

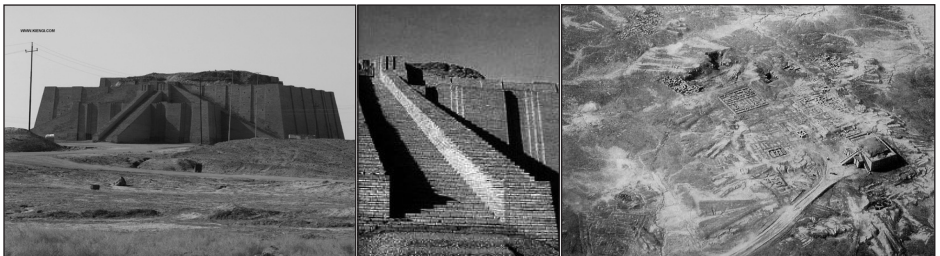
# 16 Promises - To Abraham and David

Look at Acts 26:1-6, and see (v6) the reason Paul gives to explain why he is on trial. The promises God had given in the Old Testament were clearly very important to him. Two chapters later (Acts 28:20) Paul says the same thing in different words.

## God's promises to Abram

Genesis	Abraham	His descendants	The land	The world
12:1-3	I will show you a land. I will bless you and make your name great, and you will be a blessing.	They will be a great nation		I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All families of the earth will be blessed in you.
13:14-17		They will be as numerous as the dust	I will give the land to you and to your descendants for ever	
15:1-6		They will be as numerous as the stars		
15:13-21	You will die in peace	They will be slaves, exiled for 400 years, but they will return	From the river of Egypt to the Euphrates	
17:4-8	You will be the father of a multitude of nations, kings will come from you		Your descendants will possess the land for ever, and I will be their God	
22:18	I will bless you	They will be as numerous as the sand and the stars; they will rule over their enemies		In your offspring all nations will be blessed

## The call of Abram



*The (repaired) ziggurat at Ur*

*a close-up*

*an aerial photograph of the site*



## Genesis 12:1-4

How much do you know about what life was like in Ur? What was God asking Abram to do (see Hebrews 11:8-9)? Imagine how he might have explained it to Sarah!

What does v3 mean - 'I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'? Has it been fulfilled?

## Genesis 13:14-17

How much of the land did Abraham own in his lifetime? What's the implication of the promise that this would be 'for ever'.

## Genesis 15:1-6

Imagine Abraham looking up to the night sky and put yourself in his situation - believing that God would do what he had said, then read Romans 4:1-4, 13-18, 22-25, and consider the implications that God wants exactly the same sort of faith from us. What can we learn from Abraham? What promises does God make to us?

What does righteousness mean?

Why is all this significant for us?

## Genesis 15:13-21

If you can find a map with all these places on you can find which territory God promised to Abraham's descendants.

Jeremiah 34, starting at v8, describes how the people of Jeremiah's day had promised (v15-16) to obey God by releasing Hebrew slaves after 6 years - but then they had changes their minds. As a token of the covenant they had cut a calf in two and then walked between the two halves (v18-19).

How does this story illuminate what God did in confirming his covenant with Abram.



## Genesis 17:4-8

What is the significance of the change of name from Abram to Abraham?

## Genesis 22:18

What does 'offspring' (ESV) mean? Who is it referring to, and what does it mean?

## The promises fulfilled



You may like to look at some - or all - or these verses, and maybe annotate the details of the promises on the previous page:

Genesis 24:1, Genesis 25:1-4 (can you see some sons who became the fathers of nations?), Genesis 25:7-8, Genesis 46:5-7, Exodus 1:6-13, Exodus 12:31-36, 40-41, Exodus 14:26-28, Deuteronomy 1:8-10, Joshua 1:1-6; 21:43-45, 1 Kings 4:20-25.

## God's promises to David



Look at 2 Samuel 7:1-16, and summarise what God promised to King David.

How many of these promises were fulfilled by Solomon? - Look at 1 Kings 4:20-25; 9:3-5, 2 Chronicles 6:1-11.

Think about the relationship between Jews and Moslems - who believe that the promises passed from Abraham to Ishmael, and apply to the Arabs. What is the significance of the promises to David?

