

January 6th – God’s Covenant with Abraham

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”

(Gen. 12:1-3)

About 3800 years ago, God approached a man named Abram who lived in a city called Ur in region of Mesopotamia. Basically, Abram lived with his family in the modern-day land of Iraq. In his sermon from Acts 7, Stephen tells us that Abram was called by God to leave his family and follow the leadership of the Lord. Abram relocated his family to Haran (modern-day Turkey), and God prompted him to leave once more – this time at the age of 75.

When Abram was called to live in Haran, he really didn’t even know where he was going. God simply said He was calling him to go to “a land that I will show you.” I’m sure this was not easy for Abram. His home city of Ur was a thriving metropolis of the ancient world, and I’m sure his home in Haran was comfortable as well. God called Abram out of his comfort zone and commanded him to take a leap of faith. God still does the same thing with each of us today.

When God commanded Abram to begin his journey toward the land of Canaan, He made him a timeless promise – “I will make you a great nation.” The nation birthed through Abram’s lineage is Israel. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of course Jacob’s name was changed to Israel. What’s the significance of this promise? It proves once more that our God is a covenant-keeper and that He still has a special plan for His people. Every Christian should continue to bless God’s chosen people Israel.