

## WHAT THE PROMISE IS FOR

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There they went, shuffling toward the horizon. A can of Metamucil and a tube of Polydent in their suitcase. A walker in the grip of her boney fingers. A cane in his.

"Where are we going again?" Sarai might of asked.

"I don't know exactly," Abe replies in the gravelly voice of a man nearly dead, squinting out into the rising sun. "But He promised."

The two of them don't look it, but they're blessed. God made a promise to Abraham not long before he and his wife left home for the unknown.

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

This promise propelled the elderly pair into the unknown, believing God would keep His promise to them. His promise *for* us.

There's more to the promise than you might have realized. More to every promise God has ever made a man. The promise was *to* Abraham and his descendents but who it was *for* makes it even more remarkable.

"..., and you will be a blessing, and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:2b,3)

I've always read the second part of this blessing as a reference to Jesus, the Salvation of the world, of all people, coming through Abraham's bloodline. And surely it is. But could it also be a reminder that everything God gives us, promises us, blesses us with, isn't for us alone? Could it be that God is reminding us from the very beginning of scripture that what He gives His people is theirs to pass on to all people?

Taking scripture on the whole it seems likely. Time after time God's people, whether in the Old Testament or the New, are reminded to share, to care, to tell, to go, to preach, to serve, to love, to look toward the horizon and follow the God of grand promises and extreme blessing into the unknown. Where the nations wait to be blessed by Him through us.

Prayer:

*God of all people, thank you for keeping your promises and blessing us through the obedience of Abraham and you Son. Pass your grace, forgiveness, hospitality, truth and songs through us to the world today. Amen.*