


**Awaiting the Promise**  
Advent 2022 – Week #2

~ Abraham ~  
**“The Promise of a Land”**



**Hebrews 11:8-19**


8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.



READ BY: Jan Bencak

**Hebrews 11:8-19**


11 And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. 13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.



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**Hebrews 11:8-19**


14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. 17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,



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**Hebrews 11:8-19**

18 even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” 19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.



READ BY: Jan Bencak

**And having “listened” ...**  
**It was no longer enough!**  
**He was no longer enough!**

**He spoke with us!**

**Then... another voice...**  
**... and Eve listened!**



**James Montgomery Boice** *The promise given!*  
 (July 7, 1938 – June 15, 2000)


Christian theologian, Bible teacher, author, speaker, and inner city pastor (Philadelphia) known for his writing on the authority of Scripture and the defense of Biblical inerrancy.

In his commentary *GENESIS: Volume 1* notes that Eve's words communicate less the idea of...

**"Look, I have a son!"**

and more of...

**"Here he is!"**



*The promise given!*

**The expectation...**

**The promised redeemer who would reverse the curse!**

**The reality...**

**"a son in his own likeness!"**  
**"Here he is!"** (Genesis 5:3)

*The promise given!*

**And so... began the wait!**

**Amidst the "conflict of kingdoms"...**

**The world would wait for its redeemer to come!**

**... for the One who would be His brother's keeper!**



**Genesis records man's "migration" away from God**



**Genesis 11:3-4**

"They said to each other, 'Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly... Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.'"

**"global coup"**



**Genesis 12:1**

**"Then the LORD spoke to Abram..."**


*Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.*

**The Call of Abram**

**12** \_\_\_\_\_ :

**2** "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

**3** I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."



Abram...


**“Abram” - ‘exalted father’**

His name was changed to “Abraham”, which means ‘father of a multitude’, when God initiated His covenant with him (Genesis 17).

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many people. However, he was 75 when called... 99 when specific promise was given and his childless wife was 90 (Genesis 11:30; 12:4; 17:1-4, 17)

... well past the normal age for having children.

Nevertheless, Abraham trusted God and believed God could accomplish what He had promised.




Abram...


Nevertheless, Abraham trusted God and believed He could accomplish what He had promised.

In the promise of a child...  
And in becoming a multitude of people!

**Genesis 15:6 –**  
“And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD attributed it to him as righteousness.”



**“righteousness”**



**Hebrews 11**


“18 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’  
19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.”

**“Step-by-Step”**

- At age 75, Abraham leaves Ur, arrives in Canaan (Gen. 12)
- At age 85, Abraham takes Hagar as a wife (Gen. 16; 16:3)
- At age 86, Ishmael was born to him by Hagar (Gen. 16:16)
- At age 99, Abraham was circumcised (Gen. 17:24)
- At age 99, Abraham was visited by three travelers (18:1; 18:10)
- At age 100, Isaac was born to him by Sarah (Gen. 21)
- At age 103 (giving approximately three years for Isaac's weaning), Abraham sent away Ishmael and Hagar (Gen. 21)
- At age 125<sup>+</sup>, Abraham (almost) sacrifices Isaac (Gen. 22)
- At age 137, Abraham buried his wife who died at 127 (Gen. 23:1)
- At age 140, Abraham's son Isaac and Rebekah were married (Gen. 24; 25:20)
- At age 175, Abraham died (Gen. 25:7)

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**“Step-by-Step”**

Amidst famine, he leaves the “land” and travels to Egypt.  
... Acquired Hagar... (Gen 11:10)

Deceives Pharaoh about his wife (2x's!)  
- Genesis 12:11-13; 20:1-18

Takes Hagar as his wife that he might perhaps fulfill the promise of God...  
Genesis 16



It's a story of transformation!


**From!**  
...and...  
**To!**



But it's also the continuing story of God's faithfulness to His promises!

**” I will keep My covenant between Me and you, and your future offspring throughout their generations, as an everlasting covenant to be your God and the God of your offspring after you. And to you and your future offspring I will give the land where you are residing—all the land of Canaan—as an eternal possession, and I will be their God.”**  
Genesis 17:7-8

*In blessing I will bless you, and in 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... Genesis 22:17-18*



Through it all...  
God sets Abraham up as an example of “enduring” faith & righteousness!

Isaiah 51:1-2  
**Everlasting Salvation for Zion**

**51** Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord:  
Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn;


**2** look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth.  
When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.

**Genesis 3:6-20**

**8** *By faith* Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, **obeyed and went...** even though he did not know where he was going.

**9** *By faith* he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; **he lived in tents**, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

**10** **For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.**




**Genesis 3:6-20**

**12** **And so** from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

**13** **All these people were still living by faith when they died.**

They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.



**Hebrews 10:36-39**

**36** **For you have need of endurance,** so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. **37** For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; **38** but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” **39** But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

**Romans 8:32**

*“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”*



**Romans 4:18-21**

*“No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.”*

**May we as well  
be people of  
such abiding  
trust!**

