

Promises Made To Abraham

by Bill Crews

In Hebrews 6:13-15 the writer refers to one of the promises made to Abraham; in fact, he quotes Genesis 22:16.

In Hebrews 7:6 Abraham is referred to as "him that hath the promises." How many times did God appear to Abraham and speak to him, making promises? The answer is nine!

1. **Genesis 12:1-3**
2. **Genesis 12:7**
3. **Genesis 13:14-17**
4. **Genesis 15:1,4-7**
5. **Genesis 15:12-21**
6. **Genesis 17:1-21**
7. **Genesis 18:1-15**
8. **Genesis 18:22-33**
9. **Genesis 22:1-2,11-12,15-18**

Some of the promises made to Abraham were repeated in these passages. Some of the promises were physical, and some spiritual. Some were fulfilled in Abraham's lifetime. Some were fulfilled during the histories of his descendants as recorded in the Old Testament. Some were fulfilled through Christ in the first century according to the New Testament.

In the New Testament there are several references to a promise or promises made to Abraham, but all of the emphasis is put upon the one to bless (by offering salvation) all the nations (Jews and Gentiles) through his seed (Jesus Christ, a lineal descendant, Matthew 1:1). See Acts 3:25-26; 13:22-23; Galatians 3:8-16.

Today many religious speculators place the emphasis upon the physical promises which they fancy were never fulfilled, but will be at the second coming of Christ. That makes as much sense as trying to bind the old covenant of circumcision made with Abraham and his descendants upon the spiritual children of God under the new covenant. Those who endeavor to do such "are severed from Christ" and "fallen away from grace" (Galatians 5:1-4).

It would make for a good personal study on the part of our readers or for preaching material on the part of preachers. Study the nine passages and trace the fulfillment of the promises they contain. Many Old Testament passages refer to them (sometimes as "the promise/promises made unto the fathers" -- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Genesis 26:2-5; 28:13-15). Be sure to take note of Numbers 33:53; Deuteronomy 11:31; Joshua 23:14-16; 21:43-45; 1 Kings 8:56; Nehemiah 9:24-38.

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