

**“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.” (GENESIS 12:3)**

**WE HOPE IN THE PROMISED SEED.  
He Is The Seed Of Abraham.**

*In the name + of Jesus.*

All the people of the world had a problem. They were dying. Every one of them. Kings were marked for death just as much as peasants. The rich and the poor alike had a date with the grave. Men and women, young and old, famous and anonymous – it does not matter. All the people of the world have fallen under the curse of sin, which is death.

But God promised a solution, a Savior. God’s promise was given to Adam and Eve when he cursed the serpent: **“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you will bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15)** As far as the Bible tells us, that is the only promise that was given to man from Eden to the Flood. But it was enough. It was cherished, and it gave hope to all who clung to it. It was passed down from Adam to Seth, to Enoch, to Methuselah, to Noah, and beyond. It was enough to assure man of his salvation, but it was still vague. A Savior would come – born of a woman ... sometime ... somewhere.

How would man know this Savior when he came? Eve had thought her firstborn son was the Savior. While we appreciate Eve’s enthusiasm for God to fulfill his promises, Eve was wrong. Cain was not the Savior. And though Abel’s blood was shed, it cried out for vengeance. Abel was not the Savior, either. His blood did not atone for a single sin. The Promise remained unfulfilled and non-specific. A Savior would come. But from where? And when? These questions begged for an answer.

About 2,000 years before the Promised Seed would be born, God narrowed the scope of his promise. God chose Abraham to be the one through whom the Promised Seed would come. **“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.” (Genesis 12:3)** We hope in that Promised Seed. He is the Seed of Abraham.

We might wonder why God chose Abraham. What was special about him? Nothing. God did not choose Abraham because he was better than anyone else. God chose Abraham despite his sins and flaws and weaknesses. You may also wonder, “Why did God choose me? What is special about me that I should be his own and live under him in his kingdom?” Again, the answer is: Nothing. Like Abraham, you have your sins and flaws and weaknesses. Even now that you have the status of a child of God, it is not any better. You have not proven yourself worthy, and you can’t. You still have your sins. You still demonstrate your flaws. You daily prove your weaknesses.

If God’s choice was based on your performance or your worthiness, you would daily be cast away from God. You would be crushed by despair, because all of your energies and efforts will never produce the kind of life that God looks for. You know that your mouth should be used for blessing, but bitter and sarcastic words fly out of it anyway. You know that your thoughts should be devoted to what is pure and noble, yet it regularly ponders what is filthy and evil. Even when you repent of your sins, you find yourself

getting sucked back in by the same temptations again and again. You cannot hope in your goodness, because you don't have it.

Your hope does not rest in you, and for that you can be thankful! Your hope is in the Promised Seed. He is the Seed of Abraham. God had promised Abraham: **“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.” (Genesis 12:3)** While we can get caught up in the exciting possibilities of God blessing those who like us and cursing those who hate us, our comfort in this verse comes from the last phrase: **“In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3)** All families from all the earth will find their blessing in the Seed of Abraham.

This Promised Seed comes for the whole world. Just as the whole world had fallen under the curse of sin and death, so the whole world finds its hope in the Promised Seed, Jesus Christ. **He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)** God's promise has always been extended to the whole world, for God so loves the world. So, for the whole world, Jesus came. For every person in the world, Jesus lived and served and obeyed. For every person in the world, Jesus suffered and bled and died. For every person in the world, Jesus rose and lives and reigns. He accomplished everything for you to be saved. You are truly blessed through the Seed of Abraham.

God had promised Abraham: **“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.” (Genesis 12:3)** Abraham received God's promise, and Abraham took God at his word. **Abraham believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)** Abraham's place in God's kingdom was not based on his merits at all. God had to credit righteousness to him. God promised it. Jesus fulfilled it. The Holy Spirit delivered it. Salvation comes by faith alone. The Seed of Abraham did the work, and Abraham received the benefits.

And so it is with you. St. Paul declares, **“Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. Those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.” (Galatians 3:7,9)** You are not blessed by what you do, but by what God has done for you. The Seed of Abraham has done the work, and God credits his righteousness to you. Through the Seed of Abraham, the families of the earth are blessed. Through faith in Jesus, you have become the family of God. So, rest your hopes completely on Jesus. He satisfies God's demands. He takes away God's wrath. And he opens God's kingdom. Our hope is in the Promised Seed.

**In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**