

# HIStory

## 3 – The Promise and Plan of God

(Reflections from the sermon on January 17, 2016)

*“Go ... to the land I will show you.  
I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; ...and all the people of  
the earth will be blessed through you.”* **Genesis 12:1-3 NIV**

It's so nice when plans come into place. All the vision and expectations of well structured ideas bear fruit when they become a reality. But have you noticed that not everything goes as planned? Not every plan goes as expected?

Successful plans are the ones who have the ownership and support of the cast who bear responsibility for the plan and these are the ones who share in the celebration of the plan's successes.

There was a lineage of faith that came down from Noah's son, Shem. Abram represented the 10<sup>th</sup> generation of Shem's decedents and it is here that the Lord gave His plan the visibility that it deserved. This was the first biblical pronouncement of the overall blessing from the Lord to His people and to the whole earth.

### Genesis 12

#### The Promises of God to Abram:

1. In this chapter of Genesis the Lord makes promises to the whole earth through Abram. List all the promises that you can find throughout the entire chapter.
  
2. The promises were clear but they came with a contingency. What was the contingency?

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### The Faith Contingency:

1. Without knowing where he was going (Heb. 11:8) he could not know exactly how to get there or what life was going to be like when he arrived. Where would the people settle in and be able to farm, raise live-stock, or protect their family. These are not irrational questions. It seem good wisdom to know who, what, when and where before we make such bold moves. What prompted Abram to make this journey with all these good, legitimate, unanswered questions? (Ref. Heb. 11.)
  
2. Who did Lot have faith in?

### Worship and Praise

1. Why did Abram respond by building an alter to the Lord and by praying when God's promise and plan were restated (Gen. 11:7,8)?
  
2. Read Gen. 13:18-20 (Ref. Heb. 7:2) and share the significance of the High Priest Melchizedek to Abram and his journey of faith living.