



08 December 2023

Hope

Abraham left his homeland responding to God's call with his wife, nephew Lot and the family servants. God promised to make a great nation from him. In fact, God told Abraham,

to "count the stars, if you are able to count them...so shall your descendants be" (Genesis 15:5).

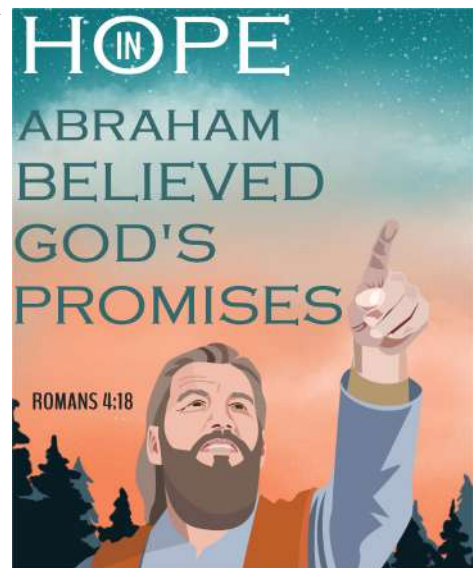
That is an incredible, mind-boggling promise!

Scripture records that Abraham "believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness" (verse 6).

The apostle Paul tells us that

"In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, 'So shall your descendants be.'"

(Romans 4:18)



In hope against hope. When in human terms there was no hope, Abraham in hope believed God. Hope in the Bible is not a feeling, a wish that something might happen. It is a certain expectation that it will happen.

Paul goes on to tell us Abraham

"grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform" (verses 20-21).

Yes, God accomplishes all, every one of His promises. When Joshua looked back over his life and years of leading Israel, he told the people

“Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; everything came to pass” (Joshua 21:45).

That was not only true for them then, but for us today.

Abraham had no idea of the full extent of God’s promise, of all the people who would be his descendants down through the many generations. Even greater than that, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, whose coming into the world we are celebrating in this season, would come from Abraham’s descendants.

Hope is one of the themes that is brought out, examined and rejoiced in during the Advent season. The hope for light and life now in this dark, sinful world, and hope forever because Christ has come, is coming again, and we will be with Him forever.

How is your hope?

Some of us may be wishing for many things, both spiritual and material, but do not have a certain expectation that God will bring them about.

Others of us may be in a dark night time where in human terms there is no hope.

As God’s people, we need to know and hope in, count on what God has said, what He has promised to us in His Word, the Bible. Just as with Abraham, we do not know the full extent of God’s blessings to us as He fulfills His promises to us.

Live and celebrate in hope this season, in every season.

Pastor Lyle