

Inheriting the Promises 2

Gal 3 ¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? ² This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ... ⁶ Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” ⁷ Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” ⁹ So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham ... ¹⁵ Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man’s covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

► Paul is making a direct connection between the saving _____ of Abraham and our saving _____.

► We will focus in on the episode that Paul alludes to more than any other, and that is Gen15. What makes it unique?

► The one appearing to Abram is _____ preincarnate.

Gn 15 ¹ After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, “Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”

Jn 8 ⁵⁶ “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷ Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” (cf. *Gal 3.17*; *Heb 12.22-26*; *1Cor 10.4*; *Jn 1.1-3, 14*; *Heb 1.1-3*)

► Gal 3 tells us that while the promises had preliminary fulfillments, they were all ultimately fulfilled by Christ in his first _____ and in his sending out of the disciples to conquer the _____ with the gospel.

► In the first part of Gn15, Christ’s revelation comes in response to a question regarding the promise of _____.

Gn15 ³ And Abram said, “Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.” ⁴ And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. ⁵ And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. ⁶ And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

► Is Christ simply reiterating the promise of Gn13.16?

Gn 13 ¹⁶ “I will make your seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number [manah] the dust of the earth, then your seed also could be numbered [manah].”

Gn 15 ⁵ “Look now toward heaven, and tell [saphar] the stars, if thou be able to number [saphar] them”: and he said unto him, “So shall thy seed be.”

Ps 19 ¹ The heavens declare [saphar] the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Ps 48 ¹² Walk about Zion, and go all around her. Count [saphar] her towers; ¹³ Mark well her bulwarks; Consider her palaces; That you may tell [saphar] it to the generation following.

► What story do the stars tell?

Rm 10 ⁹ [I]f you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation ... ¹⁴ How then shall they ... believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? ... ¹⁸ But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: “Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.” (cf. *Ps 19.4*)

Psalm 19 ¹ The heavens declare [saphar] the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. ⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, ⁵ which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. ⁶ Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. (cf. *Jn 3.28-31*; *Rv 21.9*; *Lk 11.20-22*)

► What is the “tabernacle for the sun”?

Job 9⁹ He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades ... 38³² Can you bring out Mazzaroth [i.e., the Zodiac] in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?

Isa 40²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name

– For further reading, see *The Witness of the Stars* by E.W. Bullinger.

► Who was the preeminent bridegroom/strongman of the OT, and how is he a picture of Christ? (cf. Judges 13-16; 1 Sam 7)

► In the 2nd part of Gn 15, Christ's revelation comes in response to a question re the promise of _____.

Gn 15⁸ And he said, “Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?”⁹ So He said to him, “Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹ And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

► What do the animals signify? The vultures and darkness?

► What does Christ reveal about the promised land?

Gn 15¹³ Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.¹⁵ Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.¹⁶ But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” ...¹⁸ “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates”

Rm 4¹³ [T]he promise that he would be the heir of the world [kosmos] was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

► What is the “smoking oven” and “burning pot”? And what is Christ signifying by passing between the pieces?

Gn 15¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.

Exo 13²¹ And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light

Hb 9¹⁵ He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death ...¹⁶ For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.¹⁷ For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

Hb 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.

► Who made the covenant?

► Who fulfilled the covenant?

Hb 10¹² [T]his Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

► Who inherits the covenant?

Ps 2⁷ “You are My Son ...⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give your the nations for Your inheritance”

Gal 3²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.