

Life of Moses, part 1 – The Origin of the Jewish People – Genesis 12:1-9

“For whatever was written down in the past (Old Testament) was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4

God deliberately chose certain historical events from the lives of the Old Testament saints and recorded them in the Bible because these events contain spiritual lessons for followers of Jesus Christ today.

- 1. How the Jewish people came into being*
- 2. How the promised land became their inheritance*
- 3. How the Jewish people ended up in Egypt*
- 4. Why God sent them to Egypt to begin with*

The origin of the Jewish people all starts with a man named Abraham.

Around 2000 B.C., God decided to prepare a special race of people to become a special nation in order to carry out a special purpose.

Israel’s Three-fold Special Purpose was to give the world:

- #1 – Knowledge of the True God*
- #2 – Written Word of God (Bible)*
- #3 – Messiah*

“Now the LORD said to Abraham, ‘Leave your country and your relatives and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.’” Genesis 12:1

God asked Abraham to step out by faith and walk into completely unknown territory - - with only the promises of God to sustain him.

“So, Abraham went forth, just as the Lord had spoken to him.” Genesis 12:4

The Abrahamic Covenant = six promises God makes to Abraham in Genesis 12.

Abrahamic Covenant – Six Provisions

#1 – vs. 2 – “I will make you into a great nation.”

#2 – vs. 2 – “I will bless you, Abraham.”

“Now Abraham was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold.” Genesis 13:2

#3 – vs. 2 – “And I will make your name great.”

#4 – vs. 3 – “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

#5 – vs. 7 – “To your offspring I will give this land.”

#6 – vs. 3 – “I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you.”

Cursed

Pharaoh in Exodus

Philistines

Haman

Spain

Czarist Russia

Communist Russia

Hitler

Blessed

Persians

Alexander the Great

United States

Picture of President Harry S. Truman

“If God doesn’t judge the United States, He’s going to have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”

“. . . those who bless you I will bless.” Genesis 12:3

God asked Abraham to leave his homeland so He could start a new people - - the Jewish people

- *God made Abraham six promises if he would obey*
- *Abraham obeyed, the Abrahamic Covenant was ratified and the Jewish people came into existence*

So What?

Abraham’s life is all about “living by faith.”

*“**By faith, Abraham** – when called to go to a place he would later receive as an inheritance, obeyed and went – even though he did not know where he was going.” Hebrews 11:8*

*“**By faith, Abraham . . .**” Hebrews 11:9*

*“**By faith, Abraham . . .**” Hebrews 11:11*

Abraham’s faith (biblical faith) was not based on some kind of ethereal feeling.

Abraham’s faith (biblical faith) is based on the promises of God.

In walking by faith, all Abraham did was take God at His word and act on it.

For Abraham the central issue was: “What has God promised me?”

Abraham’s outlook:

- *Whatever God has promised me*
- *I’m going to believe it and act on it*
- *Whether I “understand” everything or not!*

Biblical “faith” is all about:

#1 – Knowing the promises of God

#2 – Knowing the character of God - - that He always keeps His promises

#3 – Following God anywhere He leads us - - because we know God keeps His word

We must realize that the whole reason why God raised up Moses - - and why God liberated the Jews from Egypt in such an unprecedented way - - is because God keeps His promises!

“But the reason that the Lord brought you out of Egypt with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery and from the hand of Pharaoh is because the LORD loved you and because He kept the oath He swore to your forefathers.” Deuteronomy 7:8

“Know, therefore, that the LORD your God is a faithful God, who keeps His covenants (promises).” Deuteronomy 7:9

Our God is a promise-keeping God

This is the whole basis upon which walking by faith depends.

As followers of Christ, God often leads us like He led Abraham:

- *Into uncharted waters*
- *Where we have no answers*
- *Where things look scary, risky & dangerous*

When God leads us like this, He calls on us to walk by faith just like Abraham did.

“We walk by faith and not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7

To help us, He’s made us oodles of promises in the Bible about everyday life.

“All things work together for good to those who love God.” Romans 8:28

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD, “plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

As followers of Christ, the issue is not whether we can explain everything.

The issue is whether we are going to believe what God promises us . . .

- *And rely on God’s promises as so absolutely trustworthy . . .*
- *That we are willing to let God take us into uncharted waters with only His promises to sustain us*

There are only two choices in life: trust God or doubt God.

As a follower of Christ, do you know what it means to walk by faith - - to view every circumstance in life in light of God’s promises - - and then trust Him?

There are only two choices in life: trust God or doubt God.

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Hebrews 11:6