

THE OLD TESTAMENT GOSPEL

Request: How were people (Jew and Gentile) in the OT saved? How was the gospel explained to them? We know that they had shadow Christology in their traditions and rituals but how did they view it?

Paul wrote to the Galatian believers whose gospel message of grace salvation was under attack by the apostate Judaizers. The Judaizers believed that the Gentiles needed to add circumcision to gospel in order to be saved (Acts 15:1; Gal.1:6-9).

“Nevertheless knowing that a man is **not justified by the works of the Law but through faith** in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified **by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law**; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.” (Gal.2:16; Rom.3:24)

“I do not nullify the grace of God; **for if (1cc / false assumption / debater technique)** righteousness comes through the Law, **then (ara / illative particle / false conclusion)** Christ died needlessly.” (Gal.2:21)

In our lesson text, Paul used Abraham as an example from the OT of grace salvation of a Gentile through faith in the prophetic gospel of Christ: “And the Scriptures foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles (ta ethnos) by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, all the nations (ta ethnos) (Matt.28:19-20) shall be blessed in you.” (Gal.3:8; Gen.12:3; Acts.3:25)

Gal. 3:6 – saved by God

Gal. 3:7 – sons of Abraham

Gal. 3:8 – Scriptural gospel (Gen.12:3) mention of second gospel

Gal. 3:9 – spiritually blessed in Christ (Gal.3:16)

[Because of Adam’s Original Sin (AOS), Abraham was a sinner and devoid of Righteousness (+R) (Rom.3:10-12, 20-24). Note that the word faith (pistis) or believe (pisteuo) is in every verse as the solution.]

This lesson will study FOUR points of the Old Testament Gospel

- 1. Paul is explaining to the Galatians and those who would be influenced to think like the Judaizers that what was required in order for Gentile Abraham to be saved is also required of them (Rom.4:9-10; Gal.3:17).**

Abraham was saved by the prophetic gospel of Christ as a Gentile. **The prophetic gospel declared that Christ would come into the world and die as a substitute for our sins, be buried, and raised from the dead to give us eternal life** (1 Cor.15:1-4; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 10:43; 26:22-23; Rom.1:1-3; 16:25-27) and (Heb.11:17-19; Ps.22).

Paul declared that the gospel message of grace salvation is what identifies believers of every dispensation (Gal.3:6-9, 26).

How were people saved in the OT? The same way Abraham was saved.

- 2. The first mention of the OT Gospel is Genesis 3:15 (protoevangelism: first gospel)**

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He (Christ) shall bruise you (Satan) on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.”

Gen.3:15 was an extension of divine judgment upon Satan because of his involvement in the garden revolt.

- The seed of Satan is mentioned in Matt.13:37-39; John 8:44; 1 John 3:12; and Eph.2:2-3.
- The seed of the woman (Christ) will become the suffering Victor over Satan (Isa.53; Rom.16:20; Col.2:14-15).
- The seed of Christ will become the target of Satan in the angelic conflict (Eph.1:1-14; 6:10-17).
- Perpetual enmity is placed between Satan's seed and seed of Christ (Col.1:20-22; Eph.2:11-12; Rom.5:10).

3. The OT prophetic gospel was taught through Levitical shadow Christology of OC until the historical coming of Christ and the historical gospel of the NC (Heb.8-10; John 1:29; 1 Cor.5:7; 1 Cor.15:20-23).

“Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without **blood**.” (Heb.9:18, 14)

“For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near.” (Heb.10:1)

“So much the more also **Jesus** has become the guarantee of a better covenant.” (Heb.7:22)

“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the **mediator** of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.” (Heb.8:6)

When he said, ‘A **new covenant**,’ He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.” (Heb.8:13)

“Then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Thy will.’ **He takes away the first in order to establish the second.**” (Heb.10:9)

4. OT prophetic gospel declared that the Christ would be a Suffering Servant who would bring the good news of equality to the entire world through grace salvation (Isa.53; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9) .

- Acts 2:22-36; 3:13-26; 4:8-12; 7:51-60; 8:29-35; 10:34-43; 11:7-18
- Rom.3:27-30; 4:16-17; 10:12; John 4:22; Eph.3:1-6

PEOPLE WERE SAVED IN THE OT BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN THE PROPHETIC GOSPEL OF CHRIST (John 8:56; Gal.3:6-9; Rom.4:9-13).

PEOPLE ARE SAVED IN THE NT BY GRACE SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN THE HISTORICAL GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST (Matt.1:21; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:1-4, 16-17; Eph.2:8-9).