

# NEWSLETTER

RESURRECTION HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

(Abrahamic Faith)

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## THE ROAD TO THE UNKNOWN

### ***The Land That I Will Show You (Genesis 12:1)***

Abraham had a choice. It was not that he was a nomad, wandering where the best pastures could be found. He was established in no mean city of paved streets and brick built houses, markets and trading posts, huge temples to the goddess of the Moon and correspondence preserved on clay tablets. Archaeological evidences prove the prosperous and busy commercial and religious life at *Ur of the Chaldees* from where Abraham was directed to move on.

Terah, Abraham's father, had set out for Canaan but settled on the way at Haran, where he died at the age of 205 years. Abraham, nevertheless, continued the journey with Sarah, his wife, Lot his nephew, and members of his household. The promises that God had made to Abraham had at least six aspects. There was the location of the land itself, the territory it would eventually include, the people who would inherit it, the everlasting nature of the covenant, the extension to include all nations of the world, and the means, *through the seed of Abraham*, where by these things would be accomplished.

### ***The Land and the Territory***

*"Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee" (Genesis 13:17).* Stephen in his last defense of his faith, confirmed that Abraham actually *received* no such inheritance (Acts 7:5). Yet this literal land was promised to Abraham as a possession and therefore necessitates *his resurrection from the dead*. Consider in this connection Genesis 15:12 when a deep sleep fell upon Abraham after he had been assured by the Lord that "I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward" (Genesis 15:1). Doubtless a prophecy of his long sleep in death until his resurrection at the return of the Lord Jesus, Abraham's "seed".

### ***The People***

At the time these wonderful promises were made, Abraham and Sarah had no children. The situation was to continue for another twenty four

years Abraham reaching the age of 99 years and his wife was well past child-bearing age. But with God nothing is impossible and Abraham believed him when he assured him that his seed would be as innumerable as the stars of heaven.

So the line was to be continued through the miraculous birth of Isaac but Abraham's faith was to be further tested in his reaction to the Lord's command to sacrifice this son of promise. Consider Genesis chapter 22 and the outcome of Abraham's obedience *"and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice"*.

### ***The Covenant***

This was not a local promise having its final fulfillment in the occupation of Canaan following the forty years of Israel's wilderness journeys but *awaits an ultimate fulfillment of their after them (Deuteronomy 1:8)*. This was God's everlasting covenant as emphasized seven times in Genesis 17 where God Almighty refers to *"my covenant"* sealed by the rite of circumcision.

### ***The Blessing Extended***

*"And I will make of thee a great nation... and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:2-3).* Abraham, by his faith in God's promises demonstrated, by his obedience shown in action that the road to what was as yet unknown to *him*, could be opened to *others*. The Psalmist takes up the theme "He (God) hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. Which covenant he made with Abraham..." (Psalm 105:8-9) "With righteousness shall he judge the world and the people with equity" (Psalm 98:9).

### ***The Seed of Abraham***

*"Unto thy seed will I give this land" (Genesis 12:7).* Abraham realized that the promises could only be fulfilled through a son and he naturally became increasingly anxious as the years passed. We have seen his faith and its justification in the birth of Isaac, but Abraham could see beyond that present time as Jesus commented to the Jews of his day *"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day" (John 8:56)*. The apostle Paul comments upon the promised "seed" and related it to Christ pointing out that the word "seed" in this promise is a singular noun. *"And to thy seed which is Christ"* and adds *"and if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:16 & 29)*.

### **How the Promises Affect Us Today**

You might think that ancient promises made almost four thousand years ago would have no relevance today, but you would be so wrong. We have seen the way in which they have been extended to apply to the Gentiles through the Lord Jesus Christ. The miraculous preservation of the Jews has ensured the availability of the land of promise which is to form the vital territorial basis for the beginning of the establishment of the Kingdom of God. We have also seen the means whereby we may become heirs according to the promise which is to form the vital territorial basis for the beginning of the establishment of the Kingdom of God. We have also seen the means whereby we may become heirs according to the promise. In writing to the Galatian believers, Paul reminds them of their baptism into Christ which had the effect of canceling their inherited nationality and replacing it by them becoming one in Christ Jesus. The Law of Moses and the rite of circumcision were to be regarded as a schoolmaster to bring them to Christ; the lesson having been learned, the schoolmaster was replaced by their faith in Jesus. "Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him (Abraham) but for us also...if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead" (Romans 4:24).

This state of righteousness is unachievable by any other means. Abraham followed an unknown road, but for us it is well signposted throughout its length for the benefit of the Christian and those signposts are to be found throughout the scriptures. May you follow the road to its end and meet with those of "like precious faith" when the Kingdom is restored to Israel.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Vernon/Evelyn Clark, Debra Crisp, Bonnie Braswell, Kevin/Keila/Zerden Keller, Summer Jones, Susan Stine Bradley, Jimmie/Wanda Keller, Victoria Corpening, Clara Smith, Fay Gentry, Sandy Thomas, Mr. Brandon, Robert Raby, Katherine Peake, Martha Jones, James Minton, Colby Hefner, Clarence/Florence Walker, Stanley/Norma Clark, Sheri Deck, Larry Richardson, Jerold Harvey, Vicki Wilson, Judy Greene, Darlene Richardson family, Bucky Harvey, Judy Ritch, David Brewer, Dustin Lee Keller, James Walker, Mark Shearer, Justin/Tina Keller, Brandon Ritch, Dee/Doris Winkler, Brandi Clontz, Linda DeAngelo, Bea Holden, Joan Rowe, Verlie Duncan, Coral Reeder, Dustin Reid, Mary Monroe, Ruth Robinson, Jack Anderson, Alva Huffer, Doug/Ivalee Whisnant, Shirley Helton, Lori Smith, Ashley Philyaw, Heather Smith, Lt. Justin Smith, Shawn/Mirra Tilger, Chris/Melody/Bryce Corpening, Daniel Corley, Shane McCracken, John

Phillips, Brian Monroe, Fall Youth Retreat, national economy, the Lord's SOON return.

**Note: Please turn in the addresses to Becky Ritch of people that you add to our prayer list!**

**FALL YOUTH RETREAT- October 2-4**  
A.C. Campground for youth 9 yrs. through college.

#### **DATE CHANGE!!**

Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>  
6 p.m. Men's Fellowship  
7 p.m. Official Board Meeting  
7 p.m. Grace Holden Circle Meeting

Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> - Pink Sunday  
Wear "pink" for awareness of a cure for breast cancer.

#### **PASTOR APPRECIATION LUNCH**

Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> - join in the fellowship and good food honoring your pastor. Bring a well-filled basket of food and immediately following our morning worship we will have lunch together in the fellowship hall.

#### **BAKE SALE at Wal-Mart**

The Bake Sale is tentatively set for Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> and will be sponsored by the Grace Holden Circle. We will need plenty of baked goods and help from our families.

#### *October's Party - George Cooper*

October gave a party,  
The Sunshine spread a carpet,  
The Chestnuts came in yellow,  
All balanced by their partners,  
The leaves by hundreds came,  
And everything was grand  
The Oaks in crimson dressed,  
And gaily fluttered,  
The Chestnuts, Oaks and Maples  
Miss Weather led the dancing  
The love Misses made  
The sight was like a rainbow and  
leaves of every name  
Professor Wind the band,  
Scarlet looked their best  
New fallen from the sky.

