

## **A STRATEGY FOR RECEIVING**

*“After he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise”* Hebrews 6:15

### **ABRAHAM’S DIVINE INTERRUPTION**

As far as we can currently ascertain, Abraham (Abram as he then was called) lived life with his family in Mesopotamia, approximately 1800 years before Christ came to Bethlehem. Further details about his daily life are educated speculation for the most part. But then something happened in Acts 7, Stephen tells us while Abraham lived in Mesopotamia, *“The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham...And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee”* (Acts 7:2-3). We don't know how big an ask this was for Abraham, but we can concretely conclude it represented significant change in his life.

### **PROMISED BLESSINGS**

In Genesis 12, God elaborated on what these changes would entail if Abraham responded affirmatively to His request. God said:

- I will make of you a great nation – Genesis 12:2.
- I will bless you and make your name great – Genesis 12:2.
- I will bless them that bless you and curse him that curses you – Genesis 12:3.
- In you shall all earth's families be blessed – Genesis 12:3.

It amounted to determinative provision, protection and a legacy left behind.

### **AN UNEVEN JOURNEY**

However, if you are familiar with Abraham's life after his divine encounter, you know the road he walked was an uneven one. His journey encompassed challenges, disappointments, questions and sometimes heartache. And yet the promise God made to Abraham came to pass. His family did inherit the land and his legacy cannot be underestimated. I am confident; if we could talk to him today, he would tell us every twist and turn in his journey was worth the result.

### **OBTAINING THE PROMISE**

But how did he do it? How did he navigate all the challenges of life and the slow grind of time passing, to keep himself and his descendants in line to receive the promise? Hebrews 6:15 provides insight into his successful strategy. *“After he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.”* Patience and endurance; are not particularly long words, but they are meaningful and instructing and ultimately, for Abraham, successful. Here's a thought: ask God to renew your patience and endurance today as you wait for a promise's fulfillment. It's a good goal as the Bible says endurance will result in salvation and in patience, you will possess your soul (Matthew 24:13, Luke 21:19).