

THE FOURTH DISPENSATION

NAME : PROMISE

TIME PERIOD : From the call of Abraham, Egyptian bondage, up to the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai. (Gen.15:13-14 , Ex.12:40-42 , Gal.3:16-18). Dates are 1819 to 1445 BC, or 2181 to 2555 AM. Duration 374 years. 2165 BC - birth of Abram. 1875 BC - Jacob & sons went down to Egypt. 1445 BC - Israel's exodus from Egypt , and God giving the Law to Moses.

TEST : To stay in the land of promise (Palestinian Covenant). (Gen. 26:1-5 , Heb.11:8-28).

FAILURE : They went into Egypt. Continuous failure of Israel, read Steven's message in Acts 7.

(1) Abraham went to Egypt when famine came (Gen.12:9-20). **(2)** Ishmael born of Hagar (Gen.16).

(3) Isaac went down to Gerar (close to Egypt) when famine came (Gen.26). **(4)** Jacob steals the blessing from Esau (Gen.27) **(5)** Glimmers of hope in the midst of failure: Abraham; Joseph; the prophets try to get Israel to turn to God and be faithful; God's revelations to Israel; The Messiah - the ultimate hope.

JUDGMENT : Slavery in Egypt (Gen.15:13-16)

REMEDY : Passover (blood). (Gen.12:13, Ex. chapters 11-13, 1 Cor.5:7-10)

Main Scripture Refs : Gen.11:10 through Ex.19:4 Promise to Abraham Gen.12:1-3

Continuing Principles : **(1)** Blessing (Gen.12:3) **(2)** the land (Gen.13:14-18). **(3)** father of many nations (Gen.17:1-8). **(4)** Christians waiting for a better land (Heaven). **(5)** Christians should not marry unsaved mates (Gen.24:1-9). **(6)** the seed of Abraham (Gen.15:5): some fleshly (Gen.12:2), some spiritual - must be in the line through Abraham and Isaac (not Ishmael) (Rom.9:6-9), in the line of Jacob, not Esau (Rom.9:10-14). Have faith in God, as Abraham did - Gentiles are included here (Matt.3:7-9) John the Baptist warns the Pharisees that they have no heart for God, even though they were Jews (Rom.2:28-29, Rom.4, Rom.5:1, Gal.3:6-9, 15-19, 28-29).

People : God, Abraham, Lot, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Hagar, Ishmael, Jacob & Esau, Leah and Rachel, 12 sons of Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Miriam, Pharaoh(s)

Events : **(1)** the call of Abraham (Gen.12:1-5) **(2)** the blessing of Melchizedek (Gen.14:17-24, Ps.110:4, Heb.5:6 , 6:20-7:22) **(3)** birth of Ishmael, the promise of Isaac (Gen.17:15-22) **(4)** Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen.18,19) **(5)** Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac (Gen.22) **(6)** Jacob & Esau (Gen.27:30-34, Heb.12:15-17) **(7)** Jacob's ladder (Gen.28:10-22) **(8)** Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt (Gen.37) **(9)** Egyptian bondage (Ex.1:7-14) **(10)** Death of Jacob (Gen.50:15-21) **(11)** Passover (Ex.12) **(12)** God parts the Red Sea (Ex.14:19-31, Heb.11:29)

Notes : Egypt would be a constant trouble spot for Abraham (Gen.21:21) and his children. God saved Israel out of Egypt to live in the land that He chose for them. God saves us out of the world today, to live for Him. God's promises to Israel will be fulfilled literally (Is.14:1-3, Hos.3:4-5). A wrong application of 2Chr.7:14 - this is not for the USA today, this is for Israel (the name Israel means "Prince with God").

(dates - for the study of 4th disp: Aug 18-25, 2002 , Sept 25 to Nov 6, 2005 , Feb 17, 2008 ,)
(May 11 to June 8, 2014)