

## Two Promises Two Families

**Ge 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. 2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? 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.

First notice; God tells Abram; "*I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*" Does this sound familiar to you? Who is our protector? It is Jesus Christ, who has filled us with himself, in the form of the Holy Spirit presence. Who is our exceeding great reward? It is Christ, who has promised to return and carry us away; to that place that is beyond our imagination for its magnificence and glory.

This is right after Abram has rescued Lot and met Melchizedek, King of Salem and High Priest of God. We see that Abram is explaining to God, I don't understand. You promised me to be father of a great nation, seen in: **Ge 12:1-3**; "*1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*" Abram tells the Lord; I don't have a son to raise up seed in my name; how shall I become a great nation? But we see, as scripture dictates; Abram believed God, by faith, and it was counted to him for righteousness. From scripture, we know; God did fulfill his promise; and Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob had 12 sons; of whom the nation Israel is formed. Thus, we see that the natural lineage of Abram was established on earth.

We also see that the promise of God is further reaching than just to the natural family of Abram. "*and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*" In this phrase we see the promised blessing to all the families of the earth. We see fulfillment of this promise in the New Testament, seen in; **Re 5:9** *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.* We know from scripture; when Christ came and established the church of salvation by grace, he also grafted in the Gentiles; so that both Jew and Gentile are one nation in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. The church, which Christ established, is inclusive of every "born again" sinner.

The nation Israel was addressed as being the church in New Testament scripture in: **Ac 7:38** *This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:* Did you notice that it was the church in the wilderness? It was not called a church until God delivered it from Egypt. The church today is a people chosen by God and brought out of bondage of sin and satan.

The Old Testament church, the nation Israel, served under the sacrificial/ceremonial law service. This church also included the strangers, the Gentiles, which dwelt with Israel and lived by the laws of

God. God had instructed Israel to not have, any among their body, any that did not declare faith and trust in God, and yield obedience to his commandments.

If we compare the Old and New Testament churches we see:

- Both were/are inclusive of both Jew and Gentiles;
- Both were/are a chosen group of people saved by God's amazing grace; God chose Israel to bear his name on the earth as the people of God. Christ established the church and in it are the people chosen by God, regenerated, and saved eternally.
- Both were/are required to live by God's commandments;
- Both were/are looking for the coming of the Messiah, The Old looking for the first coming and the New looking for the second coming;
- Both were/are required to exercise faith and trust in God and his promises.
- Both were/are required to meet together as a congregation and give praise, glory, honor, and thanksgiving to God.

The difference in them is the sacrificial/ceremonial law service. The New Testament church does not have to offer up any burnt offerings and sacrifices for sins, as they did in the Old Testament. Christ has fulfilled this requirement for us; Praise and Glory to God! Hallelujah!

Let's look at another time when God told Abraham of the promised blessing in his life. **Ge 22:15-18;**  
**"15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."**

Did you notice; this time the promise is to Abraham not Abram? Abram's name has been changed to Abraham by God. This is a prophetic picture of the change that came in the establishment of the New Testament Church. So it is with every saved person; your name has been changed from dead and alienated sinner; to born again sinner, sons of God. It does not matter about your natural lineage for salvation by grace, which was wrought through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

This is right after Abraham has offered his only son Isaac, in faith and obedience to God, upon the altar as directed by God. We know that Isaac was rescued from death upon the altar at the very last moment, and a ram was substituted in his place. The ram is representative of three things: sacrifice of a sweet savour to God, sacrifice of consecration to God, and sacrifice for a sin offering to God. The ram is a picture of Jesus Christ; who took the place of every child of God. Christ's blood was shed for the remission of the sins of all of God's people. It doesn't matter to God if they are of the natural lineage of Abraham or not, as we see in: **Ro 2:29 "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."**

Looking at the promise to Abram, and to Abraham, first we see the number of the children included in the promises is: "**as the sand which is upon the sea shore;**" which includes both the Old Testament, and the New Testament churches, on earth in time. Secondly, we see the promise, "**I will multiply thy**

**seed as the stars of the heaven,"** which gives us the prophetic picture of the church in the eternal heaven.

Do you understand; by faith, Abraham believed God, and rested in the coming salvation, and the fulfillment of the promise of God? Abraham believed; God would resurrect his only son which he was commanded to offer as a sacrifice to God. Abraham believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead and through his procreation raise up a nation. We know this from the scripture in: **Ge 22:5 "And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you."** Abraham believed God would give to his seed the land of promise. We know that God did fulfill his promises to Abraham because we have the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

God has fulfilled the promises to Abraham in our own lives. How? He has given to us Jesus Christ, the promised seed, God's only begotten Son, and has offered him as a sacrifice on our behalf. God, through Christ, has provided to those who are the procreation of Christ, a land of promise, the church. Through the resurrected Jesus Christ; we have the birth of many children of God; who are identified as a nation, of people on earth, to bear God's name in faithfulness.

We, like Abraham, utilize the same gift of faith, in our own lives today, as born again sinners. How? When we are born again; we understand that we, just as Abraham did, have a promise from the Lord Jesus Christ, that we will be in the eternal kingdom of God, in the place he has gone to prepare for us. We should be as faithful as Abraham was; when he offered his son Isaac on the altar. We should have complete trust in the finished work, of eternal redemption by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who procured to himself all of God's people; by his own act of faith in offering himself as the sacrifice for sins. God expects of us, as he did Abraham, to give ourselves completely in devotion and obedience to God, as seen in:

- **1Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Did you notice that Paul said "**wholly**" and included all parts of the child of God; Spirit, soul and body?
- **1Ti 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.** Paul is instructing Timothy to give himself "**wholly**" to the promises and commandments of God.

We should be filled with rejoicing in the New Testament church. Consider these questions:

- Aren't you glad; that there was the promise to Abraham of a multitude of saved people; both on earth and in heaven?
- Aren't you glad; that Jesus Christ has eternally saved the chosen and promised children?
- Aren't you glad; that this promise included both Jew and Gentile?
- Aren't you glad; that we were included in God's plan of eternal redemption?
- Aren't you glad; that Jesus came, incarnate, and fulfilled the sacrificial law for the remission of sins; and established the church of Salvation by Grace?
- Aren't you glad; that the promise of God includes; both Jew and Gentile in the New Testament church?
- Aren't you glad; that as the promise God made to Abraham was eternal, we have the promise of eternal life, manifested on earth, and we are looking, by faith, for the fulfillment of the eternal promise, in the eternal heaven?

As we consider the eternal perspective; we see a picture forming that gives us a glimpse of the way that God works. How?

- Where did God create man? The answer is on earth.
- Where did God choose a people to save? The answer is on earth.
- Where did God create man and woman, the soul mate and help meet of man? The answer is on earth.
- Where did God put the created man and woman in the beginning? He placed them both in the Garden of Eden?
- Driven out of the Garden for disobedience to God, where did God provide to mankind a way of salvation? The answer is on earth.
- Why does the earth and time exist? To fulfill the purpose of God, to provide to himself a people to occupy eternity in communion with him.

Now think about this: God is creating, on earth, a bride for his Son; to be the wife of the Son in the place, the Garden, that the Son has gone to prepare for her. When the last child of grace has finally been saved on earth; God will have completed creating the bride of Christ. Then; Christ will come the second time to receive his ready bride. Christ will take his bride to the marriage supper of the Lamb, and carry her to her new and eternal home.

Praise God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, for salvation by grace! Shout aloud, and praise God for his true and faithful promises! Hallelujah! Amen! Shout aloud and Sing: "*We praise the O God! for the Son of thy love, For Jesus who died, and is now gone above! Hallelujah! Thine the glory; Hallelujah! Amen, Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again!*" #11 Old School Hymnal, hymn 20, "Revive Us Again"  
Elder Clarke Lee, 2021-05-17