

— Galatians 4.22-28 —
Genesis Series 61
Inheriting the Promises

Gal 4²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. ²⁷ For it is written: “Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband.” ²⁸ Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. ²⁹ But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

► Last time, we considered Ishmael & Isaac and what led to Ishmael’s expulsion, and we saw that it all came down to Ishmael’s failure to see with the eyes of _____ that Isaac was a God-given type or living picture of the promised _____ of Abraham, through whom all the promises would be fulfilled and in whom all those united to him by faith would inherit the promises.

Gal 3¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ ... ²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

► This is the key to understanding the hostility of the Jewish establishment toward _____ & the _____, as well as the debate that rages across the pages of the NT. The establishment said that one inherits God’s promises by being a loyal member of the _____. The apostles said, “No, one inherits the promises by faith in the promised _____, and the covenant was given to cultivate that faith.” This is why we see the apostles constantly going back to Abraham and beyond to demonstrate that faith in the promised Seed has always been the _____.

Heb 11⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

► What was the first promise of the gospel?

Gen 3¹⁵ “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise [lit., crush] your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

1Jn 3⁸ For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Rev 12⁹ that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world

► What were the works of the devil?

1) _____

Jn 8⁴⁴ “[T]he devil ... is a liar and he father of it.”

2) _____

Jn 8⁴⁴ “[T]he devil ... was a murderer from the beginning”

3) _____

Jn 8⁴⁴ “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.”

2Tm 2²⁵ in humility correct ... those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the

truth,²⁶ and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

► Adam & Eve's sin was much more than crossing an arbitrary boundary. It was personal ingratitude & _____.

► The sin of man being intensely personal, the _____ of man would be equally personal.

Heb 2¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Gal 2²⁰ The Son of God ... loved me and gave Himself for me.

► A redeemer delivers you from a helpless situation by stepping in and taking your place.

Col 2¹³ *having forgiven us all our trespasses,¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. [ESV]*

Rom 8¹ *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*

See Heb 2.14-15 above.

► How did Adam & Eve show faith in the promised Seed?

Gen 3²⁰ And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them ... 4 1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

► How did Abel show faith in the promised Seed, and how did Cain fail to show the same?

Gen 4³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Heb 11⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.