

# GOODNEWS LETTER

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## WHAT GOD EXPECTS FATHERS TO DO

"And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the **PROMISE** which was made unto the **fathers**, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that He hath raised up Jesus again:...be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that though this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:" Acts 13:32,33 & 38.

Sunday was my birthday. It doesn't mean too much except that I'm 900 YEARS YOUNGER THAN METHUSELAH. It's great to know who you are and where you are going but, without guidance of the Father, we just might not make it.

My father was Russ, Irene was my mother; both from Alabama with a huge dose of Baptist upbringing. Their leadership in Spiritual matters brought me to Jesus and His church. Without their leadership, no telling what I might have become, joined or believed.

Fathers are important! They are how we got here; but, God's interest lies in the promise that the new birth brings; a life that goes beyond the physical. He wants us to inherit all things through His Son, Jesus, and live eternally.

Like our physical fathers, the Heavenly Father is concerned with His Son, too. He was always near to Jesus. And when we look at Israel and Her calling, we see the same concern. God called the father, expecting the same faith to be taught to each son; the same, exact faith that God taught him.

Thus, faith given to the father was to be passed on to the son. This is how God perpetuated His promise down through time. This was His choosing!

Simply, the Biblical action of the **father-son** relationship can't be missed. One example is Samuel's father "**Elkanan, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite,**" I Samuel 1:1. And so it goes - generation after generation.

Another example is seen in the wilderness of Sinai when the Lord spoke to Moses: "**Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers...etc.,**" Numbers 1:2.

The Almighty God wanted His people to know that, when it comes to the promise, the son is identified with his father. Together, it was a father and son blessing from God, the Father.

In every account, "**the son of...**" has the promise because it was given to his father, first. This was the way God gave it to Israel, beginning with Abraham.

However, as men will do, the nation became so confident in their lineage, they forgot that the promise came from God, the Almighty Father. Without God, any lineage has only an earthly meaning that ends at death.

Initially, the Jewish nation knew that the promise was not merely due to their relationship with their earthly fathers. In the beginning, every Jew honored God.

But, we come to the New Covenant; the Jews trusted in their lineage so much that the Savior was blocked from their hearts. Israel proudly proclaimed "**We be Abraham's seed**" (Jn 8:33). Clearly, they had lost the meaning of the promise, how it began and why the purpose of receiving it.

It's good to have a lineage to trace one's life back to some time. But there's much more. We have to grasp what it means to have truth. Truth has to be more important than being a Jew; or anyone.

On this line, we might look at the Baptists. Certainly, all Baptists are taught that just being a church member isn't enough. Baptists are taught that the truth must be followed in the heart and exercised in everyday life.

Merely being a Baptist doesn't produce faithful men. Our father might have taught us but, it's up to us as sons to understand what is involved.

While Baptists know that the Jews missed the promise, they excuse themselves for doing the same. Too many Baptists have left the doctrinal truth of their fathers.

Some Baptists have changed their name in order to appear more open and pliable to the universal scheme of things. Of Baptists, especially those holding the position of Missionary Baptists, it is believed that truth and position cannot be changed. The Doctrines of **Saved by grace; once saved, always; baptism by immersion and a Bridal blessing belonging to those inheriting the kingdom**, cannot waver one jot or tittle.

Missionary Baptists understand the Son-Father relationship like no other people or, any so-called church. They realize the spirituality of authority; for the promise began from God and given to man. This has not changed. It still belongs to the Father. If the perpetual truth is to remain, it must be passed on from father to son, or from church to church.

And, the truth reveals that the Jews will be granted their promised land. They shall be the Head nation; not the tail, any longer (Dt 28:19). The promise also guarantees eternal life for all the saved ones.

But, for the church, God's kingdom and its reign over the earth is under consideration. For this blessing, we include Abraham, Isaac and Jacob within the faithful ones of this portion of the promise. The Bible brings them into its blessing in clear words. Romans 11:13-24 states, **the church was grafted into the**

**promised seed; which includes and begins with Abraham.** Paul's writing on Galatians, chapters 3 & 4 makes this crystal clear.

And, when the Kingdom is established, all the beatitudes of Matthew 5 are bestowed upon the promised seed of Abraham. Those of the kingdom shall have what Jesus accomplished for them; whether, we speak of life, land or fellowship and closeness with the Father. It all takes place when the marriage supper is observed.

Are Abraham and his offspring at the supper? Let's hear the words of Jesus. **"And I say unto you, That many come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob," Matthew 8:11.** Some of the Jews are cast out - and others, as well; but Abraham and the descendants of his faith shall sit squarely upon the fulfilled promise.

When it comes to God's promise, men have to see that he has something more in mind than mere genealogy. The Lord wants the sons to grasp the meaning of the promise and, He wants the sons to teach their sons, in turn.

Beginning with Abraham, then Moses and David, until Jesus, the promise was carried out by men of faith. It has to be a heart matter, today, just as it was, initially. It is for this reason that we hear the Lord repeatedly instruct Israel to **"circumcise the foreskins of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked,"** (Dt 10:16).

We certainly know that all things come through the Son of God, Jesus. To learn this teaching brings blessings from the Father upon us. But, we have an Old Testament teaching; a type that must be learned. God chose that the promise was to go from father to the first born; onward from generation to generation.

Yet, there's one extraction from the first-born type that need to be studied. It's the lives of Jacob and Esau. One loved the promise and one would rather have an earthly blessing. Esau was in the position but, every saved person ought to prayerfully consider the meaning of his actions. Hebrews 12:16 says, **"Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright."**

Passing on the truth and perpetuating its meaning of God and His blessing is the same as honoring God. As we stand and instruct others to stand, we are stating that God is. That He lives. Passing on the truth to the sons is what God expects fathers to do.