



**I will Bless them that Bless Thee,
And curse him that curseth Thee:**

And in Thee shall all families of the earth be Blessed.

Genesis 12:3

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*This booklet is dedicated to the
people of Central Baptist Church
on their 75th anniversary,
June 2016*

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LESSON ONE

The text for this lesson begins with Genesis 12:1-3

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.

The question that seems to be asked most by people about the goings on in Israel and terrorism, "Is this heading toward Armageddon? Is this a sign of the Rapture? What are Christians supposed to deduce from the happenings in the world today?"

The Bible **always** has the answer. Too often, we simply do not see it. Please follow along with the Scriptures given in this lesson. You may want to write them down.

Over the last ten years, several political and military officials have said, (The world is now in WW III and most Americans are unaware of it.) (This war is said to have started on 9-11. Whether it is Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Afghanistan, and other like nations, there is talk of both "mass destruction" and "terrorism." It is important then to go to our text and see the history that leads to this day. In verse 1, one sees that Abram (whom God will change his name to Abraham), is called **out** by the LORD. (The King James puts LORD in all capitals to show it is speaking of Almighty God when it says LORD). What a picture of our salvation, and the Christian life. We are called to repentance and faith, therefore we are

called out of the world. But as with Abraham, God gives you a choice to accept or reject HIS offer. Abram is called out from his family. Another picture showing us that families do not save you. You are not born saved. John 1:13 says it this way, *not of blood*. Every human being is given a choice to accept God's call into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. */John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD*. If HE died for the sins of the whole world, and HE did as the Bible here tells us HE did, then each person in the world has a call of God upon them to be saved. *However, God assigns that call to us who are saved to take the gospel to those who've never heard the way of salvation*. No one can be saved for you. One must come to Christ on HIS terms, for HE is LORD! Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*. This faith is more than a mental assent or agreement that a fact is true. Rather, it is something that acts upon a fact because it is true. In coming to the Lord Jesus Christ, we are saying we believe Jesus died for all our sin and rose bodily from the grave. Therefore, we are trusting HIM and HIM alone for the salvation of our soul. As Thomas in John 20:27-29 *Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, MY LORD AND MY GOD. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed*. Remember, Thomas was with the disciples in John 6:69 *And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God*. That statement

was agreed upon by the disciples with HIM there. But it is in John 20, we see it turned to true faith, i.e. **LORD and GOD!**

Have you ever received a telephone call and heard them on the other line say, "Congratulations, you have won three days and two nights stay in our beach front time share condominium!" Well, it is true. The two nights and three days are given. But you must attend a sales presentation that takes two or more hours. In receiving Christ as Lord and Savior, *it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast.* Now, I wouldn't want to go for the free stay and listen to a high pressure sales pitch. However, in coming to Christ, it is a joy to have HIM as Lord of my life, and the God of my worship and praise to whom I owe everything. That is what Thomas quickly discovered.

Now going to v2 we again read: 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:* We can accept HIM as LORD and GOD because of the greatness of HIS promises. To Abram, HE will make of him, (one man), a great nation. By this we know that there will be a **specific nation** linked to the name of Abraham. God will bless him. That is, HE will see to it that Abraham will receive *present* and *eternal* blessings. HE will make his name great. Jews, Muslims, and Christians, all know the name of Abraham, holding it in high esteem. Although all nations blessed by him, one specific nation is associated with his name. I like how v2 ends: *and thou shalt be a blessing.* The idea is, not only to your family and nation, but to many others as well. Now think of this: as great as the blessing to Abraham is, we receive a greater blessing when we receive HIM as our GOD and LORD. That is, as our Savior. Because of this eternal promise, John 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to*

become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: SONS OF GOD, think of that! Meditate upon it. God(s grace is greater than all our sin!

V3, 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. This verse introduces us to blessing and cursing. If man would fear God, he ought to take heed when God mentions a **curse**. In this verse, blessing will be predicated upon the fulfilment of God(s promises in v2. Therefore, those who bless Abraham, and the promised blessings to Abraham, will be blessed. Those who curse, (which includes to oppose), Abraham, or the promised blessings to Abraham, will be cursed. Two people are considering buying a painting. ***It is the only one in the world by this artist of that subject. One man(s bid is accepted. The other then begins to degrade and demean the painting. But what is interesting, the same painting they degrade and demean, is one of which they also say, (They should have allowed me to buy it. I deserve it more.!(So to, Satan hated that God provided a way of salvation from the wages of sin for man, after he had tempted man successfully to sin. Satan has fought the family of Abraham for the last 4,000 years. That is, since the promise was made.***

All families of earth are blessed in Abraham. Particularly, those who bless Israel. It is very wise to see a candidates record of voting, if he or she has one, and then vote accordingly as to how they treated Israel. Don(t bless the enemies of Israel. Have you also noticed that once this covenant is entered into, that God does not say HE will change it. An everlasting covenant is an everlasting covenant! As with the rest of the

Word of God, it must be believed and acted upon by faith. We need to understand, however, that faith is not based on circumstances, rather on the character of God and HIS Word. For example, not all prayer is answered immediately. Prayer is not a **genie in the lamp mentality** that expects the wish granted now. If unsaved people saw that our prayers were answered immediately, and our wish granted, they'd also want to be saved. But they would be like Simon in Acts 8, who offered money to have the power that Peter had of laying his hands upon people and they received the Holy Ghost. It would not be faith in God's Word, rather it would be in a magic sideshow. Abraham was promised a great nation. One problem. He has no children. Sarah, his wife, believes she is too old to have a child. She gives Abraham her handmaid to have a child by her. She becomes his wife. You might call her a secondary wife. It was actually by the culture and code of that day that the wife had the power to do this. That is give a handmaid to her husband for the purpose of having children. It was not Abrahams decision to do it, rather, his was to accept or reject it. Sarah was acting on the fact she truly believed God wanted Abraham to have a son. But looking at her age, she decided that the will of God needed the arm of flesh to be accomplished. But Jeremiah 17:5 ***Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.*** Certainly that one act of trust in the arm of flesh has affected the Middle East for many years. What a shame that adultery in our country is no longer seen with the same shame it was sixty years ago in this country. It is still a great shame in God(s sight. Ten years later, Sarah is nearly 90, and Abraham nearly 100 when Sarah conceives and then bears Abraham a child. The children of Sarah and the children of Hagar, Sarah(s maid, have been in contention ever since. As Gabriel told the virgin Mary 2,000 years later

in Luke 1:37, *For with God NOTHING shall be impossible.* After this, Isaac has two sons, Jacob and Esau. Esau sold his birthright. Ever since then, there has been war with the children of Esau and Ishmael. Sin led to contention. But God kept HIS promises, although the circumstances seemed to militate against that happening. But it did happen because God's promises are sure. That is how I know I have eternal life. That is how I trust John 10:27-29 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.* You see, with God, nothing shall be impossible!

You think you are too great a sinner to be saved? The circumstances of life have defeated you and you feel unworthy of salvation? Well, no one is. Often as a Christian, I know I am unworthy to serve God in any capacity. But it is not about our worthiness, rather it is about HIS love. We only need to act on the following:

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

take God at HIS Word on this. Secondly, Romans 5:20 *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:* God's grace is greater than all our sin. Finally,

I Corinthians 6:9-11 *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 AND SUCH WERE SOME*

OF YOU: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. "Such were" can become the testimony of any who will turn to HIM in repentance and faith.

LESSON TWO

The first lesson started in Genesis 12:1-3 with God's promise to Abram to make of him a great nation. In addition, all the nations would be blessed because of him. It was also promised by God that HE would bless those who bless him and curse those who cursed him.

Someone may ask, "How are all families of the earth blessed in Abraham?" Starting in 1901, the Nobel Prize was awarded in six areas. ***Chemistry; *Economics; *Literature; *Peace; *Physics; *Physiology or Medicine.** In the time between 1901 through 2015, of these winners there have been 194 Jews and people of half or three quarters Jewish ancestry, which accounts for 22% of all winners worldwide. In the U.S. A., it represents 36% of all recipients. Among women recipients, 33% are Jews in the U.S.A., while Jewish women represent 50% of the women winning it worldwide. There are many other lists through which we could go, but suffice it to say this; of Arab/Islamic people, which make up 20% of the world's population, (that is, two in every ten people), there have been only six winners. One of those winners was Yasser Arafat, who won the peace prize in 1994. As a result, Norwegian Kaare Kristiansen, who was a member of the Nobel committee, resigned in protest, correctly labeling Arafat as a *terrorist* as his reason. Still, he was awarded the prize. That means three of the six were awarded for peace. One for literature. The other two chemistry and physics. As Jews are such a small percent of the world population, they have contributed much that has blessed our world. God pointed out over 4,000 years ago this would happen, because HE promised it would. God keeps HIS promises!

As we continue, the Scriptures show the **progression** of the great nation, (singular), God would make of Abraham.

Genesis 26:1-4 *And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. 2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; 4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Isaac is Abraham's son. Who appears to him in a dream in v2? **THE LORD!** Just like Genesis 12:1 and the LORD's appearance unto Abraham. Notice the promises seen in Vv 3 & 4; do they sound familiar? Does this promise that Isaac would sojourn be one of ease and luxury? Of course not. But the promised blessing to him will come true. We are reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 5:10-12, *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 REJOICE, AND BE EXCEEDING GLAD: FOR **GREAT** IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**

Going back to our lesson, to whom were the promises made? To Abraham. Through whom is God promising to continue the promises made to Abraham? Isaac. Now see in conjunction with that thought Genesis 17:6, 19.

6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. 19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: AND I WILL ESTABLISH MY

COVENANT WITH HIM FOR AN EVERLASTING COVENANT, AND WITH HIS SEED AFTER HIM. We see God will establish the Covenant with Isaac **and his seed after him.**

In Genesis 25:1-6 ***Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. 2 And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. 3 And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim. 4 And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Epher, and Hanoch, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah. 5 And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac. 6 But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country. These are all sent out.*** They were blessed to be Abraham's children. But in sending them out, there is not a promise that wherever they go they will bless all nations, and whom-soever they curse will be cursed. That is reserved for one specific nation out of Abraham. But on earth, God had reserved the land area he showed Abraham first, then Isaac in Genesis 26:4. Although the others are blessed, they will not finally replace Israel. In the millennium, God will show that it is Israel's land. They will possess more land than ever before in that area, as seen in Ezekiel, 42 - 44.

I was doing door to door visitation in Arizona. A man invited me into his house. I shared the plan of salvation with him, but he said he had already been saved. Then he asked if I would like to see a special car he had in the garage. He showed me a car in mint condition. It was called a ***Bricklyn***. It had low mileage on it because he did not drive it much. He had two or three other cars, but they were more in line with what I would drive, (an economy cheap car). He did not

really brag to me about those cars. All his cars were paid for, but he showed me the one that had a special position in his sight. Now imagine he tries to start the car and it won't turn over. Does he bring in the cheap economy car and give it the position of honor in the garage instead of the driveway? No! The old car does not replace the **Bricklyn**.

Ephesians 2:12-16 *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:* We will be made spiritually one fold (John 10:16), with the middle wall of partition broken down between us, but the physical promise of the land belongs to Israel.

Genesis 27:29 carries us to the next step. ***Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.*** This is when Isaac blesses Jacob. There is the other story of Jacob deceiving Isaac by pretending to be Esau, but that is not our focus for this lesson. We are only considering the **blessing** bestowed by Isaac.

Don't miss what is happening here; we've seen what is passed from Abraham to Isaac, and now to Jacob: (*Curse those that curse thee and bless those that bless thee*). This then begs the question, "To whom is this specific nation

referring to in Genesis 12, when it was promised to Abraham?

ISRAEL! God will keep HIS promise. Zechariah 8:13-15, 21-23
And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, AND house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong. 14 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not: 15 So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not. 21 And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also.

22 Yea, MANY PEOPLE AND STRONG NATIONS shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. 23 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you. This passage is now looking at the millennium. Who is named? **ISRAEL AND JUDAH!** This is showing us that in the physical aspect, HE is fulfilling HIS promise to Abraham 4,000 years ago. In Ezekiel 48, the Lord will name the tribes that will dwell in the land in the millennium. There should not be a doubt in any Christian's mind that the Lord not only specifies which land, but which people! (i.e., the Jews, or Israelite people born of Jacob).

Since God will keep a 4,000 year old promise to Abraham, HE will keep the promises HE makes to you. Hebrews 6:17-20

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: 18 That by two immutable things, in which it

was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Remember, because God is holy, it is impossible for HIM to lie (18). So when HE tells us in Hebrews 13:5 that HE will never *leave us nor forsake us*; when HE says in Rev 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely*, then he will never go back on HIS promise if we come to HIM in repentance and faith, Acts 20:21, *Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Notice Vv 19, 20 of Hebrews 6. *An anchor of the soul that is both sure and steadfast.* The idea is that it is set in concrete and cannot be moved. That anchor is anchored within the veil in a steadfast and sure way. What is that within the veil? **The most holy place!** A forerunner was a boat that was used when a ship was anchored near the harbor. Men would get on it and go in safely to shore. Jesus is our forerunner. That is why we pray in HIS name. When we enter the most holy place in prayer, we are anchored there by Jesus Christ. Seeing the physical promise to Israel sustained from 4,000 years ago with Israel now back in the land, what a blessing it is to know we can go to the same God. HIS promises are sure because HE cannot lie!

LESSON THREE

To this point in our lessons, we have learned that God promised to make a great nation of Abraham. By simply following the Scripture, we were able to clearly see Israel is that nation. We also see that God made this promise: HE would ***curse those who curse Israel, and bless those who bless Israel.*** The greatest blessing of it is that the Messiah, God come in the flesh, would come through the Jewish line. This prophecy was spoken of specifically in Isaiah 7:14, **Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name IMMANUEL.** Immanuel means "God with us." That was fulfilled in Matthew 1:23, where it is written: **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name EMMANUEL, which being interpreted is, God with us. Not "A" god with us, rather, God with us!** By which line of the human race did Messiah come? Israel. As a matter of fact, another unconditional promise that was made and fulfilled is that HE would come through the line of David.

(We could go into the histories contained in God's Word to see how nations rise and fall in conjunction with their treatment of Israel. Beginning at Israel in the Old Covenant in which Egypt blesses the children of Israel. Egypt became a strong and great nation. Then they turned their back on Israel and they have never been the same since. But what about today? Is the promise still true?)

Has it proven out that God still blesses those who bless Israel and curses those who curse Israel since the last book of the Bible was written over 1900 years ago? We must understand that contempt for the Jews has been self destructive, not necessarily in the short term, but in the

procession of time. This includes both nation to nation, and person to person.

When Spain expelled the Jews, along with the Moors, at the end of the 15th century, Spain lost the intellectual gifts it needed as the new world progressed with its economic capabilities. The Jews were noted for their **astute handling of finance**. With the enlarging of the new world's silver mines, and the ability to bring in huge amounts to Spain, it could have made Spain the economic power of the next five hundred years. The mishandling of funds after the Jews were expelled, led the vigorous Spanish economy into inflation and long term decline. The government went into repeated bankruptcies. Spain loathed the Jewish abilities to manage money, so much so, their jealousy led them to **not** draw on their abilities. The Jews went into exile, settling mainly in the **Netherlands, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam**. To this day those places endure as great trade centers. (*will bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee*). Next we see England expelled the Jews in the 13th century, but invited them back 300 years later. They were able to use money from the **Rothschilds' International Banking Establishment** to defeat Napoleon. It was the work of the Jews that helped turn the tide for England in WWI. The **Balfour Agreement** grew from this. Dr. **Chaim Weizmann**, a bio chemist, developed a method to help produce ammunition more quickly for England. Monies were supplied by **Walter Rothschild**. British Foreign Secretary, **Arthur James Balfour**, greatly thankful for the work that today has England speaking English instead of German, sought these men as to what England could do for them. The Balfour Agreement was drawn up. It is interesting that this agreement was signed by Arab family elites. That can't be said of the 1947 U.N. agreement to give Israel its land

. back. Much of the land promised in the Balfour Agreement was not given to Israel, of which one often hears today of the pre 1967 borders. Before that, Balfour included a much broader border than what Israel has today, which was won in a defensive war.

In 1939, England reneged on the Balfour Declaration by issuing the **White Papers**. The white papers prevented millions of Jews from escaping NAZI occupied Europe, ending in six million deaths of Jews. How many remember the motto: ***THE SUN NEVER SETS ON THE BRITISH EMPIRE***. They can no longer say that. I find it interesting that the Bible declares the life span for man on average is 70 years. In less than one lifetime, Britain lost much of its empire. (***Again, HE will bless those who bless Israel, and HE will curse those who curse Israel***).

This also happened in other lands. In Russia, **Catherine the Great** limited where Jews could live. It caused many Jews to migrate West. Later, the Soviet Union enforced the brutal and ruthless restrictions on Jews, (Fiddler on the roof, the play, was based on these happenings). Catherine's house did not remain great.

In France, the Dreyfus case at the end of the 19th century, provoked an international condemnation, severely weakening the French military. Its affects are still felt today.

Nazi Germany expelled some and exterminated an estimated six million Jews. As a result, lost to Germany were 20 Nobel Prize winning Scientists. Russia's space program was a result of taking some of these into their country to work for them. Germany has yet to fully recover. (***I will bless those who bless Israel, and curse those who curse Israel***).

Consider next the sons of Esau and Ishmael in relation to blessing and cursing Israel. Jews were welcomed by the Ottoman Turks in the 15th & 16th centuries for their advanced knowledge in spinning, weaving, and dyeing of textiles. Also, the Jew's knowledge of languages enabled Muslims to employ them as diplomats.

(The first time I was in Israel at the invitation of the Ministry of Tourism, I spoke to the Jewish Guide. He spoke 8 different languages fluently. He told me that after we leave he had to brush up on his German because he had a German group coming in next week). Modern Islam blames Israel for anything that is wrong in their countries. Their goal is the elimination of the modern state of Israel. They want to kill all Jews, yet, when their ancestors honored them, they were blessed. The Ottoman Empire went down when they stopped blessing Israel. (I **will bless those who bless Israel, and curse those who curse Israel**).

What about the situation today? Columnist Richard Z. Chessnoff has covered the Arab - Israeli conflict for over fifty years. He states: **Nothing has changed!** It all comes down to the fact that all Israel's enemies refuse to accept her right to exist. Arabs have not only wasted trillions of dollars of oil revenues, blowing much of it on armaments, they have not consolidated, nor modernized their laws. With Israel there to observe, they have not copied any of their techniques of land management. The Jews have made the desert bloom again in their region. Since all this is a result of God's enemy the devil, hating Jews has only galvanized more hatred, but has accomplished nothing of note to make Arab life a higher standard of living.

Israel is the only non-Islamic nation in the vast lands that lie between Pakistan and Morocco, in a land size **less than half of one percent** of the entire region. It contains only **one/one thousandth** of the world's population. Yet Israel has well over a 100 billion dollar economy greater than all its combined immediate neighbors, with all their oil. They also have the largest ratio of university degrees and museums to population in the world, with some of the finest medical, scientific, and high tech facilities in the world. The U.S.A. finds itself behind them in some of these areas. We also find is that many of the leaders in our country in these fields, are also Jews.

On the other hand, in the Arab world, illiteracy and disease still reign. After 68 years, Gaza's Palestinians still live off the world's dole, placing their efforts into building rockets, instead of a future for themselves. They teach their children that Jews are apes, Christians are swine, and Israel should be wiped off the map. ISIS, along with beheading and crucifixion of Christians, show what a few generations of that kind of education of their young has produced.

I believe we are seeing the fulfilment of prophecy before our eyes, with these modern day atrocities. I personally believe we are seeing the prophecy of Ezekiel 37:1-14, when the prophet is told to speak to the valley of dry bones that lie scattered and dried. When he speaks, the bones come together with flesh upon them in one place, but there is no life in them. After a pause then he is told to speak again. Vv 9, 10; *Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into*

them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. The bodies without breath represent the coming together of Israel in the last days before the tribulation, identified by Jeremiah 30:7 as **the time of Jacob's trouble**. The breath entering into them, and then standing up as an army, refers to when Messiah comes at the end of the tribulation to establish the millennial reign. Notice these two passages of Scripture in relation to this thought: Psalm 90:4, (which is also repeated in II Peter 3:8 in the middle of an entire chapter on prophecy), states the following: **For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.** Keep it in mind that in God's sight, 1,000 years are as one day. So when God gives us a prophecy in this light, we can see another possibility in Hosea 6:1,2 **Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.**

2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Israel was torn, smitten, and taken away in AD 70. The Lord will heal after two days, (1,000 years each). Over 1900 years later, we see Israel back in the land, but not healed totally. They still aren't the number one world power. The Messiah, whom we know is the Lord Jesus Christ, is not there reigning. I am not a Hebrew scholar, but I'm told that the "two days" has the idea of, *after nearly that much time*. It is the idea of approximately. For example, we say Jesus Christ was crucified 2,000 years ago. Yet if HE was not crucified until somewhere between AD 27 - 33, then it hasn't been 2,000 years ago.

Before there is a tribulation, all those in Christ will be raptured out. Are you ready if Jesus Christ were to come

today and catch us up? As the song writer wrote: ***Some day you will hear God's final call.*** Be sure you are saved. Also, be sure as a Christian that your life is exactly what you hope it will be when HE returns.

LESSON FOUR

In the last lesson we covered the history of the fulfilment of God's Word when HE said of Israel, (who is the seed of Abraham), ***I will bless those who bless Israel, and curse those who curse Israel.*** As we continue those thoughts, let us draw our attention to the twenty first century.

It is not unusual to hear in our country terms such as; ***Neocons, the Jewish/Israeli lobby, and Zionist.*** These are terms used to cover their prejudice, (or hatred), toward Jews. They do not realize it is Satan who works within to deceive. They try to cover their prejudice with political correctness, which may be political in their eyes, but it certainly is not correct.

There are those in our own land who seem to work against Israel. They refuse to acknowledge Jerusalem as Israel's capital, although Israel has declared it to be so. In addition, many countries, ours included, will not place their embassy there. Our state department often refuses to acknowledge Jerusalem with Israel, even when a birth certificate states it so. Many in liberal institutions, Islamic organizations, and media, place the blame for 9-11, the Gulf war, and the work of ISIS today, as a result of so called ***Jewish occupation,*** and the U.S.A. support of Israel. One should be very concerned with the American agreement with Iran in light of Scripture telling us. ***I will bless those who bless Israel, and curse those who curse Israel.*** I believe there is a strong movement in this country against Israel. In obedience to God, Christians need to support Israel.

The cry today is that Israel is occupying land that belongs to Arabs. It is hard to say Palestinians, since they are not a separate race or nation. Instead, they are rejects of their

own Arab people. As a matter of fact, saying "West Bank" is actually a modern day political invention perpetuated by media. It was always called Samaria and Judea in that area, even in the mid twentieth century. Let us think on

I Chronicles 16:14-18 HE IS THE LORD OUR GOD; HIS JUDGMENTS ARE IN ALL THE EARTH. 15 BE YE MINDFUL ALWAYS OF HIS COVENANT; THE WORD WHICH HE COMMANDED TO A THOUSAND GENERATIONS; 16 EVEN OF THE COVENANT WHICH HE MADE WITH ABRAHAM, AND OF HIS OATH UNTO ISAAC; 17 AND HATH CONFIRMED THE SAME TO JACOB FOR A LAW, AND TO ISRAEL FOR AN EVERLASTING COVENANT, 18 SAYING, UNTO THEE WILL I GIVE THE LAND OF CANAAN, THE LOT OF YOUR INHERITANCE;

what does "everlasting covenant," going on to "a thousand generations," mean to you? These verses say for whom the land is designated, and **the covenant is everlasting.** It was made **before** Moses and the Law. If we cannot trust God to keep HIS word to Israel, can we trust HIM to keep it to us? But, HE keeps HIS covenant to Israel. HE will keep HIS promise of everlasting life to us!

Read Numbers chapter 34. You will find that God laid out the boundaries for Israel and named the tribes involved. Those borders have not been within the territory claimed by Israel, even at her height of glory, but they will one day. Read Ezekiel 47 & 48 as it is laid out in the future day of the Millennium.

Israel has suffered many things because she was disobedient to God. She suffers because she does many wrong things. She mainly suffers because she rejected her Messiah nearly 2,000 years ago. God has never told us to support her evil, but as a parent who chastens their child, we do not endorse

her sin. We should rebuke her sin. On the other hand, in non-doctrinal, and non-moral issues, a Christian should bless Israel. We do that first by praying for her. We do that secondly by voting for people who will support Israel. Help her by helping missionaries who take the gospel to the Jews. Then to a lesser extent, yet still important, support her economy by taking trips to the Holy Land. It will build you up spiritually, and enhance greatly your Bible reading and understanding in some areas. Let us consider the following passages of Scripture: Psalm 121:4, **BEHOLD, HE THAT KEEPETH ISRAEL SHALL NEITHER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP.** That is a good reason to bless, and not curse, Israel. Ps 122:6, **PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM: THEY SHALL PROSPER THAT LOVE THEE.** I like the idea of prospering, (especially spiritually), for loving Israel, particularly Jerusalem. Psalm 129:5 **LET THEM ALL BE CONFOUNDED AND TURNED BACK THAT HATE ZION.** I wonder how many claim to be Christians are guilty of this sin, don't mind if God works against them to confound them and turn back their advances against Israel. Psalm 130:7,8; **LET ISRAEL HOPE IN THE LORD: FOR WITH THE LORD THERE IS MERCY, AND WITH HIM IS PLENTEOUS REDEMPTION. 8 AND HE SHALL REDEEM ISRAEL FROM ALL HIS INIQUITIES.** This is another promise of God to be fulfilled in that future day called *the Millennium*. Rom 10:1, **BRETHREN, MY HEART'S DESIRE AND PRAYER TO GOD FOR ISRAEL IS, THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED.** Since the Apostle Paul prayed this way, and wrote these words at the direction of the Holy Spirit, what makes one think today that this prayer command is now eliminated from the New Testament Church? Paul praying that way is an indication we need to pray that way. Have you made praying for Israel, (especially for the soul salvation of the people in accepting Christ as their Savior), a part of your regular prayer life? Finally, consider these two verses from Rom 11, written after the

resurrection and beginning of the church of the New Testament, as well as after the missionary journeys in that era had already begun. Rom 11:1a; ***I SAY THEN, HATH GOD CAST AWAY HIS PEOPLE? GOD FORBID.*** Rom 11:2a ***GOD HATH NOT CAST AWAY HIS PEOPLE WHICH HE FOREKNEW.*** In this era we live, God has not finally cast away Israel. HE will restore them in the millennium. I thought it was interesting that God has allowed the technology age to prove things anti Semitics don't want proved. When Islam, "the religion of peace," held demonstrations in England, for some reason the media did not show on television, nor in mainline newspapers some pictures of signs they were carrying, i.e. ***"SLAY THOSE WHO INSULT ISLAM"*** and ***"BEHEAD THOSE WHO INSULT ISLAM."*** ***"EUROPE, TAKE SOME LESSONS FROM 9-11."*** ***"MASSACRE THOSE WHO INSULT ISLAM."*** ***"BE PREPARED FOR THE REAL HOLOCAUST."*** It seems a shame that we are at war with such a peaceful religion. Of course, I am sarcastic. I understand that many of our leaders operate on fear. Therefore, they fear calling it "Islamic Terrorism" because they fear some Americans will try to blow up a mosque in our country, or attack Muslims. We need to call it what it is; however, we also need to punish breaking the law. Christians don't kill those who disagree with them, we pray for them and continue to witness. We certainly do not behead people.

As we continually see the progress of God *blessing those who bless Israel, and cursing those who curse Israel*, we next see the days after the Rapture. I personally believe that Psalm 83, gives a list of people who will be soundly defeated. One can go to our website and listen to a 58 minute sermon titled: ***The Coming Middle East War.*** It is on our site at www.sermonaudio.com/centralbaptist. Or you can go to www.centralbaptistocala.ojg.

Click on sermon library.

When it appears, click on popular. It is near the top on the page. These sermons can be downloaded and burned to disc as well. One will notice that Egypt, Jordan, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and parts of Saudi Arabia are annihilated in that war. Many have equated this with Babylon, while others with Alexander the Great. Actually, the total devastation taught in Ps 83 has not taken place. If we believe that hell is real, then we should believe what the Bible says here about the devastation to come. In the Middle East sermon, I point out that it could happen before the Rapture, or right after the Rapture. Either way, we saw in an earlier lesson that the devastation to Egypt continues into the Millennium. (Note: Many disagree with me on Psalm 83. It is not a reason for separation. We still believe in pre-tribulation Rapture, and a pre-millennial tribulation).

In the Tribulation we see, (I believe), in the first three and a half years, the march of a coalition of nations against Israel. They will be soundly and thoroughly defeated. We read in Ezekiel 38 and 39 of the countries in the coalition in 38:2-6. **SON OF MAN, SET THY FACE AGAINST GOG, THE LAND OF MAGOG, THE CHIEF PRINCE OF MESHECH AND TUBAL, AND PROPHECY AGAINST HIM, 3 AND SAY, THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD; BEHOLD, I AM AGAINST THEE, O GOG, THE CHIEF PRINCE OF MESHECH AND TUBAL: 4 AND I WILL TURN THEE BACK, AND PUT HOOKS INTO THY JAWS, AND I WILL BRING THEE FORTH, AND ALL THINE ARMY, HORSES AND HORSEMEN, ALL OF THEM CLOTHED WITH ALL SORTS OF ARMOUR, EVEN A GREAT COMPANY WITH BUCKLERS AND SHIELDS, ALL OF THEM HANDLING SWORDS: 5 PERSIA, ETHIOPIA, AND LIBYA WITH THEM; ALL OF THEM WITH SHIELD AND HELMET: 6 GOMER, AND ALL HIS BANDS; THE HOUSE OF TOGARMAH OF THE NORTH QUARTERS, AND ALL HIS BANDS: AND MANY PEOPLE WITH THEE.** In v2, Gog is

the leader of the land of Magog. Magog is Russia. When C.I. Schofield in his notes called it Russia in 1909, men laughed him to scorn, since Russia had recently been defeated by a third rate power called Japan. But Schofield was following the work of archeology and history to pen his thoughts. Today, we don't laugh. Meshech is modern day Moscow; Tubal is Tubalsk. Vv 5 & 6 list the nations in the coalition with Russia. Read them and see if you see somewhat of a coming together today. Persia is modern day Iran and Iraq. Libya and Ethiopia are the same. Gomer is Germany, Togarmah is Turkey.

Two things to think about in relationship to this passage: first, we see the nations listed in Psalm 83 are not there. Some would say they are included with Togarmah's *bands*. Really? Do you realize the division between Turkey and Syria? There may be refugees at best, and small tribes, but not those nations. Secondly, Russia seems to line up more and more with these nations. They aren't in a total coalition yet, but they are on their way.

Israel is back in the land in unbelief after 2,000 years as we spoke of in Hosea 6:1, 2; and Ezekiel 37. The Islamic nations surrounding Israel hate them and all want them annihilated. But at this point they don't trust each other. What coalition will unite them? ISIS? The Muslim Brotherhood? One can only speculate. We don't know what will unite them, but we do know they'll attack Israel and be soundly defeated, as will the northern Russian coalition. That will open the door for Anti-Christ.

I believe the Rapture is close. Are you ready?

LESSON FIVE

It is important to read Genesis 15:6-18. If I titled this lesson it would be "**God's covenant with Abram, and all the nations blessed in him**" This passage lays out a promise of God, along with a prophecy for Abram's line to follow him. Undergirding it all, we see a great doctrinal truth.

First see the premise laid out for us in Vv 6 & 7; **And he believed in the LORD; And HE counted it to him for righteousness. 7 And HE said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.** The premise is the logic on which the foundation is laid. It leads us into the rest of the chapter. The foundation is in v6. Read it again. This is 400 years before the law. As a matter of fact, it is before circumcision. This then is showing us justification before both, the law and circumcision. Gal. 3:14 **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

The bottom line is, Abraham was saved by faith in God's Word. Since the fall of man, that is the only way anyone is saved. In the N.T. we read: **Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 25, but the Word of the LORD endureth for ever. And this is the Word which by the gospel is preached unto you.** (I Peter 1:23, 25).

In the first five verses of this chapter, God reiterated HIS promise to Abram of a son, and a seed to follow that will be as numerous as the stars Abram could count. In v2, Abram had asked about Eliezer of Damascus, his elder servant. Abram's question is essentially, "Do you want me to adopt him and let the promise be fulfilled in him?" He realizes that Sarai and he are too old to bear children. When God

promises us, but we don't understand how HE is going to do it because the circumstances seem impossible, we too have a tendency to try to make a way of our own device to fulfil HIS promise. Mary wondered about it because she knew that Messiah could not be born of adultery. The angel said in Luke 1:37 **FOR WITH GOD NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE.** Later, Sarai will say, "take my maid" in order to bear a son. The law of that day allowed for a wife to make that decision. That is, man's law. The husband must only agree. But a Biblical principle of God before the law is seen to this day; **God does not need the help of evil to accomplish HIS promises to us.** Worldly ways added to the work of God, will always lead to an unholy work, **which is not acceptable to God.** (Heb. 12:14; Rom. 12:1,2). In Moses' day, he asked God if HE would have him kill the cattle so the people could have meat. But God made the wind bring birds to help fulfil **HIS** promise. HE needed not the arm of flesh then. HE doesn't need it today either. Psalms says it best when it says, **"Wait I say upon the LORD."** God said HE would give Abram a son. Abram believed it and God counted it to him for righteousness. At 99 years of age, Abram will go in unto his wife, and that lady of 89 years will conceive. **WITH GOD, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!**

V7 gives another promise about the land: **and HE said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.** The rest of the chapter is built on the premise of Vv 6 & 7. Abram obeyed God and followed HIS call. The promise will be fulfilled late in life. It is twenty five years after he left Ur that God gives him a son of Sarai.

Vv 6 & 7 gave the **premise**, Vv 8-12 will give the **performance** of Abram; **and he said, LORD GOD, whereby shall I know**

that I shall inherit it? 9 and HE said unto him, take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. 10 and he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. 11 and when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 and when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. We see here, *Human responsibility*. Abram asked in v 8, **how** he would know HE would inherit it. Abram believed concerning the seed. The inheritance will be his, and he will pass it on to his progeny, which the Bible identifies from Abram, to Isaac, to Jacob who is Israel, as we saw in earlier lessons. His inquiry of "how," is not a lack of faith, but a desire to know "how" and "how" to proceed as a result. It may be as Gideon seeking assurance. He is entering an area that is not known by man, a 99 year old man fathering a child of an 89 year old woman. God then gives instruction to Abram for a sacrifice in order to demonstrate to Abram what HE can do. It will strengthen the faith of Abram.

Notice the animals which God instructed Abram to sacrifice. Three years old would be the time of greatest strength. But all three will die. Life comes through death. Death is a consequence of sin, Rom. 5:12 **Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

Of course, Rom. 5:8-10 shows us the life: **But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were**

reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

HE who died for our sin has strength beyond the power of death. HE rose again for our justification. HE brought life from HIS own death! These animals are also interesting. Usually it was a bullock or a male lamb offered. The heifer and she goat are a picture of the weak and helpless of the nations. A ram, which is also strong, is listed among them. **Christ died for the weak and the strong!** This sacrifice will show HIS death for the whole world, and not only for a chosen few, I John 2:2 **And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.** The turtle dove and pigeon remind us of the poor. Mary offered this sin offering for her own sin after the birth of Jesus Christ. She could not afford a lamb, although she had borne the **Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world,** (John 1:29). But Jesus died for both the poor and the rich, for HE is the propitiation for the sin of the whole world.

Now notice Vv 10,11 **And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. 11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.**

Next, Abram parted the animals. Half of the heifer on one side, and half on the other side. He did the same with the ram and the goat. The birds are not divided, so, there is one on each side. Do you see a picture of the cross with a thief on each side? Once the animals are divided, the covenanting parties would join hands and walk through the middle, with the animals on each side. They would state their agreement. Abram is keeping the fowls away to protect the sacrifice because he knows God is going to come and make this

agreement. So he is ready to walk through and do his part, that is, his work. This is the first of three legal covenants in the Bible. The first is blood; second, is the covenant of the shoe, (Ruth 4). Then there is the covenant of salt. In this covenant, they would be pleading in the presence of blood, suffering, and death. This would show their intention of keeping the covenant. The one who breaks it, frees the other person from their promise. Abram watches for, and chases away, the fowls. He knew the Lord is coming, therefore, he tries to keep the sacrifice and worship clean. Abram did only what the Lord told him to do. God will do HIS work when the fullness of the time is come.

Next we see something happens in v12; **And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.** A deep sleep came upon Adam when God provided for him a helpmeet. Abram does all he can to keep it right, but his strength was not enough for him to take part in the covenant. Just as Adam could not help God make Eve, Abram cannot help God make this covenant. Abram's performance is not enough. Isa. 64:6 **But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.** Performance, i.e. works, will not save our souls either. That leads us into **Prophecy.** Vv 13-16 **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.**

He is told of an earthly seed. Understand, he not only has Isaac, who will be born to him and his wife, but also Ishmael, and the sons of Keturah in Gen 25, his wife after Sarah dies. The son who will inherit for Abraham, will be in a land for 400 years, and suffer affliction. God judges that nation, while giving Israel miraculous deliverance and great substance. Then they will come into the land. Abram will live to be 175 years old, fulfilling v15. God gives the promise, **but Abram doesn't pass through the midst of the animals.** The covenant's fulfilment relies totally on God!

That takes us to the ETERNAL PROMISE, Vv 17, 18 **And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. 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: The sun goes down and it is dark. Jesus came in the fullness of time, when the world was darkest, Gal. 4:4. HE did that in order to save even the gutter-most to the uttermost. Abram must be asleep in order for God to do HIS work. Abram's work is not only, "not enough," but it won't meet the qualifications of holiness. In covenanting parties, what would be equal with v6 and salvation?

Imputed righteousness by the work, grace, and promise of God! First a smoking furnace passes through. HIS word is a fire and it is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. The furnace is evidence of God's wrath against sin. As a burning lamp, HE is the light of the world, John 1:4. Abram does not go through the midst of the animals. The covenant then rest solely on the goodness of God to keep HIS Word. Jesus would bound HIMSELF to the promise alone. Why?

Because as Abram, we can do nothing to insure it. That speaks of *eternal security*. It is all on God and HE guarantees it! God committed HIMSELF to this covenant of blood to show Abram HIS commitment to this covenant, and God cannot lie! Read Hebrews 6:13-20, and you will see that the reference is back to this event. God did it alone without any work of Abram. Christ did it alone without our work. As Abram acted in faith with his wife Sarai, so we act on

Acts 20:21, **...repentance toward God, and faith toward our**

Lord Jesus Christ. Now, we see the importance of the land to

Israel, and Gen. 18:18 **Seeing that Abraham shall surely**

become a great and mighty nation, and ALL THE NATIONS

OF THE EARTH shall be blessed in him? But we must come to

HIM in repentance and faith. Once one does, he, or she, enters an

unconditional covenant with God, who alone is the guarantor of the covenant.

