



CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE

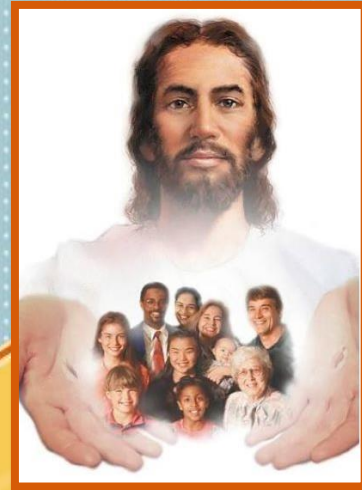
Lesson 5 for
May 1, 2021

“Gather My saints together to Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.” (Psalm 50:5).

Which is the purpose of the covenant?

What’s God’s plan for those joining Him in this everlasting covenant?

Let us study the covenant between God and Abraham to find the answers to these questions.



-  **To protect**
-  **To bless**
-  **To save**
-  **To announce**
-  **To make your name great**



TO PROTECT

“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’”
(Genesis 15:1)

“I am your shield.” God introduced Himself to Abram in an intimate way. He is not just “a” shield, but “your” shield. He is our shield.

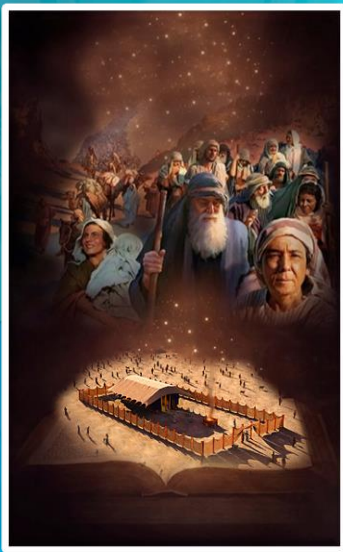
Other biblical authors also considered God their shield (Dt. 33:29; 2S. 22:3; Psalm 7:10; 18:30). What does it mean?

◆ **Physical protection** (Psalm 91:4-7). God can deliver us from all dangers, although He might decide not to do so in specific occasions.

◆ **Protection against temptation** (1Co. 10:13). God always protects us from temptation if we ask Him to.

If we seek shelter under God’s shield, He will always protect us from the circumstances that may lead us away from salvation.





“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 12:3)

TO BLESS

How would all the families of the earth be blessed through Abraham?

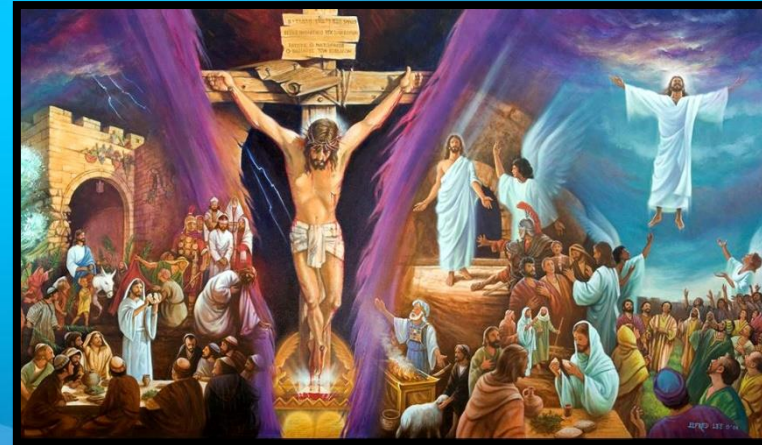
On one hand, everyone would know of the Plan of Redemption thanks to Abraham’s descendants.



On the other hand, the ultimate blessing would come through Abraham’s “seed” (Genesis 28:14).

Paul explained that the promised seed is Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16).

The Redeemer Himself becomes the means by which the obligations of the covenant arrangement are met and all of its other promises are realized.



TO SAVE

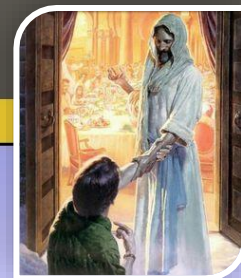
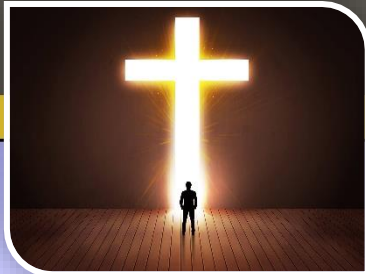
“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57)

This world is controlled by sin and wickedness. Our only hope to live in a better world is to take shelter behind the Shield, and to trust His “seed.”

It was impossible for us to pay the debt of our sins (Psalm 49:8). However, Jesus made it possible through His death and resurrection.

He is still interceding for each one of us in the Heavenly Sanctuary as our High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16; 7:25).

Jesus is the definitive fulfillment of God’s promise in His covenant with Abraham.



“Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’” (Deuteronomy 4:6)

Abraham did not even have a son when God promised him these things. However, when the descendants of Abraham left Egypt, they were already a large people.

God confirmed His covenant with them. He also entrusted them a specific mission: to be an example to other nations, a light in the darkness (Isaiah 60:1-3).

God wanted humankind to seek the God of Israel and to accept the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

“Christ was to be uplifted before the nations, and all who would look unto Him should live.” (COL, p. 290).

TO ANNOUNCE



“The people of God are His representatives upon the earth, and He intends that they shall be lights in the moral darkness of this world. Scattered all over the country, in the towns, cities, and villages, they are God’s witnesses, the channels through which He will communicate to an unbelieving world the knowledge of His will and the wonders of His grace.”

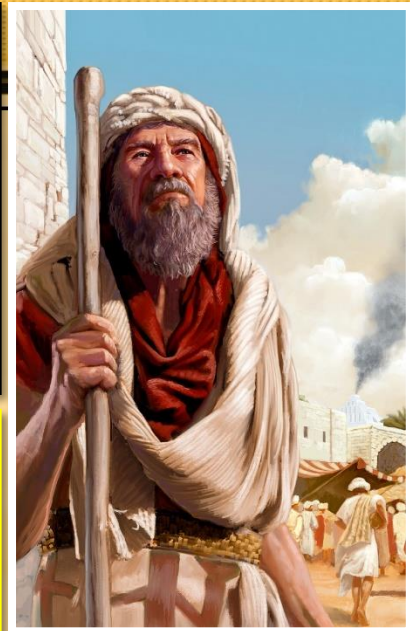
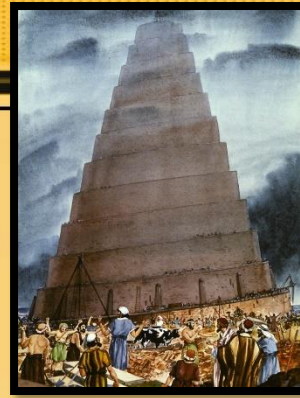
E.G.W. (Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 12, p. 134)

TO MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT

"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing." (Genesis 12:2)

Humans wanted to make their name great by building the tower of Babel. But they were humiliated by God (Genesis 11:4, 8).

On the other hand, God took a humble man—Abraham—and made his name great, because "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)



However, God's greatness is different to this world's "greatness".

God's greatness is related to character, faith, obedience, humbleness, and loving others. Therefore, do not seek your own greatness, but let God make your name great.

“Jesus, precious Saviour! Assurance, helpfulness, security, and peace are all in Him. He is the dispeller of all our doubts, the earnest of all our hopes. How precious is the thought that we may indeed become partakers of the divine nature, whereby we may overcome as Christ overcame! Jesus is the fullness of our expectation. He is the melody of our songs, the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. He is living water to the thirsty soul. He is our refuge in the storm. He is our righteousness, our sanctification, our redemption. When Christ is our personal Saviour, we shall show forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.”