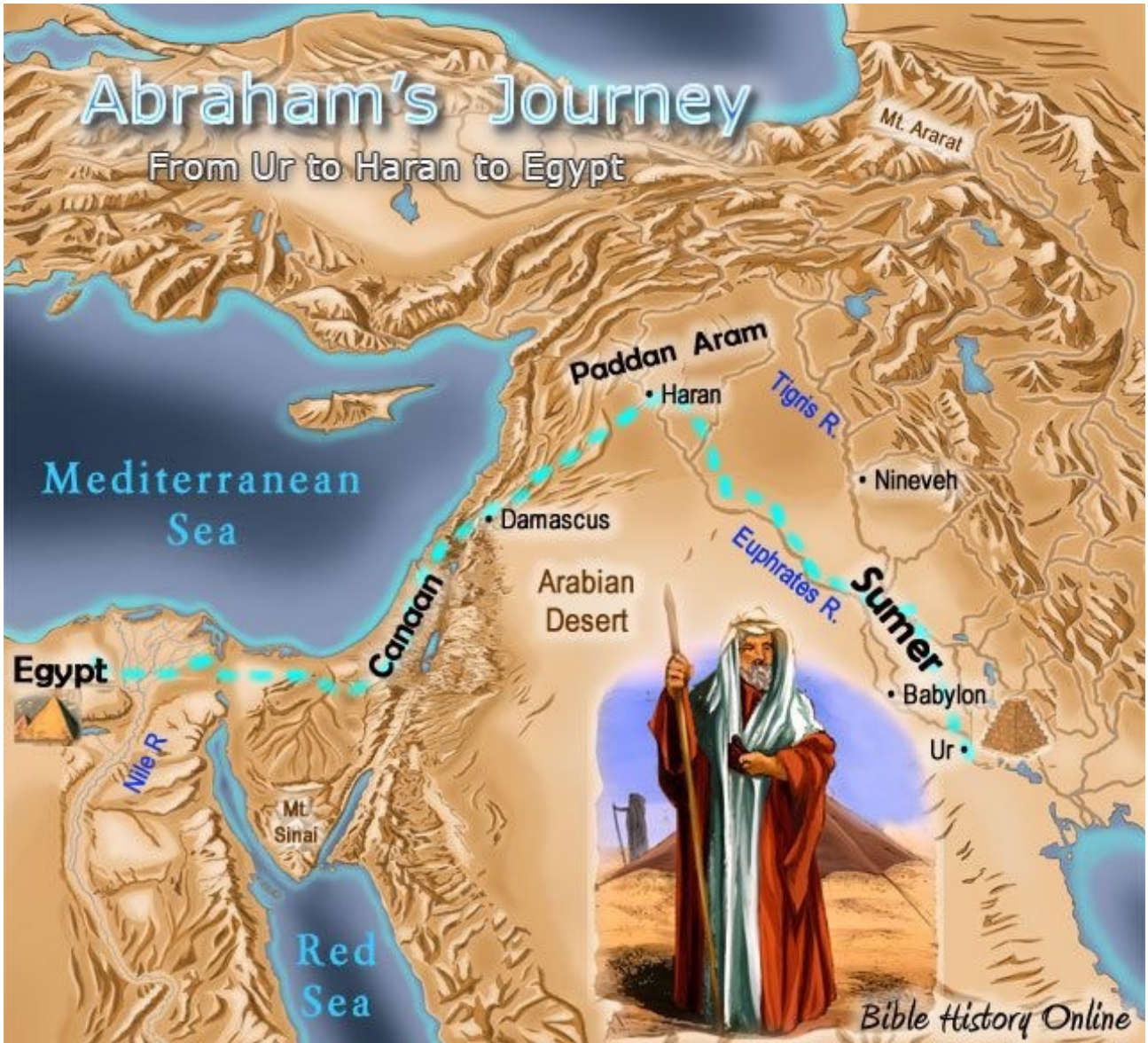


The red line shows the route along the Fertile Crescent which Abraham took, bringing him down into the land of Canaan which, 470 years later became Israel.

The southern border of Canaan was the River of Egypt, which is shown on the map running into the Mediterranean from northern Sina (known as Wadi El Arish today)

The precise borders of the promised land are clearly defined in Genesis 15

**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:



This map also shows the route taken by Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees to Canaan.

We read here in Genesis of the precise borders being from the River of Egypt in Sinai, to the River Euphrates. Later the Kings of Israel, David and Solomon, reigned over this territory, so that the land promised to Abraham became the Kingdom of Israel.

The kingdom of Israel in the past was only a partial fulfilment; for disobedience they were cast out. But when Abraham is resurrected at the last day to inherit the land for ever, the Kingdom of Israel will be restored.

In this same chapter, God makes plain that all the promises to Abraham are to be fulfilled after Abrahams mortal life is over, as follows:

**Genesis 15:**

**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.

All the blessings or promises to Abraham were extended to Abrahams son, Isaac, and to his son Jacob, and so Isaac invoked God's blessing upon Jacob as follows:

**Genesis 28:4** And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, **which God gave unto Abraham.**"

**"which God Gave unto Abraham"** that is, in prospect by promise.

Jacob here receives this blessing from his father Isaac. God later changed Jacob's name to Israel, and he became the father of the 12 tribes of Israel. About 400 yrs later the nation of Israel settled in the promised land, but this was only a partial and not a permanent fulfilment of the promises-Israel were later cast out of the land by God for disobedience.

So the Gospel preached unto Abraham of eternal inheritance in the land of promise remains to be fulfilled, so Paul (and the Apostles) and indeed Jesus were still preaching this gospel, as future:

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

**"the gospel of the kingdom of God"** is the same as that preached to Abraham, and when it is fulfilled in the earth, Abraham, and all those blessed in him of any nationality, shall be raised to inherit the Kingdom and Land for ever.

Jesus makes this point when he speaks of the day of judgement as follows:

**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."

"They shall come from the east and from the west.." to Israel; resurrected believers of all nationalities- as promised to Abraham (Genesis12:3).

Jesus says Abraham will be there in that day, and God told Abraham the same, as follows:

### **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.**

**Now, for believing the promises, Abraham was counted righteous in God's sight, 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.**

This righteousness of faith, is the only way to salvation-the only Hope- and is an essential part of the Gospel preached by the Apostles to the nations as:

### **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."**

Verse 6 has profound implications; that anybody can share the same righteousness and the same promises-the same Gospel- that Abraham received, if they adopt the Faith of Abraham!

As Verse 7 says: "they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham"

That non Jews would be invited to share the Gospel promises to Abraham, was the good news (Gospel) preached to the gentiles after Christ's resurrection; as we see in Paul's letter to the Galatians. eg vv 8,9.

So it was promised to Abraham, that as well as having a multitudinous "seed" of natural descendants (Israel) that would eventually become a great nation, he would also be the 'father' of a multitudinous spiritual "seed"- the believers. In amongst the promises was the assurance of a greater singular "seed", The Saviour, Messiah, Christ, through whom the promises would be fulfilled, as made clear later in this chapter:

**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.

And then Paul tells the gentiles how anybody can inherit the gospel promises in Christ:

### **Galatians 3:**

**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."

So the promises to Abraham are the gospel of the kingdom of God. The kingdom is to be established by Christ (the singular seed) in the promised land at the time of the resurrection of the dead. All the faithful will then inherit the kingdom as the spiritual seed of Abraham. The Jews living at the time, will be restored to the land as the natural seed of Abraham. Hence the last question put to Christ by the disciples was:

**“wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”**

Or to quote this in context, it was after Christ’s resurrection, when he showed himself to the disciples:

**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.**”

It was not for them to know that the time would be 2,000 years or so before Israel would be restored as the Kingdom of God, but the angels promised the disciples that Jesus will return to do the work.

We have seen the importance of the Old Testament to the Gospel message of the New Testament. We have seen the vital role of Abraham in the Gospel. It is not only in Galatians that Abraham is spoken of, he is in fact referred to over 70 times in the New Testament.

We also find that Christ’s return to restore Israel as the Kingdom of God on earth, is extensively foretold in the Old Testament. We will consider a few examples:

**Zechariah 12:**

**9** And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

**10** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and **they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him**, as one mourneth for [his] only [son], and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for [his] firstborn.”

The final repentance of the Jews is foretold here when they see the marks of Crucifixion in the Messiah, when he returns to save the Jews in the land from extermination.

Then we have the restoration of Jerusalem and its exaltation over the surviving nations, as:

**Isaiah 60:**

**9** Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.

**10** And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee.

**11** Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought.

**12** For **the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish**; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.”

Some nations will regard Christ as the anti-christ and refuse to submit to his rule, as:

**Psalm 2**

**2** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying,

**3** Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”

God’s reaction will be:

**Psalm 2**

**5** Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

**6** Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

**7** I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

**8** Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

**9** **Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”**

Christ has promised to share this work with every believer when they are resurrected bodily and clothed upon with immortality (see 1 Corinthians 15:53). Jesus Re quotes verse 9 and says:

**REVELATION 2:**

**26** And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

**27** And **he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers**: even as I received of my Father.”

All this is involved in the Gospel preached before to Abraham. The land promised to Abraham has clearly defined borders, the Kingdom of David had the same clearly defined borders, its restoration and the fulfilling of the gospel promises to Abraham, will be the kingdom of God on earth, in the clearly defined land of promise. Israel will then be the head of the nations no longer the tail.



**Micah 4:**

**1** But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

**2** And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

**3** And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

So the restoration of Israel at Christ's return will be the Kingdom of God in the territory it formally occupied -the promised land- and the subject nations will form its universal empire, with Israel being the head, the first dominion, The Kingdom of God on earth, as verse 8 states:

**Micah 4:**

**8** And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.

**James 2:5**

Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

So we have seen that the Gospel of the Kingdom of  
God was manifest in the promises to Abraham  
which means  
**THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO ABRAHAM IS THE  
ONLY HOPE**