

**CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE POSTAL COURSE**

Tutor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ref No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**LETTER OF INTRODUCTION**

Dear Student,

We are pleased that you have decided to continue studying your Bible with us. You will find the 12 lesson Advanced Course very helpful and easy to follow.

It is most important that you read and learn the books and chapters set out at the top of the page.

Please note that due to the difficulty for most students to understand the English used in the Authorized King James Version we have used the New International Version. You may use whichever version you prefer but if you should find it too confusing trying to fit the right word in the space provided then please feel free to write out the verse according to the version you have, on a separate sheet of paper with your name and lesson number at the top and state which version you are using.

If you should have any questions or if there are any sections of the lesson that are not clear please do not hesitate to make a note of them and return them with your lesson. We will do our best to give you the biblical answer.

May God direct your path to reaching a true understanding of His wholesome truth and the wonderful hope that He has set before all those who love and fear Him.

"As truly as I live all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord" Numbers 14v21

**LESSON 1****The Promise to His People**

To read: Acts 1-7

To learn: Galatians 3:27-29

**QUESTIONS**

- Paul writes in Romans 15:8, "that Christ ... to confirm the \_\_\_\_\_ made to the \_\_\_\_\_"
- In Acts 26:6, Paul says to King Agrippa, "It is because of my hope in what God has \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ that I am on trial today." We see then, that "the promises made to the fathers" were of great importance to Christ and to Paul. In fact, the reason for Christ's coming was to confirm the promises! Yet who were the fathers? And what are the promises? This is what we will study in this lesson - the promises which God made to the fathers of the Jews.
- Paul informs us further on the matter in Galatians 3:16 saying, "the the promises were spoken to \_\_\_\_\_ and to his seed." To be able to study the promises we have to go back to the times of patriarch Abraham, who lived approximately some two thousand years before Christ. The story of this man of faith is found in Genesis chapters 12-25 (It would be good to read, especially Genesis 11:27-32 and chapters 12, 13, 15, 1?, 18, 21, and 22). A very summarized version of the story of Abraham is found in Acts 7:1-8, during Stephen's defence.
- According to Acts 7:2, where did God appear to Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_  
The present day name for this region is Iraq. Consult the maps at the back of your Bible to see where Mesopotamia, the city of Ur, Haran and Canaan are situated.
- What did God say to Abraham in Acts 7:3? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Demonstrating his faith and obedience, Abraham left his land to go to the land of Canaan. (Hebrews 11:8) "By \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, \_\_\_\_\_ and went, even though \_\_\_\_\_."
- In Genesis 12:2-3, we find the first promises which God made to Abraham. The promises were:
  - "I will make you into \_\_\_\_\_"
  - and I will \_\_\_\_\_ I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
  - I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and \_\_\_\_\_ will be blessed through you."
 God appeared to Abraham again after some years when Abraham was in the land of Canaan.
- According to Genesis 13:15, what will God give Abraham and for how long?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Note that Abraham will have to live forever to be able to inherit it forever. The promises were reiterated to Abraham on various occasions in Genesis 17:8, 22:18, 24:7, to his son Isaac in Genesis 26:3, and to his grandson Jacob in Genesis 28:13-14. These men are the "fathers" of the Jewish people which Paul mentions in Acts 26:6 and Romans 15:8. In conclusion, therefore, God promised Abraham:
  - many blessings
  - eternal life
  - the land of Canaan forever
  - that his descendants would be very numerous
  - that all the families of the earth would be blessed through Him.

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8. Now, in Genesis 22:18, God confirms to Abraham that through his \_\_\_\_\_ all nations on earth will be blessed. This seed, or descendant of Abraham, is in the first place, the Jews (Jesus said in John 4:22 that "salvation is of the \_\_\_\_\_")

Yet Paul tells us that in a very special way, this "seed" refers to one man, an extraordinary descendant of Abraham. Paul says in Galatians 3:16 "The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed." The scripture does not say "and to seeds", meaning many people, but "and to your seed", meaning one person, \_\_\_\_\_.  
Later in Galatians 3:29 Paul adds, "If you belong to \_\_\_\_\_ then you are seed, and heirs according to the \_\_\_\_\_."  
In other words, the promises made to Abraham are offered to people of all nations of the earth through the seed of Abraham, JESUS CHRIST.

All who have been baptized into Christ (who was a Jew and therefore a literal descendant of Abraham) become spiritual sons or daughters of Abraham (see Galatians 3:27) and heirs according to the promises made to the patriarch Abraham. We will see that the Gospel (the good news) preached by Jesus and the apostles is founded on the promises that God made to Abraham.

**"AND IT WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS"**

9. There is another episode in the life of Abraham which needs to be carefully studied in relation to the Gospel. Genesis 11:30 tells us that Sarai, Abraham's wife, was \_\_\_\_\_; she had no \_\_\_\_\_.  
Yet in Genesis 12:2 God promised Abraham that he would make of him "a great nation", in other words, that his descendants or family would be very numerous.

In fact, by these words, God promised Abraham that he would give him a son, since it would be impossible for Abraham to have a family if he did not have a son. Nevertheless, as the years go by, Sarai continues to be barren and Abraham begins to worry about the accomplishment of this promise. Let us carefully read Genesis 15:1-6.

10. In Genesis 15:2, Abraham expresses his concern saying, "O Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain \_\_\_\_\_ and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" (According to their custom Eliezer would be Abraham's only heir if he were to die without a son.) Nevertheless, God reaffirms his promise in verse 4, saying, "This man will not be your heir, but \_\_\_\_\_ coming from your own body will be your heir."

11. And Genesis 15:6, tells us that Abram (Abram's name was changed to Abraham in Gen. 17:5) believed the LORD and he credited it to him as \_\_\_\_\_.

This verse is one of the most important verses in the Bible and we are going to analyse it carefully. Firstly, to understand the importance of this verse, it is essential to understand that "Righteousness" means "forgiveness of sins." (See Romans 4:1-8, particularly verses 6-8 where Paul explains to us that "Righteousness" means "forgiveness of sins.") In Genesis 15:6, God offers Abraham forgiveness of his sins as a reward for his faith, because Abraham believed God when he said that He would give him a son. (Read Genesis 15:1-6) This son was Isaac, (see Genesis 21:1-7).

This blessing of the forgiveness of sins is the greatest blessing that man can receive from God. It is precisely what, according to the Gospel, is offered to people of all nations in the name of Abraham's descendant Jesus Christ. Now we read in Galatians 3:6-8, where Paul comments on Genesis 15:6.

12. In Galatians 3:8, Paul explains that "the Scriptures foresaw that God would \_\_\_\_\_ (to justify means to forgive) the Gentiles by faith, and announced \_\_\_\_\_ in advance to Abraham: "All \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_ through you."  
In other words the Gospel which was preached to Abraham is the same gospel of forgiveness of sins which Jesus Christ, John the Baptist and the apostles preached nearly two thousand years after Abraham died.

13. Mark 1:4 says that John the Baptist "preached the baptism of repentance for the \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins."

14. In Acts 2:38, Peter says to the Jews, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins."

15. In Acts 13:38, Paul says to the Jews at Antioch, "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins is proclaimed to you."

The promise made to Abraham of the forgiveness of sins is now offered to people of whatever race or citizenship through the knowledge of the word of God: faith, repentance and baptism into Christ. The other promises, for example, eternal life on earth, will happen in the future, in the Kingdom of God. The Bible teaches us that not even Abraham has received the promise of the land yet:

16. Stephen says in Acts 7:5 that "God gave him \_\_\_\_\_ inheritance here, not even a foot of ground."

17. Hebrews 11:9 tells us Abraham "By faith made his home in the promised land like a \_\_\_\_\_ in a foreign country."

18. Hebrews 11:13 tells us that "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did \_\_\_\_\_ receive the things promised."

Again, in Hebrews 11:39,40 we read that "these all, having received a good report through faith, received not the promise, God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

All the sons of God throughout all the ages have been promised eternal life on earth. They will only receive this when Jesus Christ returns again to earth, to resurrect Abraham, and all the saints who sleep in the dust of the earth, and to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth.