

## **PROMISES OF THE ABRAHMAIC COVENANT**

Paul's teaching on **Justification by Faith** comes from the doctrine of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen.12-17).

Therefore, it important to study the doctrine of the Abrahamic covenant before we go any further in Romans chapters 4-5.

**This lesson will study four aspects of the Promises of the Abrahamic Covenant**

### **1. The Abrahamic Covenant was a grace covenant consisting of six promises given to Old Covenant believers (Heb.11:8-19; vs. 8, 11, and 17).**

They are recorded in Gen.12:1-3 - "Now the Lord said to Abraham, 'Go forth **from** your country, and **from** your relatives and **from** your father's house.'" (Gen.12:1a)

1<sup>st</sup> promise (Gen.12:1b)      "Go forth to **the land** which I will show you."

2<sup>nd</sup> promise (Gen.12:2a)      "I will make you a **great nation** (Ex.19:6)."

3<sup>rd</sup> promise (Gen.12:2b)      "I will **ble**ss you."

4<sup>th</sup> promise (Gen.12:2c)      "I will make your **name great** and so you shall be a **blessing** (Acts 4:12)"

5<sup>th</sup> promise (Gen.12:3a)      "I will **ble**ss those who bless you, and the one who cursed you **I will curse** (**anti-Semitism/ Num.24:9b/ Balaam**)."

6<sup>th</sup> promise (Gen.12:3b)      "and in you **all the families** of the earth will be blessed." (Gen.22:17-18; Gal.3:6-9, 16; Acts 3:24-26). Twelve Tribes but only one would be **the seed of Christ**

The tribe of Judah and house of David (Matt.1:1-17) Jesus's parents were Mary and Joseph (Luke 1:26-38).

### **2. In Rom.4:13, Paul introduced an interesting messianic title based on the Abrahamic Covenant - "Heir of the world."**

(Rom.4:13) "For the promise (te epaggelia) to Abraham or to his descendants that he would **be heir of the world** (to klernomos kosmos) was not through the Mosaic Law, but (alla) through the righteousness of faith."

Since no specific mention is given of spiritual heirs, it must be connected with the Abrahamic Seed of Christ. Abraham gave up his heirship of earthly family for a spiritual family (leave your country, relatives, father's house) (Josh.24:2).

3. **All Old Covenant Believers (Heb.11) were saved by the prophetic grace gospel of Christ and became heirs of the world by the Church Age Believer's position in Christ.**

(Heb.11:39-40) “**And all these** (old covenant believers), having gained approval through faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.”

(Gal.3:8-9) “The Scriptures, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations will be blessed by you.’ **So then those** who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer”. (Gen.12:3)

(Gal.3:14) “In order that in Christ Jesus **the blessing of Abraham** might come to the Gentiles, **so that** we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Acts 2:33-36; Eph.1:11-14; Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16-21)

(Rom.8:16-17) “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God (Rom.8:15) [Abba! Father!], and **if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”

4. **The Abrahamic Covenant was an unconditional grace covenant between God and Old Covenant Believers until the First Advent of Jesus Christ. (Ex.19:6) [The Priest-Nation was the Divine Agency] (1 Pet.2:5, 9); Rev.1:5-6; 5:9-10).**

The Abrahamic Covenant being unconditional, and a Grace Covenant, means that the fulfillment of the terms is dependent upon God and not Abraham or his descendants. It functions by grace through faith and not through Law and works. (Eph.2:8-9).

Therefore, the Abrahamic Covenant is **superior** to the Mosaic Law. This is Paul's doctrinal point in the Books of Romans and Galatians (Rom.4:13-17; Gal.3:15-18).

Even Moses acknowledged the superiority of Abrahamic Covenant (Ex.6:1-9). **Moses understood it was the Patriarchic Covenant.**

(Ex.6:3-4) “**I** appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, **but by My name, Lord, I did not make Myself know to them.** I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they sojourned.”