

**Sermon Notes**  
National Presbyterian Church  
David Renwick. August 3, 2014

Abraham: How to Get It All!  
*True Descendants Of Abraham*  
*And The Promise Of Land*

**THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM**

**Genesis 12:1-2**

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. 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.”

**Genesis 17:5b-9**

5b I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.  
6I will make you exceedingly fruitful;  
and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.  
7I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you  
throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant,  
to be God to you and to your offspring after you.  
8And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you,  
**the land** where you are now an alien, all **the land** of Canaan,  
for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.”  
9God said to **Abraham**, “As for you, *you shall keep my covenant*,  
you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.

**WHO ARE ABRAHAM’S DESCENDANTS?**

**Matthew 3:8-9**

John the Baptist: “Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to  
yourselves, ‘We have **Abraham** as our ancestor’; for I tell you,  
God is able from these stones to raise up children to **Abraham**.”

Religious Variety among Jewish Israelis in the State of Israel, 2010  
42% see themselves as secular; 25% traditional but 'not very religious'  
13% traditional-religious; 12% religious; 8% ultra-Orthodox  
[http://www.haaretz.com/jewish-world/poll-fewer-than-half-of-  
israelis-see-themselves-as-secular-1.313462](http://www.haaretz.com/jewish-world/poll-fewer-than-half-of-israelis-see-themselves-as-secular-1.313462)

**Galatians 3:6-8**

6 **Abraham** “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,”  
7so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of **Abraham**.  
8And the scripture, . . . foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith,  
declared the gospel beforehand to **Abraham**, saying, “All the Gentiles shall  
be blessed in you.”

**Romans 9:6-8**

6not all Israelites truly belong to Israel,  
7and not all of **Abraham**’s children are his true descendants;  
but “It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you.”  
8This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God,  
but the children of the promise are counted as descendants.

**Romans 9:3-5**

3For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake  
of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh.  
4They are Israelites, and  
to them belong the (1) adoption, (2) the glory, (3) the covenants,  
(4) the giving of the law, (5) the worship, and (6) the promises;  
5to them belong the (7) patriarchs, [DR: including **Abraham**, Isaac, Jacob]  
and from them, *according to the flesh*, comes the Messiah,  
who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.  
. . . **Romans 11:33** O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

**THE PROMISE OF LAND AS CONDITIONAL**

**Deuteronomy 4:25-26**

25When you have had children and children’s children, and become  
complacent in the land, if you act corruptly by making an idol in the form of  
anything, thus doing what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, and  
provoking him to anger, 26I call heaven and earth to witness against you today  
that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan  
to occupy; you will not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed.

**Leviticus 18:26-28**

26But you shall keep my statutes and my ordinances and commit none of these  
abominations, either the citizen or the alien who resides among you  
27(for the inhabitants of the land, who were before you, committed all of these  
abominations, and the land became defiled); 28otherwise the land will vomit  
you out for defiling it, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.

**Deuteronomy 30:1-5**

. . . the blessings and the curses that I have set before you: if you call them to  
mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, 2and  
return to the Lord your God, and you and your children obey him with all your  
heart and with all your soul, just as I am commanding you today, 3then the  
Lord your God will . . . (5)bring you into the land that your ancestors possessed,  
and you will possess it; he will make you more prosperous and numerous than  
your ancestors.

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Brueggeman, 2002

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approved PCUSA General Assembly 1987.

[https://www.pcusa.org/resource/theological-understanding-relationship-between-  
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