



Christmas: End of the Line

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About 2,000 years before the birth of Jesus, if you can kind of get your head around that. About 2,000 years, actually some scholars say 1,976 years to be exact. They don't know the month and the date but about 2,000 years before Jesus was born, God spoke to Abraham and he made Abraham a promise that... It's an unbelievable promise. It's a promise that again, if we didn't know the rest of the story and if we didn't know the Christmas story, and if you're new to Bible study, then you don't know the end of the movie. Just think about how fantastic this must have sounded.

00:34 S1: But God spoke to Abraham 2,000 years before Jesus is born, and he made him an unbelievable promise that Abraham decided to believe. And we are told that when Abraham decided to believe this unbelievable promise that God did an unbelievable thing, and he granted Abraham a right-standing with him. Not based on Abraham's behavior but simply based on the fact that Abraham chose to believe God. And in doing so, he instituted this new equation by which men and women could know where they stood with God. That acceptance into God's favor is based on faith not behavior.

01:10 S1: But here's the promise that God made Abraham that was so unbelievable at the time. Here's what He said. He said, "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Now, it's interesting because Abraham had no idea how big the earth was. The only earth that Abraham knew as the earth he had seen or that he would see. But he knew it was big and all the peoples on the earth meant every tribe because there weren't really nations, there weren't really countries, there were ethnic groups, there were tribes, there were gatherings, there were people who had large and growing families.

01:41 S1: And so, even though Abraham didn't have the scope that we have today, this was still a big promise. That every single people group or every ethnic group would be blessed through you, not conquered... That's what everybody else would try to do. But would be blessed and not blessed by you, because Abraham was an old man and he knew he didn't have enough time to get around and personally bless everyone. But God said, "Abraham, through you every one will be blessed. Through you." Now, how could you believe such a thing? How would such a thing come about? How could one old man be used by God to bless every single people group, every ethnic group, every race, in our terms, every nation on the planet. But Abraham believed God anyways.

02:27 S1: So, Abraham had a son, Isaac, you may know that. Isaac had a son Jacob, Jacob had 12 sons, each of those sons became a family. And eventually, each of those families became their own tribe. They all ended up in Egypt. Moses delivered what then had become a nation and time went by. And eventually, there was a man named Jesse who was born, and he had a son named David, and David became the second king of Israel, but at last this family that started with Abraham actually became a nation that became a kingdom. And David was the warrior king and David defeated all of the enemies of Israel.

03:04 S1: And Israel at that time was known as a military powerhouse, they were a force to be reckoned with. And then David had a son named Solomon, who became the next king of Israel. And during the time of Solomon, it was the golden age of Israel. There was peace on every side, there was untold wealth. Solomon was probably the most wealthy person in the world at the time, and he was known not simply for his wealth, but for his wisdom. And if there was ever a time for God to bless the world through a descendant of Abraham, it was during the reign of King Solomon. Then Solomon came, and Solomon went, and the world was not blessed through Solomon or through the nation, of Israel.