

Notes and Quotes

Based on the chronological reading schedule followed in THE DAILY BIBLE compiled by F. LaGard Smith and published by Harvest House Publishers.

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Gen. 12:1-3

If you really want to understand the Bible, you'll need to read it! That means starting, continuing and finishing, then going back and starting again – with good heart, focus and a desire to apply God's Word to your life. You will never finish, never graduate, never perfectly learn the total contents.

This week something vital comes up: the promises made to Abraham. "God made choice of Abram, and singled him out from among his fellow-idolaters, that He might reserve a people for himself, among whom His true worship might be maintained till the coming of Christ," (Matthew Henry).

God made these promises to Abram (later called Abraham):

1. The land promise: "A land that I will show you." The Bible shows that this promise of land was fulfilled by the entrance of the children of Israel into the land of Canaan (see Ex. 6:2-8; Deut. 1:6-8; Josh. 1:1-6, Psa. 105:7-13, 42-45 and Acts 7:2-5, vss. 44-46). God did what He said. Joshua said, "...not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you," (Josh. 23:15).

2. The national promise: "A great nation." God fulfilled the second promise when He formed a great nation from the descendants of Abraham, the children of Israel. This is easy enough to trace, simply by reading the Bible record in order and seeing that Abraham's descendants became "the children of Israel," who "were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mightily..." (see Gen.

46:3; Ex. 1:7; Deut. 1:8-11; Heb. 11:11-12; lev. 26:27-39). God promised that a great nation would be formed from Abraham, and that He would give those people the land of Canaan. That all happened. Yet there remains a third promise.

3. The spiritual promise: "All the families of the earth shall be blessed." "All" is greater in scope than a family or nation. It is universal. Through these people who lived in this land, a Savior would come to offer spiritual blessings to the all. This is about Christ! And this is what was preached when the gospel was delivered: "*Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. 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.'* 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," (Acts 3:24-26; see also Gal. 3:7-9, 13-18, 26-28).

Does God have a nation today? He does. Peter wrote this to Christians: "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light," (1 Pet. 2:9).

When you decide to follow Jesus Christ, being baptized into Him, you become a part of God's spiritual nation, the church, and you participate in the spiritual goal of God's use of this man, Abraham.