

## Abraham: I will shew you a Land – Bro Dafydd Jenkins

The theme of our week together at this Bible School has much to do with coming aside from the temptations and distractions of this world, and resting in the care of the One who has called us to “be ye separate”. The calling of our father Abraham, and his faithful response, gives reason for us to consider many powerful lessons for our own journey to the Land of Promise.

The introduction of Abram among the family of Terah marks a significant transition in the Genesis record. Prior to this point the narrative has been concerned with global events: creation, the flood and the division of the nations. At this point it narrows to focus on one man, and it is upon individuals from one family that the record is concentrated moving forward. The channel for the fulfilment of the purpose of God progresses through a man, who will become a family, who in turn will become a nation.



Yet captured within the offspring of this man are members of all nations, as the blessing God communicates to, and through him, extends throughout the globe, allowing him to become the "heir of the world".

At Babel the rampant ambition of man had expressed itself when "they said, Go to, *let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name*, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:4). Direct intervention thwarted their efforts. God then introduces one who received a promise, "I will ... make *thy name great*" (Genesis 12:2), who "*looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God*" (Hebrews 11:10). The route to greatness extended to Abraham lacks the anxiety and stress generated by man's own efforts at advancement, simply because he accepted the Lord's invitation, 'Come, **I will shew thee a land**'.

The quality which attracts the Lord's favour is faith. As the record unfolds we can plot the development in Abraham's life, which matches the increasing scope of the promise as it is successively expounded. This progressive unfolding brings within it greater insights for the ongoing enlightenment of the Patriarch.

We will marvel at the movement from Genesis 12, "in thee shall all families of the land be blessed" (where Abraham is advanced as the pattern or standard of the blessing), to the presentation of his seed as the source or place of blessing: "in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves" (Genesis 22). This movement is reflected in the Apostle's inspired exposition found in Galatians 3. There in the early verses, the principles of justification by faith are demonstrated by drawing upon the earlier chapters of Abraham's life. From that basis, Paul brings us to the great aim and end of the promise as foreshadowed in Genesis 22: "For as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal 3:27-29).

The greatness of Abraham's name, of which God speaks, is found in the development of Abraham's faith as he walks with God and his life is impressed with the divine character. Our lives are directed towards the development of a similarly close relationship with our Heavenly Father, and we pray that our time together at the School, in His grace, will aid us in our journey towards inheriting with Abraham that wonderful and amazing Promise.