The Blessings of Abraham

Heirs to the Blessings of Abraham

1. In Christ, believers are heirs to the blessings of Abraham.
   - In Galatians 3:9-14, Paul said,
     
     So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer....that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles (Gal. 3:9-14).
     
   - Galatians 3:29 adds another important statement, promising that "if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."
   - This is great news! Because we are in Christ, the blessings of Abraham belong to us.

2. God promised Abraham and his descendants great blessings.
   - Genesis 12:1-3 records the basic promise of the Abrahamic Covenant. It states,
     
     Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the
land which I will show you; 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 will be blessed.

- In this passage, God made seven specific promises to Abraham. He said:
  1. I will make you a great nation.
  2. I will bless you.
  3. I will make your name great.
  4. You will be a blessing.
  5. I will bless those who bless you.
  6. I will curse those who curse you.
  7. In you all of the families of the earth will be blessed.

- As we read through these seven promises made to Abraham, we know that Abraham and his descendents are to be profoundly blessed. However, it is difficult to understand exactly what these blessings are by merely reading these few verses—especially if we try to apply these blessings to our individual lives.

3. The Book of Deuteronomy lists many of the blessings promised to Abraham and his descendents.

- Before examining the specific blessings promised to Abraham, we need to understand that the Book of Deuteronomy lists many of the blessings promised to Abraham.
- Because many people have never seen this connection, it is important to spend some time illustrating that the blessings of Abraham are recorded in detail in the Book of Deuteronomy. This is very important because if Deuteronomy does record blessings promised to Abraham, then the blessings of Deuteronomy belong to us as well by covenant.
- Three different places in the Book of Deuteronomy connect the blessings promised to Abraham to the blessings identified in Deuteronomy. Note these passages:

Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name (Deut. 6:10-13).

You stand today, all of you, before the LORD your God: your chiefs, your tribes, your elders and your officers, even all the
men of Israel, your little ones, your wives, and the alien who is within your camps, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, that you may enter into the covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath which the LORD your God is making with you today, in order that He may establish you today as His people and that He may be your God, just as He spoke to you and as He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Now not with you alone am I making this covenant and this oath, but both with those who stand here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God and with those who are not with us here today (Deut. 29:10-15).

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them (Deut. 30:19-20).

- From the preceding passages, it is clear that the promised blessings recorded in Deuteronomy are a fulfillment of the covenant oath made to Abraham.
- In case there is still some doubt, we can also clearly see the fulfillment of the seven specific promises made to Abraham in Genesis 12 highlighted in Deuteronomy. Notice the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Promise Made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3</th>
<th>Blessing Listed in Deuteronomy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I will make you a great nation.</td>
<td>Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth (Deut. 28:1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will bless you.</td>
<td>All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. The LORD shall cause your</td>
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**Promise Made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3**

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<td>I will bless you.</td>
<td>enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways. The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you (Deut. 28:2-8).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will make your name great.</td>
<td>So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will be afraid of you (Deut. 28:10).</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully (Deut. 28:13).</td>
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<td>You will be a blessing and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.</td>
<td>You stand today, all of you, before the LORD your God: your chiefs, your tribes, your elders and your officers, even all the men of Israel, your little ones, your wives, and the alien who is within your camps, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, that you may enter into the covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath which the LORD your God is making with you today, in order that He may establish you today as His people and that He may be your God, just as He spoke to you and as He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Now not with you alone am I making this covenant and this oath, but both with those who stand here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God and with those who are not with us here today (Deut. 29:10-15).</td>
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<td>I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.</td>
<td>Notice how the cursing aspect of this promise is fulfilled in Deuteronomy: “The LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you” (Deut. 30:7).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• What a powerful truth to know that the promise-filled Book of Deuteronomy records the blessings made by covenant to Abraham and his descendents.

4. **In Christ, we are heirs to these same blessings.**

• The one question that many people ask is this: "Do the promises of blessing that are recorded in the Book of Deuteronomy apply to New Testament believers or are they just a series of promises made to Israel for a specific time as they inherited the land of Canaan?"

• There is exciting news! Believers in Jesus Christ are heirs to the promises made to Abraham (Gen. 12) and expanded upon in the Book of Deuteronomy.

• As we saw previously, Paul states that believers in Christ are heirs to the blessings of Abraham:

  So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer...Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (Gal. 3:9-14).

• Galatians 3:29 adds another important statement, promising that "if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."

• It is very important that we grasp the truth of what we have shared so far. Every believer in Jesus Christ is an heir to the blessings promised to Abraham and his descendents.

• The Abrahamic Covenant has not passed away. The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant as recorded in Deuteronomy and other places have not passed away. They are promises that Gentiles can partake of today in Christ.

**Seven Blessings of Abraham That Belong to Us in Christ**

1. **Destiny and life purpose**

• God has a powerful destiny for every believer in Jesus Christ—a life that is filled with purpose and meaning.

• Deuteronomy 28:9-10 states that the Lord will set His people apart for Himself so that His name would be known throughout the earth. The Living Bible puts verse ten this way: "All the nations in the world shall see that you belong to the Lord, and they will stand in awe." The Lord has called every believer to a wonderful, world-impacting destiny and life purpose.

• Certainly, there is a corporate element to this promise. In our generation, God is beginning to set His Church apart in purity, power, and
passionate love for Him. And this transformation will cause even the unsaved world to take notice. We are beginning to see the Church enter her destiny.

- In addition to the Church as a whole, God also has a destiny and a life purpose for every believer. There is no super-breed of “special” Christians who have a destiny while the rest of us wallow through life without meaning. We are all called to be super-Christians.
- God desires to impart a life-changing vision into every one of His covenant people, one that will make each of us nation-shakers and history-makers. God has a great plan for your life, one that was preordained in Christ before the world was created. This life purpose will fulfill and satisfy you unlike any other blessing. There is no substitute for fulfilling God’s destiny for your life (See also 1 Peter 2:9-10; Eph. 2:10).
- Though Abraham and his descendants were a blessed people for hundreds of years, even during their wilderness wanderings, they were never totally fulfilled until they actually experienced their destiny—living in the land promised by covenant.
- Likewise, God has a promise land for every believer in Christ. God’s destiny for you is not merely prosperity, health, and happiness—God desires for you to accomplish great things for Him.

2. Healing and health for body, soul, and spirit

- As the Hebrew people were preparing to go into the land and possess their full inheritance, God promised them good health. Deuteronomy 7:15 states this great promise: “The LORD will remove from you all sickness; and He will not put on you any of the harmful diseases of Egypt which you have known, but He will lay them on all who hate you.”
- Even as we look at the warning of curses recorded in Deuteronomy 28, we see the unfolding of God’s intentions for His covenant people to live in health. He never intended His people to be under the curse. He wants us to live free of it.
- Note these passages from Deuteronomy:

  The LORD will smite you with consumption and with fever and with inflammation and with fiery heat and with the sword and with blight and with mildew, and they will pursue you until you perish (Deut. 28:22).

  The LORD will smite you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors and with the scab and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. The LORD will smite you with madness and with blindness and with bewilderment of heart; and you will grope at noon, as the blind man gropes in darkness, and you will not prosper in your ways; but you shall only be oppressed and robbed continually, with none to save you (Deut. 28:27-29).

  The LORD will strike you on the knees and legs with sore boils,
from which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head (Deut. 28:35).

Then the LORD will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, even severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses. He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt of which you were afraid, and they will cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague which, not written in the book of this law, the LORD will bring on you until you are destroyed (Deut. 28:59-61).

- God specifically listed consumption, fever, inflammation, blight, boils, tumors, rashes, blindness, mental illness, plagues, and chronic sicknesses. These are all listed as symptoms of the curse. But He promised that none of these things would come upon Israel if they walked with God.
- As part of the blessings of Abraham and because of the New Covenant in Christ, we too can live free from all of these diseases and infirmities. The Lord said in Exodus 15:26, "I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord your Healer (Jehovah-rapha)."
- Our God is indeed Jehovah-rapha, the Lord our Healer.

3. A blessed family

- A blessed family is another promise that is available to us in Christ. Speaking to Israel, Moses relayed God’s promise to bless their families. God’s people were promised blessed relationships between husband and wife; a blessed and fruitful womb; and blessed, righteous children.
- Look at these Scriptures:

  So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may live long on the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time (Deut. 4:40).

  Blessed shall be the offspring of your body (Deut. 28:4).

  Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out (Deut. 28:6).

  The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body (Deut. 28:11).

  You shall be blessed above all peoples; there will be no male or female barren among you or among your cattle (Deut. 7:14).

  There shall be no one miscarrying or barren in your land; I will
fulfill the number of your days (Ex. 23:26).

- For husbands, God promises a gentle and loving wife. For wives, God promises a husband who will lead his family into prosperity and blessing.
- Husbands and wives are promised a blessed home that is safe, joyful, and filled with an abundance of good things.
- Families are promised children who will not go into captivity and will not be given to other people; they will be a continual blessing for a lifetime.
- Couples are promised that there will be no miscarriages or barrenness among them. These are wonderful promises—and even though we must often contend for them in the spirit realm—they belong to us because we are heirs to the promises of Abraham.

4. Financial prosperity

- Financial prosperity is a predominant theme of blessing in the book of Deuteronomy. Our God is a God of abundance and His blessings release overflowing prosperity upon us.
- Look at several of the promises to the people as they were preparing to take the land:

  Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl (Deut. 28:4-5).

  The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you (Deut. 28:8).

  The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully (Deut. 28:11-13).

- God says that He blesses the produce of the ground and the works of our hands. He tells us that we will lend and not borrow and that we are the head and not the tail.
- God wants us to be financially blessed. Second Corinthians 9:8 summarizes the manner in which God desires to prosper us: "And God is
able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed."

- God wants us to prosper and be blessed so that we can be a blessing to others.

5. Success

- Deuteronomy 28:12 promises us that God will bless the work of our hands so that our storehouse will be full, even to the point that we should lend and not borrow. It reads, "The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow."
- Throughout the Church today, there is a false view of humility that promotes weakness and failure as traits of meekness in God. This mentality could not be further from the truth. God desires for us to be a success at whatever He calls us to do.
- Whether our job is in the secular workplace, our own business, or full-time ministry, God wants us to succeed. He has not called us to fail. Though there will be setbacks in our journey, our ultimate destination is success.
- God wants us to prosper in all avenues of life and be effective in all that we do. He will give to us the wisdom and strength to be successful in all we put our hand to.

6. Protection from the attacks of the enemy

- The Lord will cause every enemy who rises up against us to be defeated. Note Deuteronomy 28:7: "The LORD shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways."
- The Lord has sworn that even though the enemy will come, he must flee from us. He says we are blessed and not cursed. The Word teaches we are seated with Christ in heavenly places far above all rule, power, authority, and dominion (Eph. 2:6).
- We have been given all authority over the enemy, and he must flee whenever he tries to bring the curse back on us.
- We know that God has promised to bless us in the city and in the country.
- He promises to protect and bless us in whatever we are called to do.

7. Joy and a glad heart

- God’s blessings give us joy and a glad heart.
- Though written in the negative, God promises a glad heart to those who live for Him: “Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things” (Deut. 28:47).
- A life of service and obedience will always produce within us a heart filled with thanksgiving, awe, joy, and gladness.
• Though there are times in all of our lives when these traits are absent, God wants to bless us in such a mighty way that gladness would fill our hearts on a regular basis.

Many of God’s people have not experienced these promises. There are some who are sick, some who have lack, and some whose families are not in the position they should be. These blessings were not presented to bring discouragement or cause you to question God. They were listed to release you into a new level of faith—the kind of faith that expects God to deposit blessings into your life. Expect God to shower you with goodness in the land of the living. If you believe, He will do it because you are in Christ and an heir to the blessings of Abraham.
Review Questions

True or False

1. The book of Leviticus lists many of the blessings promised to Abraham and his descendents.

2. Although not clearly stated, the New Testament hints at the idea that we are heirs to the blessings of Abraham as a result of our relationship with Christ.

3. One of the seven blessings of Abraham identified in this session is that God has a powerful destiny for every believer in Jesus Christ—a life that is filled with purpose and meaning.


5. The promises made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 are reiterated in the book of Deuteronomy.

6. The Lord promises us a blessed family just as He did the descendents of Israel.

7. The promises made to Abraham deal with prosperity as it relates to livestock and crops, but should not be applied to financial blessings.

8. The blessings of Abraham include a promise that God will bless the work of our hands.

9. Although an interesting study, the blessings of Abraham pertain primarily to a specific set of blessings promised to Abraham and his natural descendents.

10. Three different places in the book of Deuteronomy connect the blessings promised to Abraham to the blessings identified in Deuteronomy.

Short Answers and Fill in the Blank

11. Is there a clear connection in the Scriptures between the promises made to Abraham (Gen. 12), the promises made to Israel (book of Deuteronomy), and the believer in Jesus Christ? _____ (Yes or No)

12. What New Testament passage states that the New Testament believer is an heir to the blessings promised to Abraham? ______________

13. One of the blessings of Abraham, Deuteronomy 28:7, states, “The LORD shall cause
your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you ______ way and will flee before you ______ ways.”

14. One of the blessings of Abraham is ___________ and a glad heart.

15. How many specific promises did God make to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3?

__________

From the list on the right, choose the five that best describe the blessings of Abraham.

_____ 16. **Possible Matches for 16-20**

_____ 17. a. Salvation through Jesus Christ

_____ 18. b. Freedom from all demonic oppression

_____ 19. c. Children who will not go into captivity and who will not be given to other people

_____ 19. d. Children who will be a continual blessing for a lifetime

_____ 20. e. Couples who will have no miscarriages or barrenness among them

_____ 20. f. Protection against trials, tribulations, and suffering

_____ 20. g. Healing of body, soul, and spirit

_____ 20. h. Success in the work of our hands

_____ 20. i. One who will borrow and not lend