

Message Eight

Abraham (2) – Abraham’s Seed and the Good Land

Scripture reading: Gen. 12:7; 13:15-16; 15:2-27; 16:15-16; 17:1, 15-27; 18:9-15; 22:15-18.

- I. For the fulfillment of God’s purpose two things are required—the seed and the land; both the seed and the land typify Christ, who is the centrality and universality of God’s economy—Gen. 12:7; Col. 1:18; 3:10-11.**
- II. Abraham’s seed—Gen. 12:7; 13:15-16; 15:2-6.**
- A. God promised Abraham that the seed will ‘come out of his own body’ and will be like stars in the heaven; the aspect of ‘faith’—Gen. 15:4-5.
1. The seed needed for the fulfillment of God’s purpose could not be anything that Abraham could bring forth from Abraham already possessed (Eliezer—v.2) or could produce out of himself (Ishmael—16:15).
 2. Only that which God works into Abraham could bring forth from Abraham the required seed.
- B. God further promised that the seed will be brought forth through Sarah and she will be the mother of the nations; the aspect of ‘grace’—17:15-16; 18:9-15.
- C. For the fulfillment of His purpose God must have the seed.
1. The seed is first the individual Christ and then the corporate Christ, composed of Christ as the Head and all the believers as the Body—Gal. 3:16, 29; 1 Cor. 12:12.
 2. As the seed of Abraham, Christ became the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit so that the believers in Christ, who are Abraham’s seed, may inherit the consummated Spirit, the consummation of the processed Triune God, as their divine inheritance—their divine blessing for eternity—15:45b; 2Cor. 3:17; Gal. 3:14, 29; Acts 26:18; Eph. 1:14a.
 3. Through faith in Christ Jesus, the unique seed, we are all sons of God and sons of Abraham—Gal. 3:7, 26, 29.
- D. Abraham “believed Jehovah, and He accounted it to him as righteousness”; when Abraham was eighty-five years old—Gen. 15:6; cf. Gal. 3:6; Rom. 4:2-3.
1. Believing God was Abraham’s spontaneous reaction to God’s repeated appearing to him; his believing was the springing up within him of the element that God had transfused into him—Acts 7:2; Gen. 12:1-3; 13:14-17.
 2. In Genesis 15:16 Abraham did not believe God to obtain outward blessings for his own existence; he believed that God was able to work something into

him to bring forth a seed out of his own being for the fulfillment of God's purpose—Rom. 4:3.

3. Although Abraham believed, his faith was not perfect, and later he begot Ishmael by his own flesh and God was silent to him for thirteen years—Gen. 16:16-17:1.
 4. After thirteen years, God appeared to Abraham as “the All-sufficient God” and covenanted with him; circumcision became the mark of God's people—17:1-14; Col. 2:11; Phil. 3:3; cf. Rom. 8:8.
- E. Abraham was justified once again when he was ninety-nine years old; he was not weakened in his faith and considered his own body as already dead and Sarah's womb deadened, yet with regard to the promise of God, he did not doubt in unbelief but was empowered by faith—Gen. 17:15-27; Rom. 4:19-22.
- F. After the test of offering Isaac, God promised Abraham that He would bless him and multiply his seeds like the stars of the heavens and like the sands upon the seashore that in his seed (Christ) all the nations of the earth be blessed; God justified Abraham once more by this act of faith—Gen. 22:15-18; Heb. 11:17-19; James 2:21-23.

III. The Lord spoke to Abraham repeatedly concerning the land that He will give it to Abraham and his seed forever—Gen. 13:14-15, 17; cf. 12:7; 15:7.

- A. As typified by the good land, the land of Canaan, Christ is “the allotted portion of the saints”—Col. 1:12.
- B. The physical aspect of the blessing that God promised to Abraham was the good land, which is a type of the all-inclusive Christ—Gen. 12:7; 13:15; 17:8; 26:3-4.
- C. The land is Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit, and it is also the church, the Body of Christ, as the enlargement, the expansion, of Christ—1Cor. 12:12-13.
- D. In Genesis 15:7-21 God made a covenant with Abraham concerning the land.
1. Because Abraham lacked faith to believe God for the promise concerning the land, God confirmed His promise to him by making a covenant with him—vv. 8-21.
 2. In His covenant with Abraham God set the boundaries of the good land, the land of Immanuel, the territory of Israel, from the Nile to the Euphrates; this is the land that Christ, the unique seed of Abraham, will inherit for the establishing of His millennial kingdom—Gen. 15:18; 12:7; Isa. 8:8; Gal. 3:16.
- E. When there is a man standing on the earth for God, our God is called as “the Possessor of heaven and earth”—Gen. 14:22-23; cf. vv.19-20; Matt.11:25; Acts. 17:24; Dan.2:19.

Message Eight

Scripture Reading:

Reference Scripture Verses:

Gen 12:7 And Jehovah appeared to Abram and said, To your seed I will give this land. And there he built an altar to Jehovah who had appeared to him.

Gen 13:15-16. 15 For all the land that you see I will give to you and to your seed forever 16 And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth, so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then your seed can also be numbered.

Gen. 15:2-27. 2 And Abram said, O Lord Jehovah, what will You give me, for I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus? **3** And Abram said, Since You have given me no seed, therefore, a servant in my house is my heir. **4** But then the word of Jehovah came to him, saying, This man shall not be your heir, but he who will come out from your own body shall be your heir. **5** And He brought him outside and said, Look now toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them. And He said to him, So shall your seed be. **6** And he believed Jehovah, and He accounted it to him as righteousness. **7** Then He said to him, I am Jehovah who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to inherit it. **8** And he said, O Lord Jehovah, how will I know that I will inherit it? **9** And He said to him, Bring Me a three-year-old heifer and a three-year-old female goat and a three-year-old ram and a turtledove and a young pigeon. **10** And he brought Him all these and cut them in two in the middle and laid the half of each opposite the other, but the birds he did not cut in two. **11** And the birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. **12** And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, behold, a terror and great darkness fell upon him. **13** And He said to Abram, Know assuredly that your seed will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs, and they will serve them; and they will afflict them four hundred years. **14** But I will also judge that nation, whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. **15** But as for you, you will go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried in a good old age. **16** And in the fourth generation they will come here again, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete. **17** And when the sun went down and it was dark, there came a smoking furnace and a torch of fire which passed between these pieces. **18** On that day Jehovah made a covenant with Abram, saying, To your seed do I give this land, From the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates: **19** The land of the Kenites and the Kenizzites and the Kadmonites **20** And the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Rephaim **21** And the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Girgashites and the Jebusites.

Gen. 16:15-16. 15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. **16** And Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Gen. 17:1 And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, Jehovah appeared to Abram and said to him, I am the All-sufficient God; Walk before Me, and be perfect.

Gen. 17:15-27. 15 And God said to Abraham, As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but her name shall be Sarah. **16** And I will bless her, and I will also give you a son by her. Indeed, I will bless her, and

she will be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come forth from her. **17** Then Abraham fell upon his face and laughed and said in his heart, Will a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child? **18** And Abraham said to God, Oh that Ishmael might live before You! **19** But God said, No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his seed after him. **20** And as for Ishmael, I have heard you; indeed, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly: twelve princes will he beget, and I will make him a great nation. **21** But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this appointed time next year. **22** And when He finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. **23** And Abraham took Ishmael his son and all who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin on the very same day, as God had said to him. **24** And Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. **25** And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. **26** On the very same day Abraham was circumcised as well as Ishmael his son. **27** And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Gen. 18:9-15. 9 And they said to him, Where is Sarah your wife? And he said, There, in the tent. **10** And He said, I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and then Sarah your wife shall have a son. And Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, which was behind Him. **11** Now Abraham and Sarah were old and advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah according to the manner of women. **12** And Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? **13** And Jehovah said to Abraham, Why did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am old? **14** Is anything too marvelous for Jehovah? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. **15** Then Sarah denied it, saying, I did not laugh; for she was afraid. And He said, No, but you did laugh.

Gen. 22:15-18. 15 And the Angel of Jehovah called to Abraham a second time from the heavens **16** And said, By Myself I have sworn, declares Jehovah: Because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** I will surely bless you and will greatly multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens and like the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. **18** And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

I.

Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

Col. 3:10-11. 10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

II.

Gal. 3:7 Know then that they who are of faith, these are sons of Abraham.

Gal. 3:14 In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal. 3:16-17. 16 But to Abraham were the promises spoken and to his seed. He does not say, "And to the seeds," as concerning many, but as concerning one: "And to your seed," who is Christ. **17** And I say this: A covenant previously ratified by God, the law, having come four hundred and thirty years after, does not annul so as to make the promise of none effect.

Gal. 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal. 3:29 And if you are of Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to promise.

1Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1Cor. 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam *became* a life-giving Spirit.

2Cor. 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn *them* from darkness to light and *from* the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

Eph. 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.

Rom. 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Rom. 4:2-5. 2 For if Abraham was justified out of works, he has something to boast in, but not before God. **3** For what does the Scripture say? "And Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness."

4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not accounted according to grace, but according to what is due.

5 But to the one who does not work, but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted as righteousness.

Rom. 4:19-23. 19 And not weakening in his faith, he considered his own body as already dead, being about a hundred years old, as well as the deadening of Sarah's womb; **20** But with regard to the promise of God, he did not doubt in unbelief, but was empowered by faith, giving glory to God **21** And being fully persuaded that what He had promised He was able also to do. **22** Therefore also it was accounted to him as righteousness.

Acts 7:2 And he said, Men, brothers and fathers, listen. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

Col. 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

Col. 2:6 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,

Col. 2:11 In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ,

Phil. 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,

Rom. 8:8 And those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Heb. 11:17-19. 17 By faith Abraham, being tested, offered up Isaac; indeed he who gladly received the promises was offering up his only begotten, **18** Of whom it was said, "In Isaac shall your seed be called"; **19** Counting that God was able to raise *men* even from the dead, from which he also received him back in figure.

James 2:21-23. 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works in that he offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? **22** You see that faith worked together with his works, and by these works faith was perfected. **23** And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness"; and he was called the friend of God.

III.

1Cor. 12:12-13. 12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ. **13** For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

Isa. 8:8 It will sweep through Judah; it will overflow and rise Until it reaches the neck; And the spreading out of its wings Will fill the breadth of Your land, O Immanuel.

Gen. 14:18-19. 18 And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine. Now he was priest of God the Most High. **19** And he blessed him and said, Blessed be Abram of God the Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

Gen. 14:22-23. 22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lifted up my hand to Jehovah, God the Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, **23** That I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, lest you say, I have made Abram rich;

Matt.11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I extol You, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.

Acts 17:24 The God who made the world and all things in it, this One, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

Dan. 2:19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of the heavens.