

The Second of the Three Covenants to the Church (part 2)

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 2:11-3:6

REVIEW of the 4th Abrahamic Covenant

- ◆ The 4th covenant that God made with Abraham promised Abraham a singular Seed (descendant, who was Christ) by whom the nations would be blessed. This covenant is mentioned in 5 specific Scriptures:

REVIEW of the 4th Abrahamic Covenant

- ◇ The covenant sworn and described - Gen 22 16-18
- ◇ The covenant called “a covenant” - Lk 1:68-75
- ◇ The blessing of the covenant offered first to Israel - Acts 3:25-26
- ◇ Jewish Christians encouraged to lay old of “the rest” (from personal efforts) that was offered by this covenant - Heb 6:13-20
- ◇ Paul’s explanation & clarification of this covenant - Gal 3:16, 26-29

INTRODUCTION

This morning will look at this extremely important covenant from the perspective of *the past*, when it was made with Abraham,



and *the present*, as it is fulfilled in the Church – the Body of Christ

ABRAHAM'S PERSPECTIVE

(Gen 22:17-18)

- ◆ Abraham knew this promised seed would be in his lineage, but NOT necessarily be immediately to him, as was Isaac
- ◆ Abraham knew this specific person of authority would be a deliverer and a conqueror
- ◆ The promise in Gen 15:13-14 involved captivity and release to a multiplied seed (“they”)

ABRAHAM'S PERSPECTIVE

(Gen 22:17-18) continued

- ◆ This singular Seed would be multiplied - vs 17
- ◆ This Seed would bless all nations - vs 18
- ◆ These promises were not clarified with details, but were vague because the details involved a biblical mystery (truth not revealed before its unveiling)

PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE OF THE SINGULAR SEED PROMISED TO ABRAHAM

- ◇ This Seed was singular, not plural - Gal 3:16
- ◇ This singular Seed's identity is the person of Christ - Gal 3:16
- ◇ That ALL NT grace-believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit into Christ, resulting in the **creation** of the "the Body of the Christ" - Gal 3:26-27; I Cor 12:12-13; II Cor 5:17
 - ◇ Holy Spirit baptism is a creative act by God. Create = to bring into existence out of nothing

CONCLUSION

- ◇ The fulfillment of the 4th Abrahamic covenant:
 - ◇ **Came about by the baptizing of NT grace-believers into the person of Christ**
 - ◇ **This baptism was a creative act of God**
 - ◇ The creation of a completely new opinion by God
 - ◇ Not a creation of anything material
 - ◇ **The new opinion resulted in the NT grace-believer's position in Christ**
 - ◇ **This position in Christ is the framework – the blueprint – of how we are to use our “new covenant” life in our daily lives**