**“Inheritance of the Saints. Promises to Abraham.—Continued” The Signs of the Times, 11, 14.**

E. J. Waggoner

**THE SABBATH-SCHOOL.**

**LESSON FOR THE PACIFIC COAST—MAY 2**

**PROMISES TO ABRAHAM.—CONTINUED**

1. Under what circumstances was the promise first made to Abraham? {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.1}

2. Repeat this promise? {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.2}

“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” Genesis 12:2, 3. {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.3}

3. What condition of things will exist when this is fulfilled? {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.4}

4. What scripture contains additional features of the promise? {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.5}

“And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward; for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.” Genesis 13:14-17. {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.6}

5. When was this promise made? {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.7}

“And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward.” Genesis 13:14. {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.8}

6. What did the Lord promise at this time? {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.9}

“And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward; for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.” Genesis 13:14, 15. {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.10}

7. To whom besides Abraham was the land promised? *Ib*. {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.11}

8. How long was it said that they should have it? *Ib*. {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.12}

9. How numerous did the Lord say his seed should be? {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.13}

“And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.” Genesis 13:16. {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.14}

10. If his seed was to be “as the dust of the earth,” how much of the earth would it occupy? {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.15}

11. Then to what was the promise equivalent? {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.16}

12. How much territory does Paul say that the promise included? {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.17}

“For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” Romans 4:13. {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.18}

13. Why did the Lord make such great promises to Abraham? {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.19}

“Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” Genesis 18:18, 19. {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.20}

In our last week’s lesson we learned that the first promise was made to Abraham while he was in his native country, when God told him to go out into a land which he should show him. Genesis 12:1-3. We found that the promise affected not only Abraham, but all the people who should live at a certain time upon the earth; that at that time all would be blessed, and would, consequently, be keeping God’s commandments. {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.21}

After Lot had separated from Abraham, we find the promise renewed, with some additional particular. This will be found in Genesis 13:14-17. There we find that land was promised to Abraham, and to his seed, and that it was to be theirs forever. In the sixteenth verse we learn that his seed was to be “as the dust of the earth.” This is but another way of saying that his descendants should fill the whole earth. That being so, it follows that the promise given at that time was that he and his descendants should possess the whole earth. In Romans 4:13 we learn that this conclusion is correct. We must not fail to note, however, as recorded in Genesis 18:18, 19, that the Lord’s promise to make of Abraham a great nation, and the fact that Abraham would command his children and his household after him, that they should keep the way of the Lord. E. J. W. {SITI April 2, 1885, p. 214.22}

**“Inheritance of the Saints. Promises to Abraham.—Continued” The Signs of the Times, 11, 15.**

E. J. Waggoner

**THE SABBATH-SCHOOL.**

**LESSON FOR THE PACIFIC COAST—MAY 9**

**PROMISES TO ABRAHAM.—CONTINUED**

1. Repeat the promise made to Abraham after Lot had separated from him. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.1}

2. Where is this promise found? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.2}

3. What did this promise embrace? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.3}

“For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” Romans 4:13. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.4}

4. How great a posterity did the Lord say Abraham should have? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.5}

“And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.” Genesis 13:16. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.6}

5. On another occasion, what did the Lord say of his posterity? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.7}

“And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.” Genesis 15:5. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.8}

6. Had Abraham at this time any children? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.9}

“And Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?” Genesis 15:2. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.10}

7. How did he regard this promise from the Lord? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.11}

“And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.” Genesis 15:6. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.12}

8. How did the Lord regard Abram’s belief? *Ib*. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.13}

9. How old was Abram when the Lord next appeared to him? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.14}

“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.” Genesis 17:1. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.15}

10. What part of the promise did the Lord at this time renew? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.16}

“And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.” “And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.” Genesis 17:2, 6. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.17}

11. What name did the Lord at this time give him as a continual reminder of this promise? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.18}

“Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.” Genesis 17:5. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.19}

12. What is the meaning of “Abraham”? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.20}

“Father of a great multitude.” Genesis 17:5, margin. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.21}

13. What did the Lord at this time say he would give to Abraham and his seed? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.22}

“And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.” Genesis 17:8. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.23}

14. How long did the Lord say they should possess this land? *Ib*. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.24}

15. And how much land have we learned that they were to have? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.25}

16. On what condition was this promise given? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.26}

“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.” Genesis 17:1. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.27}

17. Then to what other promise is this equivalent? {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.28}

“But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” Psalm 37:11. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.29}

The promise made to Abraham after Lot separated from him, will be found in Genesis 13:14-17. It will be remembered that the promise embraced a grant of land, and this land, we learned (Romans 4:13), was the whole earth. In Genesis 17:1-8, we have the same thing repeated. At that time the Lord gave him his name, “Abraham,” meaning, “a multitude of nations,” or a “father of many nations.” This would serve to continually keep in mind the promise that his seed should be as the dust of the earth, and as the stars of heaven. God also at this time repeated the statement that he would give the land (the earth) to Abraham and his seed for an “everlasting possession.” As noted in our last lesson, this promise was on condition that Abraham should walk perfectly before the Lord. Since a meek person is a follower of Christ, and therefore perfect, it follows that this promise is equivalent to that already learned in Psalm 37:11. E. J. W. {SITI April 9, 1885, p. 230.30}

**“Inheritance of the Saints. Promises to Abraham.—Continued” The Signs of the Times, 11, 16.**

E. J. Waggoner

**THE SABBATH-SCHOOL.**

**LESSON FOR THE PACIFIC COAST—MAY 16**

**PROMISES TO ABRAHAM.—CONTINUED**

1. After Abraham had obeyed the command to offer up Isaac, what did the Lord swear to do? {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.1}

“And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son; That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.” Genesis 22:16-18. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.2}

2. How numerous did he say Abraham’s seed should be? *Ib*. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.3}

3. Where have we found similar expressions? {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.4}

“And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.” Genesis 13:16. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.5}

“And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.” Genesis 15:5. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.6}

4. What did the Lord say that Abraham’s seed should possess? {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.7}

“That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.” Genesis 22:17. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.8}

5. What is indicated by the statement that his seed shall possess the gate of his enemies”? {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.9}

6. Then with what other scriptures already learned, is this parallel? {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.10}

“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” Genesis 12:3. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.11}

“For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.” Genesis 13:15. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.12}

“For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” Romans 4:13. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.13}

7. What further shows that the promise in Genesis 22:16-18 is the same as those already learned? Compare Genesis 22:18 with Genesis 12:3; 18:18. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.14}

8. Why did the Lord now say that he would do this thing? {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.15}

“And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.” Genesis 22:18. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.16}

9. And what have we before found was the condition on which the promise was based? {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.17}

“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” Genesis 18:19. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.18}

10. What did Stephen say as to the fulfillment of the promise recorded in Genesis 13:15; 17:18? {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.19}

“And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on; yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.” Acts 7:5. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.20}

11. What do we know concerning all of God’s promises? {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.21}

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.22}

“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” 2 Corinthians 1:20. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.23}

12. Then what must we conclude concerning these promises to Abraham? {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.24}

“Thy seed shall possess of the gate of his enemies.”Genesis 22:17. Ancient cities, as is well known, were surrounded by walls, and the only means of entrance was by means of gates, which were well guarded. Whoever controlled those gates, controlled the city. If an enemy could gain possession of the gates of a city, they could keep the inhabitants closely confined within, or could admit whomsoever they chose. So to possess the gate of one’s enemies would signify supreme rule. When it was promised that Abraham’s seed should “possess the gate of his enemies,” we understand that his seed was eventually to occupy all the territory then occupied by those who were antagonistic to him. But this was equivalent to the inheritance of the earth, thus showing that this text is parallel with Genesis 12:13; 13:15; Romans 4:13, which have already been considered. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.25}

Notwithstanding these promises, which were made to Abraham as well as to his seed, Abraham died without seeing their fulfillment. Stephen says that God did not give him enough of the land to set his foot on, although he promised that he would give him the whole of it. But we know that the Lord is not slack concerning his promises, and that all his promises are yea and amen; they cannot be broken. Every one will be fulfilled to the letter. This being the case, we must conclude that the Lord did not intend that Abraham should receive the inheritance immediately, but that the promise should be fulfilled to him at some future time. When we read that Abraham died “*in faith*,” although he had not received the inheritance, we know that this was the way he understood the Lord. Had Abraham not thus understood the Lord, he would have died discourage, instead of “in faith.” E. J. W. {SITI April 16, 1885, p. 246.26}