

## PREMILLENNIALISM: God's Promise to Abraham

“Now the LORD had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed’” (Genesis 12:1-3). Thus was recorded God’s promise to Abraham given when he was still called Abram and more than 2,000 years before the coming of Jesus Christ.

This promise was three-fold. God promised Abraham: (1.) land; (2.) that he would become a great nation; (3.) that all families of the earth would be blessed in him. This third part referred to Abraham’s seed in whom people of all the nations were to be blessed (Genesis 22:18).

The certainty of God’s word notwithstanding, premillennialists contend that his promise made to Abraham so long ago has not yet been fully kept, and won’t be until the events accompanying the second coming of Christ. An examination of Biblical history, however, will demonstrate that God’s promise to Abraham has been fully kept. This will also demonstrate the falseness of premillennialism on this point.

(1.) In the 15th century, B.C., God delivered Abraham’s descendants (through his grandson Jacob, or Israel, Genesis 32:28) from Egyptian bondage, brought them to Mt. Sinai, and covenanted with them to make of them a special nation to himself (Exodus 19:1-8). That took care of the “great nation” aspect of God’s promise to Abraham.

(2.) Though Israel originally failed to trust God to give her the promised Land of Canaan, the generation that entered it under Joshua’s leadership took it and possessed it. Joshua said, “So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it” (Joshua 21:43). That took care of God’s land promise to Abraham.

(3.) The seed (singular) in whom all nations were to be blessed was identified by Paul as the Christ, the Son of God (Galatians 3:16). In his death, resurrection, and ascension God’s blessing of salvation has come to all nations (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-47). This takes care of the third aspect of God’s promise to Abraham and the primary objective of providing redemption for all mankind. —Jerry F. Bassett