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# Abraham

a blessing

## To All Nations.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# Abraham, a Blessing to All Nations.

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## Topics.

- Abrahams blessing to the Jewish nation and the Arab nations.
- God will establish his covenant with Abraham and his seed.
- God's promises to Abraham and his seed.
- The LORD appears to Abraham.
- Three Angels appear to Abraham as Human Men.
- Angels appearing like men tell Abraham Sarah will have a son.
- Is anything too hard for the LORD?
- The LORD visited Sarah and she bare Abraham a son in his old age.
- The beauty the glory the majesty God's promise to Abraham:

Because of Abraham's faith he has been a blessing to the Jews, the Arab's and the Christians in the following ways:

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## THE JEWISH NATION.

**Isaac** (Genesis 25:19-34).

Jacob and his twelve Sons.

The twelve tribes of Israel.

The law.

The Old Testament Scriptures.

The promises.

The birth of Jesus.

The twelve apostles.

The Gospel went around the world.

The New Testament Scriptures.

Eternal life through Jesus Christ the promised seed of Abraham.

Believers are Abraham's children by faith.

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## THE ARAB NATIONS.

**Ishmael** (Genesis 25:12-16).

Ishmael twelve princes.

Ishmael twelve tribes.

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## Paul wrote:

- Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. <sup>7</sup>Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. <sup>8</sup>And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. <sup>9</sup>So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham (Gal. 3:6-9).

All nations are blessed in Abraham because from Abraham came Isaac and from Isaac came Jacob and from Jacob came the twelve tribes of

Israel and from Israel came the Virgin Mary and from Mary came Jesus the promised seed of Abraham. All the families of the earth are blessed in Abraham because no one can be saved to eternal life by strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days or by keeping religious customs and traditions but only by believing in the promised seed of Abraham Israel's Messiah, the Christ and Saviour of the world. Paul wrote:

- In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith (Gal. 3:26).

This means whether a person is born a direct descendant of Abraham, a Hebrew, Jew or of any other nation, whether a person is born into nobility or a lowly estate, rich or poor, a king or pauper it matters not all are saved in the same way through faith in the promised seed of Abraham the Lord Jesus Christ.

**NOTE:** the words, "In thee shall all nations be blessed" does not mean that every man and woman of every nation will be blessed, but that in Abraham people from all nations will be blessed in contrast to only those who belong to the nation of Israel.

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## **GOD WILL ESTABLISH HIS COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS SEED.**

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- **Genesis 17:1:** when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. <sup>3</sup>And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, <sup>4</sup>As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. <sup>5</sup>Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

Twenty-four years have passed since Abraham left the land of Ur with his family, Abraham is now ninety-nine years old, Sarah his wife is eighty-nine and Ishmael is thirteen years old. God now comes to Abraham and tells him He is going to make a covenant (promise) with Abraham that he will be a father of many nations Abraham.

- Abraham means father of many.
- Covenant means agreement, contract and promise.

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## **GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM AND HIS SEED**

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- **Genesis 17:6-8:** I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. <sup>7</sup>And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. <sup>8</sup>And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

God promised:

- Abraham that kings and nations would come from him.
- To make an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his seed after him.
- To give Abraham and his seed after him all the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession.
- To be a God to Abraham and to his seed after him.

This promise will be fulfilled when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns everyone will see him and those who pierced him, and tells us, Jesus the faithful witness and the ruler of kings on earth loves us, freed us from our sins by his blood and RANSOMED a people for God from every tribe, language, people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and made us a KINGDOM and PRIESTS to his God and Father (Revelation 1:5-10).
- And in chapter six we are told that Christ was slain to RANSOM a people for God from every tribe, language, people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and has made them a KINGDOM and PRIESTS to our God, and they shall REIGN on the EARTH (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is All in All and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

**For further information see titles:**

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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**THE LORD APPEARS TO ABRAHAM**

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- **Genesis 18:1-4:** the LORD appeared unto him (Abraham) in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; <sup>2</sup>And he lift up his eyes and looked, and lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, <sup>3</sup>And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: <sup>4</sup>Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

All Christians have a certain mental image of the Lord Jesus Christ, but no one has any idea of what God Himself may look like. Though the Scriptures state that no one can see God's face and live (Exod. 33:20) and that no one has ever seen God (John 1:18) (1 John 4:12) here we read of God appearing to Abraham in the form of three men and in many other Scriptures we are told that certain people of the Bible have seen God so is this a contradiction of Scriptures or can they be harmonized?

To discover the answer let's look at the following six verses:

1. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered" (Gen. 32:30).

Here a man wrestled with Jacob during the night until morning and Jacob overcame the man so the man told Jacob his name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, because he had striven with God and with men and prevailed (Gen. 32:24-31). The words, "I have seen God face to face" in this context does not mean Jacob literally saw God's form, but refers to the man Jacob wrestled with.

2. The LORD spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend (Exod. 33:11).

Here Moses would enter the tent of meeting and a pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent and the LORD would speak with Moses (v6-11). The words, the LORD spoke with Moses face to face, does not mean Moses literally saw God's face, but that the LORD spoke with Moses with the same intimacy and love true friends speak to each other with. Even though the Scriptures proclaim, "There has not been a

prophet in Israel like Moses who the LORD knew face to face" (Deut. 34:10) we know this does not mean that Moses literally saw the LORD because God Himself told Moses he cannot see His face, because no one can see the LORD and live. Because of this the LORD told Moses to stand on a rock and while God's glory passed by God would cover Moses with his hand until He had passed by. Then the LORD would take away His hand so that Moses could see God's back, because no one could see God's face (Exod. 33:20-23).

3. You (Israel) said, 'Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man and man still live (Deut. 5:24).

Here God appeared on Mount Sinai to Moses and gave him the Ten Commandments. The LORD spoke to all the assembly of Israel out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice. After this the leaders of the tribes said to Moses, "Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man and still live (Deut. 5:22-24). The words we have seen God in this context does not mean that they literally saw God's form, but that they had seen his power and heard his voice.

4. Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, for we have seen God (Judges 13:22).

Here an angel of God appears to Manoah and his barren wife (she gave birth to Samson). In this chapter this angel is called the man of God who God sent, the man who appeared to Manoah's wife, an angel of God, and the angel of the LORD. We are told he appeared as a man of God whose appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome and whose name was wonderful. The words, "We have seen God" do not mean that Manoah and his wife literally saw the form of God, but that they saw an angel of God who appeared as a man of God who brought to them God's perfect will for Manoah's barren wife, (i.e., that she would give birth to Samson a deliverer of Israel). It was only after the angel went up to heaven in the flame of the altar that Manoah knew that the man of God that came to them was the angel of the LORD (v20-22).

5. No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him (John 1:18).

Here John tells us no one has ever seen God, but the Lord Jesus Christ who is exalted to God's right hand side has declared God, meaning Jesus has made God known to us all while ministered on earth with the apostles.

6. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us (1 John 4:12).

Again, John tells us no one has ever seen God, but if we abide in love God abides in us, this is because God is love (1 John 4:8) (1 John 4:16). These verses shine a spotlight on the truth that the words, "We have seen God," do not mean that people have literally seen God's form, but that angels appearing as men who are speaking God's word and bringing God's eternal will, plans and purposes to those they are speaking to are seen or spoken of as God Himself speaking and appearing. What we do clearly learn about God from the Scripture is that He is Spirit and love, He has the heart of a Father and is sovereign and perfect in holiness and justice and awesome in might and power.

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### THREE ANGELS APPEAR TO ABRAHAM AS HUMAN MEN

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Even though the Scripture says, "The LORD appeared unto Abraham" (Gen. 18:1-4) we are told that when Abraham saw the LORD he saw three men and offered them water to wash their feet and a place to rest this shines a brilliant spotlight on the fact that the statement, "The LORD

appeared unto Abraham” does not mean that God Himself literally appeared to him, but that God’s perfect eternal will for Abraham’s life came to him and that there was something so wonderfully unique about these three angels appearing as human men that Abraham knew they were sent from God.

**NOTE:** Abraham’s words, “My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight” (v3) shine a beautiful light on the truth that Abraham who all Christians honour as the father of faith and hold in enormously high esteem was a humble man who though fully devoted to God in every way was in no way self-righteous, but saw himself as a man who fell far short of the Holiness of God.

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## ANGELS APPEARING LIKE MEN TELL ABRAHAM SARAH WILL HAVE A SON

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- **Genesis 18:9-12:** they (the three men); said unto him (Abraham) Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. <sup>10</sup>And he (one of the three men) said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

At this time Abraham is ninety-nine and Sarah is eighty-nine so for Sarah to hear the words, “She will give birth to a Son” after all her youthful years of barrenness and many years of desperate longing to have a child the angels promise not only seems an impossibility and raises doubt in Sarah, but also causes Sarah to laugh at the thought that a woman of her age would give birth to a child.

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## IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD?

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- **Genesis 18:13-15:** And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? <sup>14</sup>Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I (the LORD) will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. <sup>15</sup>Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.

All who doubt the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ should consider these words that the LORD spoke to Abraham concerning Sarah his aged and barren wife giving birth to a son:

- Is anything too hard for the LORD?

And the following words the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary:

- Nothing will be impossible with God.

We are told when the LORD previously came to Abraham and told him that He would give him a son by Sarah and that kings and nations would come from her Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said within himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” (Gen. 17:16-17). Though Abraham also laughed at the idea of Sarah having a child, his laugh was not in unbelief, but at the thought that a man of his age could give birth to a son and at the stunning the thought of his loved, barren and aged wife giving birth to a child. Since the Bible tells us that Abraham left Ur with all his family solely by faith in the word of the Lord and the author of Hebrews tells us:

- By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob,

heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God (Heb. 11:8).

It is hardly likely that Abraham had any doubt when the word of the LORD came to him saying his wife Sarah would have a son especially since he was fully aware these men were sent from God. In the previous verses the angel told Abraham he will return to him according to the time of life (V10, 14) the following verses show that this means that the LORD will perform a miracle for Sarah when it is time for her to conceive

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## THE LORD VISITED SARAH AND SHE BARE ABRAHAM A SON IN HIS OLD AGE

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- **Genesis 21:1-5:** And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. <sup>2</sup>For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup>And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. <sup>4</sup>And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup>And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.

We have previously read that Sarah and Abraham both laughed when they heard the angel's words Sarah would give birth to a son which makes it really charming that Abraham named their miracle son Isaac, since the name Isaac means, "He laughs" perhaps a little glimpse of Abraham's humour.

- **Genesis 21:6:** And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me. <sup>7</sup>And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age. <sup>8</sup>And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned.

The following verses shine a spotlight on the truth that though Sarah at first doubted when she heard the angels promise that she would give birth to a son once the LORD asked her the question, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" She turned from her doubt to faith in the word of the LORD and the promise of God:

- Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable (Hebrews 11:11-12).

The beginning of God's glorious eternal promise to Abraham started with Sarah who had previously laughed with cynical doubt for a moment, but through faith in the word of the LORD received strength to conceive seed and gave birth to Isaac. Her laughter was turned to overwhelming glorious joy and praise for God's great gift. Isaac was probably weaned when he was about two to three years old which means Ishmael (Abraham's and Hagar's son) who was thirteen when Isaac was born would have been in his late teens.

### **Abraham became the father of many nations in the following three ways:**

1. Abraham became the father of Isaac, and Isaac became the father of Esau and Jacob, God changed Jacobs name to Israel. Jacob had twelve sons (called the twelve patriarchs) who became the twelve tribes of Israel and form the nation of Israel.
2. From Esua came twelve sons called princes who became twelve tribes who the Abrab nations come from.
3. The Lord Jesus Christ is the promised seed of Abraham and everyone who belongs to him by faith is a child of Abraham the father of faith.

Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. The Gospel that was preached to Abraham was that God would justify the Gentiles by faith. It is those of faith who are the true sons of Abraham not the descendants of the flesh. This is what the promise of God that Abraham would be the father of many nations and from his offspring all the families of the earth would be blessed along with Abraham the man of faith means. The glory contained in God's promise to Abraham is that Jesus Christ came through the bloodline of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob this is the blessing of Abraham Gentiles not only receive all the promises God made to Abraham by faith, but also receive the promised Spirit of righteousness that leads to eternal life and everlasting glory through faith in Christ. Everyone who has faith in the promised seed of Abraham the Lord Jesus Christ is counted righteous by faith as Abraham was and become heirs of all the promises made to Abraham. The following Scripture gloriously show that the promises made to the offspring of Abraham did not refer to all the children of Israel, but to one of his offspring who of course is Christ and that those who belong to the family of Christ by faith are the true children of Abraham.

- Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ (Galatians 3:16).
- Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham (Gal. 3:7).

Prior to the New Testament the chosen people of God and His focus was the nation of Israel they were God's unique nation as the following shows.

God said:

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved them when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).
- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deut. 14:2).

The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation:

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power.
- To Israel God declared his word, statutes and his rules.
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the worship and the promises.
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory.
- To Israel the oracles of God were entrusted.
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith.
- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the World.
- The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges.

Christ Israel's promised Messiah the Christ and Saviour of the world came into the world and proclaimed the New Covenant of grace and through his death and resurrection abolished the entire Levitical priesthood the need for the temple and the need to strictly adhere to the Old Testament ceremonial rites, holy days and religious customs and traditions. Jesus

opened the way for every man and woman no matter what language or nation they are from to enter into God's presence symbolised by the curtain of the Holy Place being torn from top to bottom when Jesus breathed his last breath on the cross of Calvary so that in Christ Jesus:

- The blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith Gal. 3:14).

This study is titled: "Abraham, a Blessing to All Nations: the following verses show how Abraham through his faithfulness and obedience to God became a blessing to all nations in contrast to the nation of Israel only: -

- For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise (Gal. 3:27-29).
- James said God counted Abraham as righteousness because he believed God and because of his faith he was called a friend of God (James 2:23). This is the glory of the blessing of Abraham not one of us are saved to eternal life by self-effort, works or by strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days or keeping religious customs and traditions.

No one can inherit the promises made to Abraham by strictly adhering to Moses law, ceremonial rites holy days or by keeping religious customs and traditions. The only way to inherit the blessings of God's promise is by having faith in the promised seed of Abraham the Lord Jesus Christ.

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### **HERE IS THE BEAUTY THE GLORY THE MAJESTY GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM**

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In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one in Christ Jesus and whoever is baptised into Christ are Abraham's offspring and heirs according to God's promise. This means that unbelieving Jews are not automatically accepted by God as heirs of the promises of Abraham. To receive the promises of Abraham all must have faith in the promised seed of Abraham Israel's Messiah the Christ and Saviour of the world the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the glory and the majestic royal wonder and beauty of the Bible God called Abraham out of the land of Ur and gave him an eternal promise. This promise travels through Isaac, Jacob, and King David and gloriously continues through the Old Testament into the New Testament where a brilliant light shines upon it. It then continues to travel through the teachings of the apostles through the age we live in and on into the book of Revelation where it meets with spectacular breathtaking wonder and climax's in the resurrection of all the faithful to eternal life and everlasting glory with the promised seed of Abraham the Lord Jesus Christ.