

God's statements are not always crystal clear to us, because often they contain hidden within them a knowledge of future events or of scientific realities that the people of any particular age may not yet know. God knows all things and we can safely trust every statement in His Word. We must be careful not to read into it anything that is not really there, but if we examine its statements carefully we find that everything that God has said, as far as we can understand it, is entirely dependable and true. What we do not understand we can safely accept in trust, knowing that some day we shall have further knowledge and be able to see how accurate every statement of God's Word is.

Another important feature of the promises to Abraham and to his immediate descendants is the promise that his seed would be a blessing to all the nations of the earth. Superficial knowledge of Hebrew has led liberal scholars in our day to reinterpret the statement as simply meaning that people would use Abraham as an example of a happy life. Careful study of the Hebrew forms, however, shows this interpretation to be quite unwarranted. The Greek translation made two centuries before the time of Christ was not in error when it translated it as meaning that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through his seed. Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad." (John 8:56).

God's first promise to Abraham contained another interesting and important statement: "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee" (Genesis 12:3). This divine promise is not limited in time. It is stated categorically and permanently. Even though Israel should fall into sin, and should seem no longer to be a recipient of God's blessing, it would still be true, that God has promised that those who bring blessing to His earthly people will themselves be blessed, while those who curse His earthly people