

DEUTERONOMY 33, PART 2
MOSES' FINAL BLESSING ON ISRAEL
Lester Fountain
February 23, 2020

Introduction: God's Promises to Abraham

God gave Abraham a command and an amazing promise. The command was, "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you." "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen 12:1-3).

Abraham's son Isaac and grandson Jacob were "heirs with him of the same promise" (Hebrews 11:9).

These promises were both physical and spiritual in nature. Physically, Abraham's descendants would become a great nation. The spiritual blessing to all people was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, a descendant of Abraham. We identify with the promise by way of Our Lord. "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made" (Galatians 3:16). Side note: you are of your father the Devil. John 8:44

Promises to Abraham's descendants (Genesis 12:7):

"Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, 'To your descendants I will give this land.' And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him."

When Abraham left his country for the land God promised to show him, "he went out, not knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8). After Abraham arrived in the land God wanted him to see, God announced that He would give this land to his descendants. "And the LORD said to Abram: 'Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. Arise, walk in the land (Canaan) through its length and its width, for I give it to you.'" God then encouraged Abraham to walk through the land—to check out the gift that he was being given. Promise of countless descendants (Genesis 15:4-6, 18). Then He brought him outside and said, 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. A significant detail here is that Abraham believed that what God had promised would indeed come about.

God's promised blessing despite our failures:

God's promises to Abraham and Sarah, father and mother of many nations (Genesis 17:1-8, 15-16) "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you and will multiply you exceedingly.' (Was Abraham a perfect man? Could he walk before God and be blameless?) Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: 'As for Me, behold, My covenant is with

you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. (Sara, Jacob, and Saul all had name changes)

God's plan of fulfillment vs our expectation of Him fulfilling them:

"I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. "Also, I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.' ...

Promise of "the gate of their enemies" (Genesis 22:16-18):

"By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

After Abraham's death, God repeated and reinforced the promises to his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob. God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 26:3-5; 27:26-29; 28:13-14; 35:11-12)

Do the promises to Abraham still apply?

Today it is commonly understood that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of God's promise to bless all families of the earth through Abraham.

During His New Testament ministry, Jesus told His disciples that in the future Kingdom of God, they would sit on thrones "judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30). New Jerusalem will have 12 gates, each named after one of "the twelve tribes of the children of Israel" (Rev 21:12).

V1: Moses' Final Blessing on Israel and (Jacob's Last Words to His Sons – Gen 49)

Gen 49:1 And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days: 2 "Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father

V2: The Shekinah Glory -- The general nature of this solemn introduction is to show the foundation which Moses had for blessing his brethren, this to say, because God had frequently manifested His glory in their behalf; four occasions are mentioned.

(2 "The Lord came from Mount Sinai and dawned upon us from Mount Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran and came from Meribah-kadesh with flaming fire at his right hand. (N L Translation))

Vv3-5: The Lord Loves JESHURUN -- The name Jeshurun means "upright one" or "blessed one."

V6: Reuben1 -- 3Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power. 4 Unstable as water, you shall not excel, because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it— He went up to my couch.

V7: Judah4 – 8 “Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father’s children shall bow down before you. 9 Judah is a lion’s whelp (puppy); From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. 11 Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey’s colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes. 12 His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.

Vv8-11: Levi3 and (Simeon2 not actually mention in this chapter.) – 5 “Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place. 6 Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. 7 Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.

V12: Benjamin12 -- 27 “Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil.”

Vv13-17: Joseph11 (Ephraim14 and Manasseh13, Gen 48 their story) -- 22 “Joseph is a fruitful bough (main branch of a tree), A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall. 23 The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him. 24 But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), 25 By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb. 26 The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.

Vv18-19: Zebulun10 (Issachar9) -- 13 “Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon.

14 “Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens; 15 He saw that rest was good, And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves.

Vv20-21: Gad7 -- 19 “Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, But he shall triumph at last.

V22: Dan5 -- 16 “Dan shall judge his people As one of the tribes of Israel. 17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path, That bites the horse’s heels So that its rider shall fall backward. 18 I have waited for your salvation, O Lord!

V23: Naphtali6 -- 21 “Naphtali is a deer let loose; He uses beautiful words.

Vv24-25: Asher8 – 20 “Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties.

Vv26-29: There is no one like the God of Jeshurun

Conclusion: Heb 13:8-9

Footnote: Number at end of name is birth order. Asher8 is the 8th son born to Jacob or Israel.