

At the very beginning of the Book of Genesis the LORD made a binding covenant with Abraham, who became the father of both the Jewish and Muslim peoples. The provisions were recorded by Moses in these terms:

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. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

(Genesis 12:1-4)

This covenant with Abraham consisted of some incredible promises, and when we read on through the Bible, we can only marvel at how faithful God is to keep His Word. Abraham was indeed divinely protected and blessed both materially and spiritually in every way possible.

He also became the source of great blessing to many peoples and nations. Just think about it, without the Jews there would be no Bible. But more important, without the Jews there would be no Jesus, no Christianity and, therefore, no hope of salvation.

The Lord Himself said to the Samaritan woman, "salvation is from the Jews," and the Apostle Paul explicitly connects the passage cited above to Christ in his Epistle to the Galatians.

In addition to this, God also faithfully kept the land promise He made to Abraham and his descendants throughout the Genesis narrative. Although Joshua states that "the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to their ancestors that he would give them," the complete fulfilment came during the reign of King Solomon.

The magnificence of his rule is described in the historical Book of Second Chronicles. It says: "He ruled over all the kings from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt."

However, while it is true this promise was completely fulfilled, there is much biblical evidence to suggest a historical fulfilment is not all there is to be. There still remains a future, or millennial, realization yet to come. Hebrews states, "For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak later about another day."

And again, speaking of Abraham and his family, the author of Hebrews says that they lived as strangers and foreigners on the earth, abiding in tents instead of taking roots in towns and cities. Abraham was able to live like this because he was not fixed on material things or earthly goals. He was focused on another city altogether, "the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."