

22T16F Abraham's Promises- RECAP

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table In recent years, I've heard a lot about the promises to the nation of Israel. These are the promises in the Bible, I mean. When I started doing a little research on these claims, it appeared all the claims seemed to believe that the promises made to Abraham in the Bible applied today to the nation of Israel or the Jewish people as a whole. This seemed logical to me, but my questions were many. What are these promises? Why do we believe they apply to modern Israel? And so on.

People argue about exactly how many promises were made to Abraham. We don't wish to enter that debate. Instead, we looked at four promises made to Abraham.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Lord use me to share your message. If I say something in error, please let them remember what you wanted them to hear, not my errand words. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Guide our discussion. We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

The real question we were exploring is do the promises made to Abraham still apply to the nation of Israel or the modern Jewish people as a whole or if not. Why not?

Let's read again Genesis 12 where God makes promises to Abraham, this is commonly called the call of Abraham.

Genesis 12:1- 4 (NIV) *¹The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation,* This one of the promises we looked at. This is obviously about Abraham's descendants. In fact, in Genesis 17 God promises that Nations & Kings will come from Abraham, numerous descendants. This is very true even without the descendants of Jacob. Every Arab and middle eastern country believe they are descendants of Abraham. Many nations and many kings. Descendants are so numerous they can't be counted. And this has come true over and over again. Even if every descendant of Abraham suddenly died, this promise would have still already come true in history. There is no need for future fulfillment.

Next is, *and I will bless you;* This promise is pretty non-specific, but Abraham was blessed by God. He amassed great earthly riches, his household was quite large at his deaths many sons more than ten, unnumbered daughters from at least a couple of wives and many concubines. This seems specific to Abraham. There is no need for future fulfillment.

Next is, *I will make your name great,* This promise is pretty specific to Abraham himself. This has come true, no need for any future fulfillment.

Next is, *and you will be a blessing.* This promise is again pretty specific to Abraham himself. Based on what we know of Abraham's life, Abraham was a blessing to many during his life. Again, no need for any future fulfillment.

Next is, *³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;* This promise is again pretty specific to Abraham himself. We can imagine this to be an everlasting promise but there is no mention of this promise anywhere else in Genesis. Neither time God reconfirmed His promises to Abraham

was this included and neither Isaac or Jacob received this promise. There was one other account of a form of this promise in the story of Balaam in Number 24. Balaam blessed Israel over and over and in one account He relayed the words of God and said I will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel. There again is no indication this is a forever promise or simply a blessing on those particular people against Moab and Midian.

Next is, *and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*” This promise is all about Abraham’s descendants, the phrase blessed through you inferred through Abraham’s family. Of course know this as “The Promise”, which was fulfilled by Jesus. No need to look for further fulfillment of this promise either.

The promise missing from this list is obviously the promised land. We see this promise in Genesis 13,15 and 17. This is an everlasting promise to the descendants of Abraham. But it is not clear why we think it applies only to the descendants of Jacob. In fact, God details what land will be given to each tribe of Israel. And that land allotment is much smaller than the land promised to Abraham as an everlasting inheritance to his descendants. But you have to realize, Abraham had at least ten sons and unnumbered daughters. He had many many many descendants. Most people in the middle east trace their lineage to Abraham. So yes this promise is fulfilled with or without a modern national Israel. So what about the promises to Isaac, Jacob, Moses, etc. I mean the Promised Land. Well none of those promises use the same language as the promise to Abraham. None of these other covenants and promises give the land to Israel forever.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father. Thank you for you. You only are worthy of praise. You alone are king of kings. Help us to recognize you as the king of our lives. Help us to live like we know it. As your followers I pray that we act like it. Every day in every moment. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Okay, let me leave you with this today. Do any of the promises made to Abraham require a modern day national Israel, well no. I support Israel, do not get me wrong. I don’t believe that the Bible promises made to Abraham still apply. They could but there is nothing in the text to lead you to this conclusion other than a personal belief. So if you bless Israel will you be blessed more than if you bless any other group. Frankly, I don’t see any biblical support for this. When we bless other in the name of God, in obedience to what God has told us to do, then yes God will bless that effort. Are we promised blessing for being a blessing. Sort of, but that should never be our motive or that’s all you get, a momentary feel good. I only care what Jesus thinks of me. I bless others because Jesus loves them and wishes for me to bless them, not what I think I will get for doing it. As Christians, we should bless everyone. Jesus even told us to bless our enemies. What good is it if we only bless those who we believe will give us rewards?

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope enjoyed our study the promises God made to Abraham. If you liked the message, please click like. And please share the link with a friend to our channel. Send me comments to my email on the screen.

Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.