

GOODNEWS LETTER

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NATIONAL DISTINCTIONS

ABRAHAM-"And I will make you a great nation," Genesis 12:2

People make up nations. Webster defines a nation as, "A stable, historically developed community of people with a territory, economic life, culture and language in common."

This definition fits God's people, with the exception of territory. In fact, God calls His people before He gives them anything, including land. Truly, God does not set His people upon material foundations. Rather, God's people develop from a spiritual base; one that begins with the calling and election of LORD.

In other words, God's people are founded upon Him. And, it was in this meaning when God said to Abraham, "I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward," Genesis 15:1.

However, God wastes no time in establishing His people. Only eleven chapters of Genesis expire before it is said to Abraham, "And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed," Genesis 12:2,3.

BIBLE, NOT A SCIENCE BOOK - God does not explain what went into creating the world; just that He spoke it into being. Having said that, we must understand that the Bible is a **Book of Faith, A Faith Book**.

From the calling of Abraham in Genesis, we find that God's interest remains in people; in particular, His chosen people making up the kingdom on earth.

"And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly... And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee," Genesis 17:2,6.

God's interest in people never wanes. His calling throughout the remainder of Scripture deals with Abraham and his seed. Yes, the nation of Israel - Abraham's physical seed, dominates **thirty nine** (39) books of the Bible, but the remaining **twenty-seven** (27) books fills in the details of God's purpose of calling the physical seed - that of producing Abraham's **Seed of Promise**, Jesus Christ.

Only a person with bias against the Bible can miss that God's promise to Abraham was fulfilled when Jesus was born. Upon the birth of Jesus, the promise became alive and active to all of faith. First, in the life of Jesus. While Jesus walked on earth, God's glory was revealed. Being God's representative and Second Adam, Jesus fulfilled every precept of the Law; finally, "**nauling it to His cross,**" (Col 2:8).

Now, because the Law was fulfilled by His perfect life and the penalty paid by the death of Jesus - the perfect sacrifice, the **New Covenant** could be established. **Now, all the promises** are available to everyone that trusts in **God's sacrificial Son** for **everlasting life**, and **God's living Son**, for working out his **life-salvation** (Philippians 2:12).

This is how it reads in 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 (Abraham) which is Christ.**"

But, this ought not to be a surprise to anyone; as the following Biblical points are cited: * **THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS** - "**The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham**" Matthew 1:1.

* **Mary's visit to Zechariah and Elisabeth** - "**My soul doth magnify the Lord...He hath holpen his servant Israel...as he spake to our father, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever,**" Luke 1:46, 54, 55.

* **Recorded Acts and Church Records** - The Apostle Paul preaches about Jesus being raised from the dead (Acts 13:30); adding, "**And we declare unto you glad tidings, how the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that He hath raised up Jesus again;**" Acts 13:32, 33.

* **From the beginning of the Pauline Epistles, truth of the promise goes on** - Abraham is clearly the **primogeniture** of the promises that God's people are to receive; both, **physically and spiritually**. "**Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness,**" Romans 4:4.

"**For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit and not in the letter;**" Romans 2:28a, 29a.

"**For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith,**" Romans 4:13.

The promises come through God's faith-structured Divine plan. God calls men to accept what is to be; **not what is**. Thus, the Abraham kind-of-life "lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land...for he was looking for a city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God," Hebrews 11:9, 10.

Clearly then, what God says must be accepted as a living fact, although it may be years in the future. Christians have no difficulty with this. It is called faith. Walking in faith, in the manner of Abraham - the father of faith, believers live out their days as if they are already in the fulfillment of those promised days.

In a close relationship with the Father, through Jesus, Christians know that they are still in the world. But, God loves it when His people believe and walk by faith. Therefore, while here, Christians are on tiptoes, awaiting His return, praying "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven," Matthew 6:10.

When the Kingdom does come, "the meek shall inherit the earth," just as Jesus spoke in Matthew 5:5 and, just as God promised Abraham: "And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God," Ge 17:8.