

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Bible Correspondence Course

### Lesson #4: Your Share in God's Promises

Please carefully read the enclosed Lesson, **Your Share in God's Promises** and the Bible Readings listed below. Answer the questions on this worksheet according to the Booklet and/or the Bible verses indicated as well as the surrounding verses and chapters in order to acquire a better understanding of the subject matter. The author of the Booklet has used the Revised Standard Version of the Bible but you may fill in the blanks from the version of your choice, and make any necessary changes.

*"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." Galatians 3:29 RSV*

**READINGS:** Genesis 12 n Romans Chapters 4, 10 & 11 n Romans 15:7–13 n Galatians 3 n Acts 26:6–8

1. What is the biblical name we commonly give to the feeling which allows us to look toward the future with optimism? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are the Bible writers generally **optimistic** or **pessimistic** about the long-term future of the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Circle one*
3. In general terms, what kind of hope does the Bible hold out for those of us who are disturbed by the evil we see in the world? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did the Bible writers believe that they themselves would have a part in a better future, even if they were to die in the meantime? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
5. The foundation of God's master plan for the future of the world lies in the set of promises that he made to a man named \_\_\_\_\_, who was to become the forefather of the people of \_\_\_\_\_ or later known as the Jews.
6. Abraham lived around \_\_\_\_\_ B.C., which is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ years ago.
7. a) What city did Abraham originally live in? \_\_\_\_\_  
b) What present-day country occupies the area where this city was located? \_\_\_\_\_
8. In **Genesis 12:1**, God commands Abraham to leave his home and travel to another land that he would show him. This new land was then known as the land of \_\_\_\_\_,  
(See: *Genesis 11:31*), later it would be called \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Please read carefully **Genesis 12:2–3**. It is impossible to over emphasize the importance of these verses for the future course of the Bible. Here God promises Abraham that: He will make of Abraham a \_\_\_\_\_ nation; He will \_\_\_\_\_ him; and make his \_\_\_\_\_ great so that Abraham will be a \_\_\_\_\_.

10. a) According to the promise in **Genesis 12:3**, what will God do to those who bless Abraham?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) What will He do to those who curse Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Does this promise refer only to Abraham personally, or does it also refer to his descendants?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Who are Abraham's descendants? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Perhaps the most sublime and eventually the most important and relevant promise for most of us is found at the end of **Genesis 12:3** where God foretells that " \_\_\_\_\_ " the nations on earth will be blessed through " \_\_\_\_\_ ." In **Galatians 3:8**, Paul tells us that with this promise God would justify the Gentiles by " \_\_\_\_\_ ." (Not only the Jew but also the non-Jews or Gentiles would inherit the promises made to Abraham.)
12. In **Genesis 12:7**, God adds another promise to those he has already made. What does he promise?  
\_\_\_\_\_ To whom? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Abraham and his wife Sarah had a problem that made it seem unlikely that they would become the progenitors of a great nation. What was the problem?  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Read **Genesis 15:1-6** and answer the following questions:
- a) What was Abraham's complaint to God? (verse 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) What did God do in answer to Abraham's concern? (verses 4-5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) Did Abraham believe God? (verse 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) What did God attribute (or count) to Abraham on the basis of his faith (belief)? (verse 6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. God confirms his promise in a strange manner in the latter part of **Genesis 15**, asking Abraham to take three large animals and two birds, cut the animals in two pieces and lay each half on the ground opposite the other half. Then a smoking \_\_\_\_\_ and a flaming \_\_\_\_\_ passed between the pieces of the animals as God repeated some of the terms of his covenant with Abraham. This may seem strange and incomprehensible to us today, but Abraham knew exactly what God was telling him. In Abraham's day, when two men wished to formalize an important and solemn agreement, it was known as a \_\_\_\_\_. This meant that each one of them was pledging that if he were to fail to live up to the terms of the agreement, what had happened to the animals in this chapter should happen to him also! As far as we are aware, the only other biblical example of this custom is found in Jeremiah 34:18. Abraham understood that the smoking pot and the flaming torch represented the presence of God passing between the pieces, and that by this means God was committing himself irrevocably to fulfilling in Abraham and his descendants the conditions of the promises he had made to him. There is no way that God can fail to keep his promise. This is the firm foundation on which the rest of the Bible is constructed.

16. God's promises to Abraham are repeated and enlarged in **Genesis 13, 15** and **17**. What two themes are emphasized in these promises?
- \_\_\_\_\_ • \_\_\_\_\_
17. In **Genesis 13:16**, Abraham is told that his descendants will be as numerous as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth. This is another way of expressing the previous promise that God would make Abraham a great nation. (See: *Genesis 12:2*)
18. In **Genesis 17:19** God tells Abraham that Sarah his wife shall bear him a son named \_\_\_\_\_. God says, "I will establish my covenant with him as an \_\_\_\_\_ covenant for his descendants after him."
19. According to **Genesis 21:5**, Abraham was \_\_\_\_\_ years old when Isaac was born.
20. **Genesis 22:1–2** describes how God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice \_\_\_\_\_. In **verses 11–12** God is pleased by Abraham's willingness to obey even such a terrible command and again he repeats his promises, adding that Abraham's descendants would "possess the gate of their enemies." What does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_
21. According to **Acts 7:5**, did Abraham receive the promise of the land in his lifetime? \_\_\_\_\_
22. It is clear from the events recorded in **Genesis 23** that Abraham did not receive the promise of the land in his lifetime. In **verses 7–9**, Abraham purchases a plot of land from the local land-owners in order to \_\_\_\_\_ his dead wife Sarah. He paid for a plot of land together with a cave at one end of it, called the cave of \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 9). This cave was east of \_\_\_\_\_ or Hebron, in the land of \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 19).
23. **Hebrews 11:13** states that Abraham — "died in \_\_\_\_\_ not having received what was \_\_\_\_\_."
24. a) What was the name of Isaac's son who received the promises? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b) What other name was he later given? (*Genesis 32:28*) \_\_\_\_\_  
 c) How many sons did he have? \_\_\_\_\_
25. The descendants of Jacob (Israel) migrated to \_\_\_\_\_ in a time of famine, and later lived as slaves there until \_\_\_\_\_ led them out under God's direction.
26. According to **Deuteronomy 7:8–9**, Moses told the Israelites before they went into the promised land that they were receiving it — "because the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ you, and is keeping the \_\_\_\_\_ which he swore to your \_\_\_\_\_ "

27. David, who is well known for having written many of the Psalms, was another great man who received promises from God. Abraham is said in the Bible to have been the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (See: *2Chronicles 20:7; James 2:23*), but David was called the man after God's own \_\_\_\_\_. (See: *1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22*)
28. Up until David's time Israel had worshipped God in a tent. What did David want to do for God? (2 Samuel 7:1–5) \_\_\_\_\_
29. a) In **2 Samuel 7:12–13** God reveals his promise to David and says — "I will \_\_\_\_\_ up your \_\_\_\_\_ after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_. He shall \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ for my name and I will \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_."
- b) This promise could have been fulfilled by David's son Solomon, except that God extends the promise in **verse 14**— "I will be his \_\_\_\_\_ and he shall be my \_\_\_\_\_."
- c) The promise was for the future, as we see in **verse 16**— "Your house and your \_\_\_\_\_ shall be made sure \_\_\_\_\_ before me; your \_\_\_\_\_ shall be established \_\_\_\_\_."
30. Read **Psalm 89** to see God confirming his promise to David, particularly verses 34–37. Does God give the impression that He intends to forget this promise? YES \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
31. **Isaiah 9:7** is one of the many prophecies that predict the coming of the Messiah who will fulfil the promises God made to Abraham and David.— "Of the increase of his government and of \_\_\_\_\_ there will be \_\_\_\_\_, upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and over his \_\_\_\_\_ to establish it and to uphold it with \_\_\_\_\_ and with \_\_\_\_\_ from this time forth and \_\_\_\_\_."
32. According to **Jeremiah 31:33**, God will make His covenant with His people the house of Israel — "I will put my \_\_\_\_\_ within them, and write it upon their \_\_\_\_\_; I will be their \_\_\_\_\_ and they shall be my \_\_\_\_\_."
33. Israel was exiled when they didn't fulfil God's law, but God always promised that they would be restored. Read **Jeremiah 31:31–34** and **Jeremiah 33:20–22**. Does God plan to reject Israel or renounce His promises to them? \_\_\_\_\_
34. In **Ezekiel 36:24–25**, what does God promise to do with Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
35. Read **Luke 1:31–33** and answer the following questions:
- a) To whom is the angel Gabriel speaking? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) What does God promise her? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Whose throne is this son to receive? \_\_\_\_\_
- d) For how long? \_\_\_\_\_

36. After Jesus' ascension to heaven, what was Peter's message to the people in **Acts 3:18–21**?

\_\_\_\_\_

37. a) Why did Jesus come the first time? \_\_\_\_\_

b) Why will he come again? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

38. Originally the promises of God were made to Abraham and his descendants. The promises of God have been extended to the Gentiles (non-Jews) through Jesus Christ and we, too, can share in them.

**Ephesians 2:11–13** tells us that —

"at one time you Gentiles in the \_\_\_\_\_ . . . were at that time separated from \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ , and \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of promise, having \_\_\_\_\_ hope and \_\_\_\_\_ God in the world. But now in \_\_\_\_\_ you who once were \_\_\_\_\_ have been brought \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

39. **Galatians 3:26–27, 29**— "For in Christ we are all sons of God through \_\_\_\_\_ . . . .

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's \_\_\_\_\_ , heirs according to the \_\_\_\_\_."

40. How do we know that the return of Jesus is near? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

41. According to **Hebrews 6:13–18**, God has provided assurance of His promise through the following two unchangeable things — (*Hint: See Lesson, last page*)

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions or comments about this lesson, or the course in general, please write them out below, and we'll do our best to respond. Please remember to write your **name and address** on the top of the first page and return your completed worksheet to:

**Your Comments/Questions/Notes**

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