

PROMISE

Message Title: *A Christmas Promise*

Message Date: November 30, 2025

CONNECT

Share two words that describe the week you've been having. Why?
What have you been praying for?

PRAY TOGETHER

Read Psalm 24:4-5, then turn it into a prayer.
Add to this your own words of praise and request.

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

This series is based on the idea that (1) God made a promise, (2) Jesus fulfilled that promise and (3) one day we will experience the complete fulfillment of that promise.

Explore these three aspects by studying the Scriptures below and responding to the questions that follow. Don't rush through this guide. The goal is not to get *right answers* or even answer all the questions, but to have thoughtful discussions that lead to renewed minds and transformed hearts.

Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading. That is the assurance of His promises.

Oswald Chambers

THE PROMISE

The nations will be blessed through Abraham's lineage.

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² 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.

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."

- What was God's motivation in sending Abraham from his country?
- What does it mean that God promised to make Abram into a *great nation*?
- How might Abraham have understood that promise at the time?
- What do you learn about God from this passage, and how does this either reinforce or challenge your view of God in the Old Testament?
- Why did Abraham have to leave his country, family and community for God to bless him?
- What specific promises did God make to Abraham?
- In what ways do you see the theme of blessing and being a blessing playing out in your own life or community?

FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE IN JESUS' FIRST COMING

Galatians 3:14 (NIV)

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

- Why do you think Paul links the blessing of Abraham with the promise of the Spirit rather than with being a nation or the blessing of land?
- What does it mean to you personally that the *blessing of Abraham* is available to everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity or background?

Acts 3:25-26 (NIV)

And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, "Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed." When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

- How do you see the blessing of Abraham playing out in the life of someone who follows Jesus today?
- Why do you think God tied the blessing of the nations to repentance and turning back to Him through Jesus?
- How do you see repentance being a blessing rather than a burden?

Galatians 3:26-29 (NIV)

²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- How can these verses encourage the way you think about identity and belonging?
- How can seeing yourself *clothed with Christ* change the way you handle challenges or criticism?
- In what ways can you encourage others to see themselves as heirs of God's promise?

THE ULTIMATE FULFILLMENT WHEN JESUS RETURNS

Hebrews 11:8-10 (NIV)

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

- Why do you think Abraham was willing to live his whole life without receiving the full promise, and how does his example challenge our expectations of God today?
- How does Abraham's long-term hope help us handle seasons where God's promises seem delayed?
- How does the idea of a city whose *architect and builder is God* reshape the way you think about Jesus' second coming and the new creation?

Romans 4:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

- How does connecting the Abrahamic promise to the renewed earth change the way you view Christian hope? What would this look like in daily practice?
- How might your understanding of mission or purpose change remembering that God's ultimate promise to Abraham involves the whole world being restored?
- What practical steps can you take this week to align your life more fully with God's call and promises?

THE BIG TAKEAWAY

That was a lot of study and reflection! The good news is that God wants to say something to you personally. Something that applies to your life. Pause and ask Him how He feels about you and what He wants you to know. Allow for a couple of minutes of silence and listen for Him to speak.

MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

One of the best ways to hear God in your daily life is to have His words rooted in your heart. Memorize this Scripture, trusting God will bring His words to mind at just the right time.

“All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:3b (NLT)