

The Lord Keeps His Promises

1. His Promise to Bless Us

2. His Promise to Send Us a Savior

3. His Promise to Give Us a Homeland

The Lord Keeps His Promises

- Abram/Sarai – you know better: Abraham/Sarah, bec in 5 chs, change names. Abram: exalted father. Abraham: father of many people. Did become – not just phys descnts, but Rom calls A's offspring **“all...those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all” (4:16)**. Song *“Father Abraham.”* We're all A's children when share his faith in Lord. Today, marv exmp of A's faith in Lord – look: gets up, leaves country/fam, travels across known world at God's com. That takes faith – but not just blind faith – faith in something concrete, faith in Lord's proms! Today, instead focusing on A's great faith, lesson from Gen 12 puts focus on Lord's great proms. Today we see Lord make/keep some beautiful proms to A. And Lord makes/keeps some beautiful proms to us, as well. That really is emph today: we put our faith in Lord (like A did), bec Lord keeps his proms (LKP).

His Promise to Bless Us

- Ever had anyone break prom to you? Maybe spouse, promd faithful; then left you for someone else – broken prom. Or maybe dad, baseball game; something at work, couldn't – still broken prom. When people make us proms, then break, can leave us feeling distrustful/skept. God does not want us feel distrustful/skept of him; wants us trust his word. And so makes/keeps, first, promise to bless us.
- Promd to bless A. But first gave A pretty tall order. **Vs. 1**. Tall order! A might thought: 'Why? Perf comf here! And where? Want me just blindly follow wherever you say go?' A had been living in Ur (long ways) when God first told him move (Ac 7:2-3). Then after a stop in Harran (this lesson), Lord again, get up/go. Destination: Israel. That: huge journey! ~1200 miles, by foot. I mapped out: like walking Cinci to MPLS to KS City (same dist/arch). 17 hr drive he made by foot! Huge journey! And Heb: A went **“even though he did not know where he was going” (11:8)**. Just following God.
- But to support him on journey, Lord promd bless him. **Vs. 2-3**. What “wonderful cluster”¹ of proms! Great nation/name; blessing from Lord. And A could easily have doubted; after all, 75 yrs old; wife barren; no children. How become big fam, let alone great nation, when no children!? How have great name in foreign country, no one knows you!? But Lord made a prom; and LKP! Isaac born; Jacob; 12 sons/tribes; nation of Israel; after Exodus, entered promd land. Yes, God sent A on huge journey; but he travelled with proms of God, prom to bless him. And LKP.
- Keeps prom to bless us, as well. God may never tap you on shoulder, ask you travel x-country, or prom make your fam into great nation. But whenever you're faced w/ life changing decision, whenever about to embark on life-altering journey (move, marriage, new career, or any endeavor you undertake), you can go forward trusting Lord's prom to bless you. As Xian, trusting in J, you live under umbrella of God's grace. **Mt 28:20. Blessed poor in spirit (Xians); kingdom heaven (Mt 5:3). Ask, seek, knock. If you, evil, know how give good gifts, how much more Father heaven know how give who ask (Mt 7:7,11). Ever good, perf gift, from above... (Jms 1:17)**. Listen: God loves you, proms bless you. And even when diff times make God's blessings diff to see, LKP. He proms bless us.

His Promise to Send Us a Savior

- Nowhere that more evident than in his prom send us Sav. At end of that wondfl cluster proms comes this marv line: **vs. 3c**. How would A be channel thru which Lord would bless: not some people, not just people of Israel, but **“all peoples on earth”**? Here's how: thru A, God would send us Sav. A was ancestor of J; from his lineage our Sav was born. AIJ, Judah, yrs later David, yrs later J! When God: **A, vs. 3c**, he's saying: A, Sav of world, your descendant. This: Messianic prom Lord makes to A.
- LKP! **Jn 3:16**. On our own, would have perished, bec of our sins, esp of unbelief/doubt. So many times God makes us proms; and we doubt him, don't believe telling truth. We treat God like liar, with skepcs, demand he prove himself to us before we trust his word. That's blatant unbelief; we're all

guilty of it! But even though we've all doubted God's trustworthiness, LKP! He promd send us Sav. And 2k yrs ago in Bethlehem, Mary's arms embraced that prom; Joe's hands held. 30 yrs later, Rom soldiers tortured that prom; Rom hammers nailed that prom to cross. But 3 days later, that prom rose from dead & walked out tomb. You want proof of God's love – just look at J, risen from dead – he is God's greatest prom ever kept! And by his death/res he proms: your sins forgiven; you have peace with God; God does love you; never leave/forsake you; nothing can pluck you from his hand; he is your GS; you sheep; he will stay by your side when walk thru valley shadow death; someday he will raise your body back to life; you will live with J forever in heaven. Those are God's proms, to you, thru Xp, your Sav. **Vs. 3c you, A**, bec thru you I prom to send a Sav. LKP!

His Promise to Give Us a Homeland

- So A journeyed, with wife/neph, flocks/possns, from Ur-Harran-Canaan/Israel. After mos/mos trav, finally arrived safely. And A so thankful that 2x in reading: built an altar to Lord, worshipped God. **Vs. 8b**. But there's more, another prom: **vs. 7a**. God promd to give A & his fam this land of Canaan as their new homeland. And the whole story OT is story of A's descnts, Hebrew people, that became great nation, lived on this plot real estate E of Med Sea, this promised homeland.
- God has promd homeland for us, as well. Not a plot of real estate in city/Burl or state/WI. Book Heb: **"By faith [A] made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country... For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (11:9-10)**. That city is heaven. Right now we live here on earth; have address, prop taxes. But our homeland, true home, in heaven. **"Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there" (Php 3:20)**. Xp has already paid for all your sins, just like he promd. But he has one more prom yet to fulfill: his prom to return, on Last Day, raise you to life, bring you to heaven – bring you home.
- J hasn't done this yet. But do you believe he will? I do, bec I believe LKP. And I believe that all the proms God has kept in past are meant to strengthen my faith in the prom he has yet to keep – his prom to give us homeland in heaven. And I need my faith strengthened regularly (by coming church every week, taking Com, hearing God's word) – I need this, bec my enemy Satan wants me lose my faith – bec he knows if I lose faith, lose homeland. And it's always easier to doubt a promise you can't see; and we can't see heaven. That's why I return again/again to Lord's proms, made to me in W&S, bec there I'm strengthened in my faith – the faith I share with A – the faith that says: God is not liar; God keeps his word. He richly blessed A, and graciously blesses me – just like promises. He sent us Sav from sin, thru line of A – just like promd. He brought A safely to his homeland, and someday he'll bring me to my homeland, too – bec that's what he's promd.
- People break their proms all time, but God never does. Trust him. LKP.

Genesis 12:1-8

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

¹ Werner Franzmann, *Bible History Commentary: Old Testament*, p. 96.