



THE PROMISES THROUGH ABRAHAM

ACTS 7:1-8

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • January 16 & 17, 2021 • Acts, week 27 • Msg. 21-03

1. Be _____ (vv.1-7)

Acts 7:1 And the high priest said, "Are these things so?" **2** And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, **3** and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.' **4** Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. **5** Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. **6** And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years. **7** 'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.' **8** And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

(ESV)

2. Never _____ (v.8)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others. For more information about small groups at Compass Bible Church that utilize these questions as the basis for their weekly discussion, please call the church office at (949) 540-0699 or email us at SmallGroups@CompassChurch.org.

1. Read **1 Samuel 4:2-11** and **Jeremiah 4:3-7**. Many in the Bible trusted in the ark, the temple, and the city of Jerusalem itself as something which would guarantee them blessing from God. Of course, these passages show that their belief was unfounded. What are some things in which today's churchgoers can wrongly put their trust?
2. Read **Genesis 12:1-3** and **Revelation 7:9-10**. Why should God's ongoing fulfillment of his international promise to Abraham be something we recall often? What might a regular recollection of this promise do in your life?
3. Read **2 Peter 1:1-4**. What can you do to elevate the importance and value of God's promises in your estimation? How does the context in vv.1-2 help?
4. Read **Hebrews 6:11-20**. What situations in life have surfaced temptations to doubt the reliability of God's promises? What can you do to keep God's promises and his character in view at the same time?
5. Read **Romans 8:22-25**. How does remembering that Christianity is a "forward-looking" and "yet-to-be-fully-realized" arrangement help you through the trials?

*This Week's
Bible Reading Schedule*

January 17th

Gen.41 & Mt.13:1-32

January 18th

Gen.42-43 & Mt.13:33-58

January 19th

Gen.44-45 & Mt.14:1-21

January 20th

Gen.46-48 & Mt.14:22-36

January 21st

Gen.49-50 & Mt.15:1-20

January 22nd

Ex.1-3 & Mt.15:21-39

January 23rd

Ex.4-6 & Mt.16

January 24th

Ex.7-8 & Mt.17

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FocalPointMinistries.org).

- Msg. 06-27 – **Abraham: A Fascinating Template of Promises & Faith**
- Msg. 13-07 – **Jesus, the Son of Abraham: Grateful for an Inclusive God**
- Msg. 18-17 – **The Unbreakable Promises**
- Msg. 10-30 – **Modern Israel and Our Jewish Messiah**
- Msg. 10-31 – **Looking to the End as a Humble Gentile**
- Msg. 12-03 – **The Encouragement of Being a Part of God's Plan**
- Msg. 18-15 – **The Importance of Jerusalem**

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PastorMike

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

- Barnavi, Eli. **A Historical Atlas of the Jewish People: From the Time of the Patriarchs to the Present**. Schocken, 2003.
- Beeke, Joel and James LaBelle. **Living by God's Promises**. Reformation Heritage Books, 2010.
- Bruce, F. F. **Israel and the Nations: The History of Israel from the Exodus to the Fall of the 2nd Temple**. IVP, 1998.
- Chapell, Bryan. **The Promises of Grace: Living in the Grip of God's Love**. Baker Books, 2001.
- Deenick, Karl. **Righteous by Promise: A Biblical Theology of Circumcision**. InterVarsity Press, 2018.
- Herzog, Chaim. **The Arab-Israeli Wars: War and Peace in the Middle East, Revised Edition**. Vintage, 2005.
- Kaiser, Walter Jr. **Toward an Old Testament Theology**. Zondervan, 1978.
- Malone, Fred A. **A String of Pearls Unstrung: A Theological Journey into Believers' Baptism**. Founders Press, 1998.
- Peterson, Robert A. **Salvation Accomplished by the Son**. Crossway, 2011.
- Piper, John. **Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions**. Baker Books, 1993.
- Rydellnik, Michael. **Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict, rev. ed.** Moody Publishing, 2007.
- Vlach, Michael J. **Has the Church Replaced Israel? A Theological Evaluation**. B & H, 2010.
- Waymeyer, Matt. **A Biblical Critique of Infant Baptism**. Kress Christian Publications, 2008.
- Wilson, Douglas. **Easy Chairs, Hard Words: Conversations on the Liberty of God**. Canon Press, 1991.