

# MZFABC Bible Study

Abraham:

## **The Father of the Jews**

Genesis Chapter 11 v. 27 –Chapter 25 v. 10

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# VISION

The vision of the Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Virginia will reach and reproduce within its surrounding community, a people inspired and equipped with a passion for the truth of God's Word and His compassion for others who will be enablers of change.



# Moving Forward as a Growing Church



Abraham:

# The Father of the Jews

Genesis Chapter 11 v. 27 – Chapter 25 v. 10

**November 8, 2023**



# The Review of the Summons



*Genesis 12:1-3*

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Promises:

After telling Abraham what he was to do, God gave Abraham some promises to encourage and inspire him to obey the precepts. God said, *“I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. 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”* (12:2,3)

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Promises:

Note it was promises and not reasons that God gave to encourage service. F. B. Meyer contends that, “God’s commands are not always accompanied by reasons, but always by promises, expressed or understood. To give reasons would excite discussion; but to give a promise shows that the reason, though hidden, is all-sufficient. We can understand the promise, though the reason might baffle and confuse us. The reason is intellectual, metaphysical [philosophical], spiritual; but a promise is practical, positive, literal.”

# REVIEW **of the Summons**

## *Six Aspects Concerning These Promises*

- The future of the promises
- The number of the promises
- The location of the promises
- The opposition to the promises
- The fulfillment of the promises
- The Gospel in the promises



# REVIEW of the Summons

## *The Future of the Promises:*

- Considerable time must go by for the fulfillment of all the promises given to Abraham. In fact, many hundreds of years must go by before some of the promises are fulfilled. This will definitely not appeal to the flesh, but it will give faith an opportunity to thrive.
- The flesh wants everything now and has little patience for waiting for God's timing. Therefore, the flesh is seldom excited by the promises of God though they are great blessings indeed.
- Abraham was a different story, however. His faith was great, and so he valued the promises.

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Number of the Promises

- There are at least seven promises in the summons. They are: **(1)** *“I will make of thee a great nation,”* **(2)** *“I will bless thee,”* **(3)** *“I will ... make thy name great,”* **(4)** *“thou shalt be a blessing,”* **(5)** *“I will bless them that bless thee,”* **(6)** *“I ... will curse them that curseth thee,”* and **(7)** *“in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”*
- When we compare the number of precepts requirements (**separation, sacrifice, labor and faith**) with the number of promises, we observe that what God will do for Abraham is much more than what Abraham is asked to do for God.

# REVIEW of the Summons

## *The Number of the Promises*

- Many complain that God's commandments are restrictive, kill-joy, and burdensome. But we should never complain of God's commandments when we consider His promises. God's promises more than compensate for any effort we must give, and for any cost, sacrifice we must pay/incur, and for any distasteful thing we must do to obey His precepts. **No one ever loses who honors God's precepts—God's promises will see to that!**

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Location of the Promises

- Note the promises are given while Abraham is still in Ur. Abraham must choose to leave one place and go to another (two-fold precept). God usually gives the precepts before He gives the promises. Thus, God first tells Abraham what he is to do; then God tells what He will do. God first impresses upon us our duties; then He speaks of our wages/blessings.
- Sometimes we seem more interested in the blessings, benefits, or privileges than we are in our responsibilities, duties or obligations. There is a sense of entitlement which is a self-centered attitude. It is an attitude that FIRST says, “What’s in it for me!” Such an attitude is one that does not perform one’s duties well because the emphasis is on, ‘me instead of Thee’...and on ‘How you treat me than how I treat you.

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Location of the Promises

- Abraham will realize all the promises of the summons if he gives due attention and respect to the precepts. The same holds true for anyone.
- Note: It was promises and not reasons that God gave to encourage service. F. B. Meyer contends that, “God’s commands are not always accompanied by reasons, but always by promises, expressed or understood. To give reasons would excite discussion; but to give a promise shows that the reason, though hidden, is all-sufficient. We can understand the promise, though the reason might baffle and confuse us. The reason is intellectual, metaphysical [philosophical], spiritual; but a promise is practical, positive, literal.”

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Opposition of the Promises

- Circumstances oppose just about every promise God has ever made. Every promise is, therefore, a test of our faith - *should we give greater weight to the circumstances or to the promises?* Faith will vote in favor of the promises; unbelief will vote in favor of the circumstances.

# REVIEW **of the Summons**

## *The Opposition of the Promises*

- What do we know about Abraham's circumstances?
- What did they look like?
- They seemed to be against the promises in the summons.

# REVIEW of the Summons

## *The Opposition of the Promises*

- God promises said that Abraham would be a great nation, but circumstances laughed at that promise, for Abraham had no seed, and he and Sarah were too old to have a child.
- God promises said that He would bless Abraham; but circumstances predicted loss, not gain.
- God promises said that Abraham would be a great benefactor to the world, but circumstances said that Abraham was only causing hardship to those around him in leaving Ur and making the arduous trip to Canaan.



# REVIEW of the Summons

## *The Opposition of the Promises*

- God's promises said He would make Abraham's name great, but circumstances made Abraham look like a fool—not a great man—in leaving his native land and his family to go into a strange country.
- God's promises (especially so the, **“I will curse them that curseth thee”** ) said Abraham would be safe, but circumstances said that obeying God's precepts would put Abraham right in the midst of unfriendly people.

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Opposition of the Promises

- So, Abraham's circumstances did nothing to encourage the fulfillment of the promises made to him in this summons. But as Scripture teaches repeatedly, circumstances are no match to God's promises.
- Every promise made to Abraham was victorious over the opposing circumstances. **Now, THIS ought to lift our spirits and cause us to not let circumstances get us down when they seem so against the fulfillment of God's promises to us!**

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Fulfillment of the Promises

- The fulfillment of these promises will help remind us of God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises and show us how wonderfully His promises are fulfilled—even though circumstances seem to oppose their fulfillment.
- The fulfillment of the **first** promise (*Abraham's seed would become a great nation*) is a matter of history and is going to be realized in an even greater way in the future. The greatness of Israel under the leadership of David and Solomon shows the fulfillment in the past of Israel being a great nation.

# REVIEW **of the Summons**

## *The Fulfillment of the Promises*

- When Christ comes back to sit on the throne of Israel in the millennium, the greatest fulfillment of this particular promise will occur.

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Fulfillment of the Promises

- The fulfillment of the **second** promise (*God would bless Abraham*), is revealed when we read a few chapters further in Genesis and discover Abraham coming into great material prosperity; and even more importantly, the spiritual blessings which came to Abraham. God truly fulfilled His promise about blessing Abraham.

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Fulfillment of the Promises

- The fulfillment of the **third** promise (*Abraham's name to be great*) is incontestable. For some four thousand years, the name of Abraham has stood above most names in terms of fame. Not only is his name revered by the Jewish people, but he is also revered by many other people of the earth—from the followers of Mohammed to the followers of Christ.

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Fulfillment of the Promises

- The fulfilment of **fourth** promise (*Abraham would be a blessing to others*) like that of the second promise (*God would bless Abraham*), begins to manifest fulfillment quickly in Scripture. Abraham's rescue of the inhabitants of Sodom is an excellent example of the fulfillment of that promise and is reported in Genesis 14.

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Fulfillment of the Promises

- An important lesson we learn from this promise and fulfillment is that when God blesses us it is so we can bless others. God's blessings are not to be enjoyed selfishly, but they are to be used to bless others. "*I will bless thee*" is to be followed by "*thou shalt be a blessing.*"



# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Fulfillment of the Promises

- The **fifth** and **sixth** promises (*bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee*) are two interrelated promises that mankind must not ignore, or they will miss great blessings and suffer great judgment.
- On the judgment side of the promise, Egypt, Babylon, Rome, and Germany are some of the well-known nations who were at one time great world powers but because of their mistreatment of the Jews were destroyed or became second-class nations.

# REVIEW **of the Summons**

## *The Fulfillment of the Promises*

- On the blessing side of this promise, the United States has benefited by its benevolent attitude to the Jews. Being the first nation of the world to recognize Israel's independence in 1948 does not go unnoticed by God.

# REVIEW of the Summons

## The Fulfillment of the Promises

- The **seventh** promise (*all the families of the earth to be blessed through Abraham*) has many fulfillments. The most important fulfillment is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Another great fulfillment of this promise is the Bible. It is primarily a Jewish book. The Word of God was written by Jews with the exception of Luke (and some believe Luke was a Jew).
- A prominent Jewish scholar, Dr. S. Schechter, said, “*Our great claim to the gratitude of mankind is that we gave the world the Word of God, the Bible.*”