

# The Seven Blessings

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The video version is available at: <https://youtu.be/CJbhsa3vmPk>

Scripture reading is Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-14, 17:1-14

The sin of Adam caused mankind to be exiled from the Garden of Eden. God promised that a seed from Eve would crush the head of the serpent that tempted him and end the exile. Ten generations and seventeen centuries later, nothing had improved. Mankind's subsequent sins resulted in a flood to destroy man and all living creatures with the exception of Noah and his family and the animals with him on the ark. After the flood, God made a covenant with Noah and all living creatures that He would not destroy the earth with a flood again, but the promise of a redeemer who would crush the serpent had not yet appeared. Ten generations and two hundred sixty two years later, a man named Abram was born. Through Abram, the entire framework for the redemption of mankind was laid.

Abram was from the line of Noah's son Shem who was the father of the people called the Semites or Shemites. They settled in the Chaldean region of the Middle East. This region included the famous city of Babylon. The two terms Chaldea and Babylon refer to the same general region. The city of Babylon was the site of the great tower of Babel where God punished the arrogance of mankind by causing them to speak in different tongues. Babylon was the center of idol worship and the exaltation of man to the status of god. The leaders of the Chaldeans were ascribed to have ascended to godhood.

At the time of Abram's birth, all of his forefathers from immediately after the flood including Noah were still living. Abram would have been fifty eight years old when Noah died! What influence did Noah and Shem who lived through the flood have on Abram as he grew up? At some point in Abram's life, God spoke to him and instructed him to leave his country and travel to a land that God would show him.

Genesis 12:1 NKJV 1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

The verse says that, "the LORD had said," indicating that God spoke to Abram before he left Haran. Abram's home was actually the city of Ur of the Chaldees. Abram left there with his father Terah and the rest of the family.

Genesis 11:31 NKJV 31 And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there.

Abram, as the oldest son of Terah, would have become the head of the family group. But God was insistent that Abram go out on his own leaving his country of the Chaldees, his family which extended all the way back to Noah, and his father's house. It seems that leaving his father's house was the hardest since Terah and Terah's entire house traveled together from Ur to Haran. However, the instructions were clear; Abram was to leave his father's house and follow God to a land that God would show him. The word "show" is the Hebrew word "ra-ah," number 7200 in Strong's Concordance meaning to see, behold, approve, or provide. This word is interwoven throughout the biblical account of Abram as God's redemption plan is revealed through his life! In this case, God would lead Abram to a land He would show, reveal or provide to him! Abram was seventy five years old when he left his family and the city of Haran.

Yeshua, like Abram, was called by God to leave His old life behind. Existing with God from the beginning and being the agent through which God created all the heavens and the Earth, Yeshua was called to leave all that behind. Paul explains the faith and obedience that Yeshua demonstrated.

Philippians 2:5-7 NKJV 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

As part of God's instructions to Abram to leave his old life behind, God made Abram a promise.

Genesis 12:2-3 NKJV 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

This promise has seven elements in addition to the promise to receive the land. Seven is the number of spiritual completeness suggesting the fullness of the promise to Abram.

The first part of the promise is that God would make Abram a great nation. The word "make" is the Hebrew word "asah," number 6213 meaning to do, make are accomplish. There is no doubt—God would make Abram a great nation. The fulfillment of this promise seemed to be in doubt. Ten years after Abram entered the land, he still had no children. His wife Sarai was barren.

Genesis 15:2-3 NKJV 2 But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

God repeated His promise that one from Abram's own flesh would be his heir and confirmed it with a formal covenant ceremony! Abram's belief that God would fulfill His promise is credited to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:6 NKJV 6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Finally, when Abram was ninety-nine years old, God once again appeared to Abram to let him know that he would soon have the promised son through his wife Sarai. God changed Abram's name which means "high father" to Abraham. The name "Abraham," number 85 in Strong's Concordance, means "father of a multitude."

Genesis 17:2-6 NKJV 2 "And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." 3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: 4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. 5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

We see that gradual fulfillment of this promise when God established the nation of Israel and the kingship of David. The ultimate fulfillment of this promise began when Yeshua was born. Matthew declares that Yeshua is the long awaited son of Abraham and David.

Matthew 1:1 NKJV 1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

The angel that appeared to Mary declared that Yeshua's kingdom would be everlasting.

Luke 1:32-33 NKJV 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

In the Revelation of Jesus Christ, John sees a vision where all the nations come before Yeshua, the Lamb of God, to praise Him.

Revelation 7:9-10 NKJV 9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Through Yeshua, Abraham truly becomes a father of a multitude and a great nation!

Revelation 11:15 NKJV 15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

The second part of the promise to Abram was that God would bless Abram. When Abram departed from Haran, he left with all the possessions and souls he acquired there.

Genesis 12:5 NKJV 5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.

Everywhere Abram went, God blessed him. When he went down to Egypt during a famine, Abram returned with great wealth. When his nephew Lot was taken captive, Abram's household was large enough to produce an armed force of over three hundred men to rescue him!

Paul writes about the blessing that comes on those to whom, like Abram, He credits righteousness.

Romans 4:5-9 NAS95 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. 8 "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT." 9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

The ultimate blessing on Abraham and those who are counted as sons of Abraham is the gift of eternal life through Yeshua.

Ephesians 1:3-6 NAS95 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

The third part of the promise to Abram was that He would make Abram's name great. A famous descendant of Abram's, named Obed, grandfather of King David, received a blessing at his birth that his name would be great.

Ruth 4:14 NAS95 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed is the LORD who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel.

When Yeshua entered Jerusalem shortly before His arrest and crucifixion, He was troubled over the events to come. But a voice from heaven declared that God's name was being lifted up!

John 12:27-28 NAS95 27 "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

As a result of Yeshua's obedience even to death on the cross, Yeshua's name will be lifted up.

Philippians 2:9-11 NAS95 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The fourth part of the promise is that Abram would be a blessing. We are blessed through Abram when we receive salvation and the Holy Spirit through Yeshua.

Galatians 3:13-14 NAS95 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us--for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE" -- 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Yeshua told His followers that they would receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:12-14 NKJV 12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

The fifth element of the promise is that those who bless Abram would be blessed. Yeshua teaches that those who receive anyone sent in His name, receives Him also.

Matthew 10:40-42 NKJV 40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

The sixth element is that those who curse Abram will, in turn, be cursed. God pronounced judgment on Babylon, in part, because of the way they treated Israel.

Zechariah 2:8 NKJV 8 For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.

The song of Zacharias at the birth of his son John extols the remembrance of His people according to the promise God made to Abram.

Luke 1:70-75 NKJV 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, 71 That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, 73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: 74 To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

The Psalmist writes of the anger of God that comes against the rulers who oppose God's Son.

Psalms 2:12 NKJV 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Yeshua describes the judgment of the nations at the time that He sets up His kingdom.

Matthew 25:31-34 NKJV 31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Those nations that feed, clothe and visit the sick and the prisoner will enter into the kingdom. Those who do not will be sent away into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and the rebellious angels!

The seventh and final part of the promise to Abram concludes that all nations of the Earth will be blessed through him. God repeats this promise to Isaac when he is faced with a famine in the Promised Land. God tells Isaac that He will bless him in the land in spite of the famine.

Genesis 26:4-5 NKJV 4 "And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; 5 "because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

Paul tells us that the seed of Abraham is Yeshua.

Galatians 3:16 NKJV 16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

Yeshua is the seed through whom all nations of the earth are blessed! Paul goes on to explain that those who belong to God through Yeshua are part of the seed of Abraham.

Galatians 3:26-29 NKJV 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 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. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

After the day of Shavuot when the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples with power, Peter and John taught daily in the temple. One day after healing a lame man, Peter declared that Yeshua was the seed through whom God would and did bless the nations.

Acts 3:25-26 NKJV 25 "You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 26 "To you

first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

The redemption promised to Adam and Eve is now available to all people because of the promise that God made to Abram. God called him out of the land of Babylon to bring him into a good land that God set aside for him and his seed to inherit. He had to leave his old life behind in order to receive the inheritance of the land. Through this promise to Abram and the fulfilment of the promise in Yeshua, we, also, are called to leave our lives behind and receive the blessings promised to those who have the faith of Abraham. As Peter said in his first sermon, "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.

#### Study Questions:

1. There are seven elements of the promise to Abraham. Where else do we see sets of seven promises, blessings, etc? How do they signify spiritual completion or fullness?
2. God called Abram to leave his life in Ur of the Chaldees. Who else was called to leave an old life behind? What was the result of leaving?
3. We looked at Paul's description of what Yeshua accomplished in Philippians 2:5-11. Compare this description with the elements of the promise and covenant God made with Abram in Genesis 12 through 17.
4. How does Genesis 12:5 paint a picture of Gentiles grafted into the New Covenant?
5. Luke 1:70-75 refers to God's covenant with Abraham as being the Holy Covenant. According to the passage in Luke, what does this covenant promise? Compare this to the promises given to Abram and to the New Covenant.
6. What new insight did you gain from this teaching? How do you respond to this new insight? How will you realign your life based on this new understanding?