

Lesson Notes:

God's Covenant with Israel

For four thousand years the nation of Israel has struggled with the Palestinian people over control of the land from the Nile River to the Euphrates. The book of Genesis chronicles God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the land that God promised to their children and the children of Israel. Below is a listing of the scriptural promises that God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the children of Israel and a little about his promise to his faithful:

Scripture

- 1) **In Genesis 12:1-3 God tells Abram to leave his Father's House and he will make him a great nation.** - In addition, he tells Abram that he will bless those that bless him and curse those that curse him.
- 2) **In Genesis 17:1-8 God repeats his covenant with Abram, changing his name to Abraham.** - In addition he promises the land of Canaan to Abraham.
- 3) **In Genesis 15:1-7 contrary to Abram's concerns about no son God promises Abram that his offspring will number as the stars and the land of Ur.**
- 4) **In Genesis 16 Sarah and Abram become impatient which leads to Abram fathering Ishmael through Hagar.**
- 5) **In Genesis 18:1-15 God promises Abraham and Sarah a son.**
- 6) **In Genesis 21:1-7 Abraham fathers Isaac at the age of 100 consistent with God's promises in Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 15:1-7; and Genesis 18:1-5.**
- 7) **In Genesis 21:14-21 God tells Abraham to send Ishmael and Hagar away into the desert and that he will take care of them.** - God saves Ishmael and Ishmael fathers the nation of Egypt.
- 8) **In Genesis 15:18-20 God promises the land from the Nile to the Euphrates to Abraham and his descendants.**
- 9) **In Genesis 25:19-34 Esau is the first born but he sells his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of soup.**
- 10) **In Genesis 26:2-5 we see that God repeats his promise to Abraham to Isaac.**
- 11) **In Genesis 27 we see Jacob and Rebekah trick Isaac into blessing Jacob instead of Esau.** - While Esau was Rebekah's son also she knew that it was God's will that Jacob would receive Isaac's blessing. While Jacob used trickery to

obtain Isaac's blessing God favored Jacob over Esau because he knew the contents of each man's heart. Esau became the father of the **Edomites (primarily Palestinian people) and the conflict over the land continues to this day.**

- 12) Replacement Theology – This is the idea that God has transferred his promises from the Nation of Israel to the Church. This was popularized by Augustine (Doctor of the Church) around 400 AD with the destruction of the temple and the Nation of Israel. Much of Augustine's beliefs were based upon Christ and the Fig Tree in Mark 11:20-26. Augustine believed that God had abandoned the Nation of Israel based upon their unbelief in Christ. But God told Abraham in Genesis 13:15 and Genesis 17:19 that his promise is "Forever". Augustine's beliefs were accepted by some until the Nation of Israel was formed on May 17, 1948 (Ezekiel 37:4-10, 25-28) and Israel's conquest of Jerusalem on June 10, 1967(Luke 21:24).**
- 13) As believers we receive a similar promise from God in John 3:16-17 that if we believe in Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross we shall not perish but will have eternal life. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 12:4 that the beauty of what God has made for his faithful in heaven is beyond what human words can describe.**