



Sermon Study Guide

January 6, 2019

Part 2

Genesis 12:1-4, 15:1-6, 26:23-25

Galatians 3:1-9

Intro to 'Out of Socket'

Welcome to 2019 and to our brand-new sermon series called “Out of Socket: God’s Promise to Put Us Back Together”! This 7-week series is based on a study of the life of Jacob in the Old Testament book of Genesis, and **it will coincide with a new season of Discipleship Groups** at The Story! These groups are designed to deepen your knowledge of the Bible, and they’re starting THIS WEEK. There’s still time to sign up - visit www.bit.ly/tshgroups after the service today and choose the group that works best for you.

Promises, Promises

Christians are always talking, singing, and reading about the promises of God. We tell people to believe His promises, to trust them, to stand on the promises of God. But we don’t often stop and ask: *What are the promises of God?* What has God promised us?

Some people go too far with this question. They’ve been led to believe that God has promised us health, wealth, happiness, etc. Others don’t go far enough: they would say that while God made promises in Bible times, He hasn’t promised us anything. **As honestly as possible, what do you believe God has promised you? Why do you believe that?**

Intro to Jacob

This series will follow the life story of a man called Jacob who plays a key role in the Old Testament book of Genesis. To fully understand who Jacob’s life, it helps to know something about his family. Jacob was the grandson of Abraham, the Hebrew patriarch whose story begins in Genesis 12.

Genesis 12:1-4 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

What, exactly, did God promise Abram/Abraham? Why would these promises have been hard for him to believe?

How did Abraham respond to God’s promises?



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Genesis 15:1-6 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

God provided Abraham with some additional clarity around the details of His promises. Briefly describe the additional prophecy in these verses.

What do you think it means that “Abram believed the Lord, and he credited to him as righteousness?”

Galatians 3:1-9 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

How were the promises God made to Abraham different from the promises He’s made to us? How are they the same? Why does any of this matter?