

ABRAHAM AND THE NEW COVENANT

When it comes to the Abrahamic Covenant, there are a couple points that have to be understood. They are: 1) **The Law Covenant did not set aside the Abrahamic Covenant;** and, 2) **All the promises that were given to Abraham, within the Covenant, came alive and available, through Abraham's Seed, Jesus Christ.**

PAUL EXPLAINS THE TWO ABOVE POINTS TO THE GALATIANS

"What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise," Galatians 3:17.

"Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his Seed," Galatians 3:16a. Paul says that the promise wasn't to many seeds, but rather to one, only. "And to your Seed," that is, Christ," Galatians 3:16b.

Then, verse 14 announces, "in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Presentation of the promise of God went to Israel, first.

NOTICE THAT CHRIST MEANS "THE MESSIAH". IT IS THE HEBREW WORD, **MISHIAH**, AND MEANS ANNOINTED. **Iesous** is the abbreviated form of Joshua, and means Salvation of Jehovah, or Savior.

On word meanings, Bullinger states, in the Companion Bible, "The name "Jesus" expresses the relation of Jehovah to Him in Incarnation, by which "He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil 2;8). Who, being God, did not deem His glory a thing **not to be thus relinquished.**"

And, since Jesus went to Israel, first, those who receive Him were very happy Jews. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother said, "**We have found the Messiah,**" John 1:41. The fame of Jesus began that day.

Jesus went to Philip, who found Nathanael, saying, "**We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph,**" John 1:45. Nathanael had some issues but, after meeting Jesus, he said, "**Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel,**" John 1:49.

But, we know that the nation, as a whole, rejected the One in whom the promises lay. The nationalistic Jews missed their Messiah. And, without a Messiah

(remembering that the Hebrew, Mashiah, means Anointed), no fulfillment of the promises could be passed to them.

However, in the promise, it was God's intention for all men to be blessed through Abraham and his Seed; not just the Jews.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus,"

Galatians 3:28.

Understanding the New Covenant promises, along with how they are issued, becomes clear when Paul ties the promises of Abraham, to Christ and, to those who belong to Christ.

"And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise," Galatians 3:29.

THE GOOD NEWS AND THE PROMISE ARE ONE IN THE SAME

Without Abraham, faith would be a zillion miles away from man. For, from this man came Jesus, his Seed. Jesus made the promise very near; even, in our hearts.

"And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the (Jewish) fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus," Acts 13:32, 33.

The question is, "How does man receive the promises?" Of course, through Christ. But, the promise made to Abraham, lay in Jesus until He died and rose. It won't be until the glorious resurrection, that the Holy Spirit applies the Promise to all who believe.

All promises come from Jesus, the God/man and, these promises are built upon Spiritual Laws. So, what Jesus did, is unleash those laws. He, first, has to remove the Old Law, in order that the New Covenant Laws can be applied to man; Justification, Reconciliation and Sanctification.

These Laws issue life giving principles, once the Holy Spirit applies them. He quickens everyone who believes in the Person of Jesus by energizing man's spirit with the new life of Christ. Man becomes set aside in the finished work of Jesus. But, the New Covenant is to be lived out **within** every believer. The power of the Holy Spirit must be utilized on a **daily basis**. And, these spiritual Laws, which man honors by believing, keep him in obedience and under the leadership of God.

"...if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live," Romans 8:13.

It is not difficult to follow the sequence of Scripture on the Promise. It was given to Abraham and followed through Israel, until Jesus was born. We remember

that Abraham - and every Jew born of the Promise, were circumcised. Jesus was, as well. However, circumcision was the sign of the Covenant, until Jesus became the actual circumcision. In Him, all men are received by the Father.

Since, the cross, the sign of the covenant has been replaced by the real, actual act of one being "cut off." What was a type under the Old Covenant, became fulfilled by the Person of Christ. On the cross, Jesus was the true "cutting away of the flesh." But, God raised him from the dead. Thus, Paul's exciting words are sweet to hear, again, "That God has fulfilled the promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, [Acts 13:33](#).

Once a sinner comes to the PROMISED ONE, He is saved. An eternal change, at that very moment occurs. "...through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses," [Acts 13:39](#).

And, having experienced the same love of God through Jesus, as Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip and Nathanel, I rejoice in joining with them, "We have found the Messiah." And, I trust, that I rejoice with everyone reading this Newsletter. Are you looking? Are you rejoicing?