

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Looking at the two passages from Genesis; what are the main points that make up God's promises to Abraham? How do you understand those promises?
2. From what you know about the history of Israel, as recorded in the Bible, do you think that Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, lived in the good of those promises? If not, why not? What was the problem?
3. Looking at the passages from Ezekiel; What is it that God is going to do for the Israelites? What will he give them? What will he take from them? What does this mean? What will be the result?
4. How does what God promises to Ezekiel help bring about what God promises to Abraham?
5. Looking at the passage from Isaiah; what, or who, is being foretold? What terms are used to describe him? Taking each one in turn, what do they mean? What will this person do?
6. Look up Isaiah 53. How will this person help bring about God's promises?

God's promises were not to Israel alone. God's promises are for all people everywhere, but just like the Israelites, God needs to give to each one of us a new heart and a new spirit. Only then will we be fully equipped to take hold of all God's blessings to us.

Copyright © Karl R B Jones, 2017
ADV02.01S

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All right reserved.



An Advent Study in Three Parts

Part One “Patriarchs and Prophets”

The first two Advent candles remind us of the testimony of the Patriarchs and Prophets to God's promises to bless his people, and all the world through them.

GENESIS 12:1-13

- 1 *Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.*
- 2 *And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*
- 3 *I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

GENESIS 28:13-15

- 13 *And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.*
- 14 *Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.*
- 15 *Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."*

EZEKIEL 11:19-20

- 19 *And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,*
- 20 *that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*

EZEKIEL 36:26-30

- 26 *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*
- 27 *And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*
- 28 *You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.*
- 29 *And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you.*
- 30 *I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations.*

ISAIAH 9:7-9

- 6 *For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
- 7 *Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*