

3:15-22

GALATIANS

THE GOSPEL OF CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

The promise to Abraham and his seed

The letter to the
Galatians

Grace (the messenger)		Grace (the fruit)
1-2	3-4	5-6

Paul has authority to speak from God on matters of the Gospel!

How are the Old and New Covenants related?

Does grace discourage disciplined living?

Genesis 17

“⁴ Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a **multitude of nations**. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and **kings** shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your **offspring** after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the **land** of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” ⁹ And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.”

Who are the true Jews who will inherit the promises made to Abraham?

Seed - that would bless the world
Throne - rule forever over God's people
Land - an eternal inheritance

Blood
descendants of
Abraham

(*circumcision*)

Spiritual
descendants of
Abraham

(*faith*)

Two types of covenants

**Abrahamic
(Promise)**

Unilateral

One party takes all the responsibility to meet the demands of the covenant.

UNCONDITIONAL.

**Mosaic
(Law)**

Bilateral

Both parties bear responsibilities to meet the demands of the covenant.

God Man

CONDITIONAL.

The Judaizers
Theology

Abrahamic
(Promise)

Mosaic
(Law)

Paul's
Theology

Abrahamic
(Promise)

Mosaic
(Law)

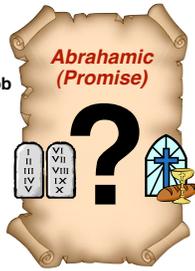
The controversy

1. Their promises are not conditioned on the merit of the recipient.
2. Their promises are made to a particular group.
3. Members of that group may be identified by a particular criteria.

Who is the “seed”?

Judaizers

- a. The physical seed of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob (Jewish people).
- b. They are identified by their commitment to the Law of Moses.
- c. This is clearly the emphasis of the O.T. and modeled by Jesus.



Paul

- a. The physical seed of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob (Jesus and those united with him).
- b. They are identified by their faith.
- c. This is revealed as the Gospel (a mystery hidden from the O.T. prophets but revealed to Paul).

Galatians 3

“¹⁵ Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man’s covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. ¹⁶ Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.”

Genesis 22:18

“In **your seed** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

1.

The Promise to Abraham was focused on Christ not Israel under the Law.

The Judaizers

Jewish people

Paul’s teaching

Christ

Questions that Christians should ask

The Judaizers

Is the nation Israel the object of the promises?

What does it mean today for us to bless the nation Israel?

Paul’s teaching

Is Christ the object of the promises?

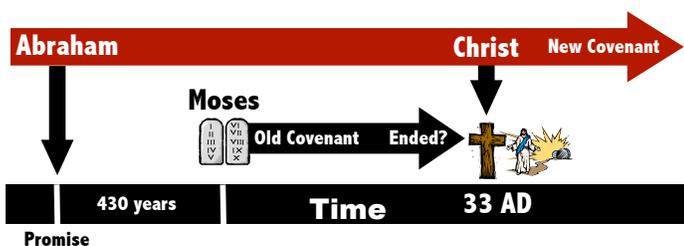
To what extent is the Body of Christ to be seen as the new people of God?

Genesis 12

“¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.””

Galatians 3

“¹⁷ 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

“¹⁸ For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. ¹⁹ Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made. ²⁰ Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one.”

2.

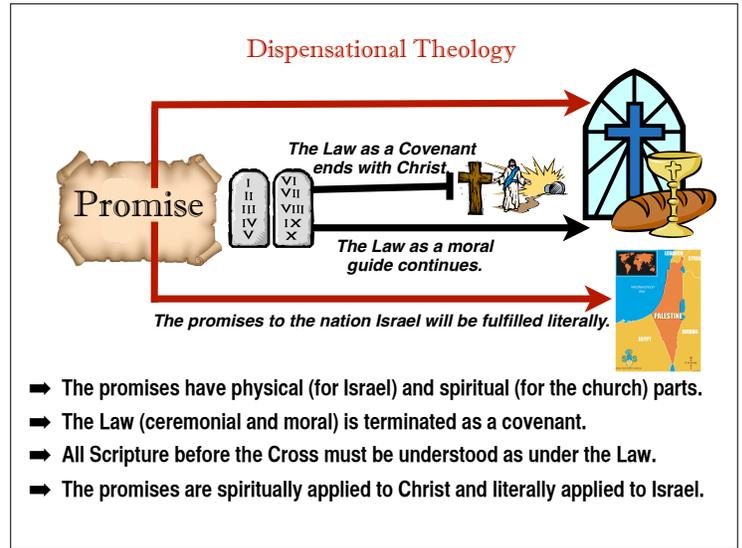
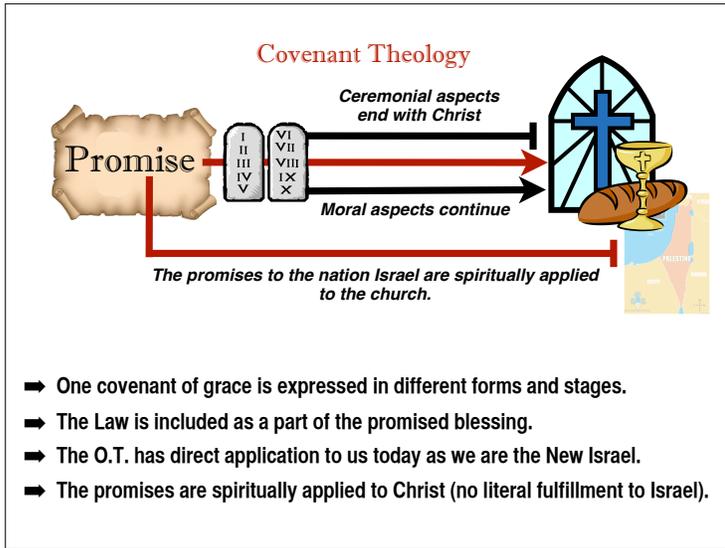
The Promise to Abraham was a gift of grace not earned under the Law.

The Judaizers

merit

Paul’s teaching

grace



Galatians 3

“²¹ Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. ²² But the Scripture has shut up all men under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.”

3.
The Promise to Abraham is received by faith not the works of the Law.

The Judaizers	Paul’s teaching
The Law brings life	The Law brings death

The purpose of the Law?

Judaizers	Paul
The Law targets saints to identify them through obedience	The Law targets sinners to convict them of their need for a savior.
The Law imparts life.	The Law imparts death.

The Law has the same effect on everyone who is under it.

Romans 7:13
“through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful”

Romans 7:24
“Wretched man that I am!
Who will set me free from the body of this death?”

Romans 8

“³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

The Promise through Abraham

1. Jesus is the “seed.”
2. All who are in Christ are the true heirs of the promise.
3. They are identified by faith.