

HOME BIBLE STUDY

LESSON THREE

ABRAHAM TO CHRIST

(VIA THE LAW OF MOSES)

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "and to your Seed," who is Christ. And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.

-- GALATIANS 3:16-17

GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN'S SALVATION

God's plan actually started even before Adam. In Acts 2:23, Peter, speaking to Israelites who had been present at the crucifixion, says of Jesus:

Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.

Paul speaks of the son of God as creator.

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Colossians 1:16

In the past two lessons we looked at the arrangement of the Bible and considered translations. We also noted different periods of Bible history. In this lesson, we want to learn more about Abraham, develop our understanding of the law, and consider the unfolding of God's plan, especially from Abraham to Christ.

ABRAHAM -- A MAN OF FAITH

*For what does the Scripture say?
"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."*

Romans 4:3

This passage, originally written by Moses in Genesis 15:6, was quoted by Paul the Apostle about 2000 years after Abraham died. Paul refers to this man of faith in Romans 4:11 as the "*father of all those who believe.*"

Abraham's faith is indicated a number of times. In Genesis chapter 12 he is told to go and he goes. In Genesis chapter 15 Abraham is around 80 years old and has no heir born in his house. Abraham believes God, as indicated in the above quote, when God says that his descendants will be as the stars of the heavens.

In Genesis 22 Abraham finally has an heir from Sarah his wife. God tells Abraham to offer up his only son, Isaac, and he takes Isaac up to the land of Moriah to offer him up. Isaac's life is spared at the last instant, and God provides Abraham a replacement, a ram caught in the bushes. Abraham, however, is considered to have offered up Isaac in obedience to God. The writer of Hebrews, illustrating faith, reports the account as follows:

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," ¹⁹concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

Hebrews 11:17-19

In Genesis 15, God tells Abraham about the Egyptian captivity which would not begin until some time after the death of his great-great-grandson, Joseph. (Review lesson one if necessary.) In verses 13-14, God tells him,

"Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ "And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

You may recall Moses led the Israelites out of this bondage. They came out of Egypt rich because the Egyptians gave them what ever they ask. At Mount Sinai, Moses received the law from God and gave it to Israel.

THE LAW OF MOSES

In this section we will be looking at the *Old Law* or simply *the Law* as it is often called and it's role in the scheme of redemption. We want to consider how it was given, and show that it was a temporary step in the overall plan.

Deuteronomy contains Moses' final instructions and warnings to the people. They have wandered for forty years, and Moses, at the age of 120, is about to be taken from them. In Deuteronomy chapter 5, Moses retells how God gave the Law to the Israelites (see Exodus 20). God came down to Mount Sinai to give the law to the people, but the Israelites could not bear the splendor and glory of God, fearing greatly as he spoke the law directly to them. Moses then, at the people's request, went up to God to receive the commandments which were written on *tablets of stone* (Exodus 24:12). You may recall the story, Exodus 32, of Moses breaking the tablets. Moses again went before God and received a second set of tablets with God's commandments on them. When Moses

BIBLE STUDY

Read Genesis 12:1-5 and consider the following:

- { What or whom did Abram (Abraham) leave behind?
- { Did Abram know where he was going?
- { Why did he go?
- { What promise is made in Genesis 12:3?

Read Genesis 17:1-10 and consider the following:

- { How old was Abram at this time?
- { Which promise was restated at this time?
- { What land was to be given to him?
- { What was Abram's new name? Why?
- { What did God require of Abraham and his descendants?

came down from being with God, his face shone and he had to wear a veil to speak to the children of Israel (Exodus 34:29-35).

You may recall from *Lesson Two* that Israel did not keep the covenant (*law*) which Moses delivered to them, and that God promised, through the prophet Jeremiah, to make a new covenant with the house of Israel. This promised new covenant would also include teaching the Lord's ways to many people in all nations. Isaiah 2:2-3 says:

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of theLORD from Jerusalem.

BIBLE STUDY

Read Deuteronomy 5:1-3 and 5:23-33 and consider the following:

{To whom was the law of Moses given and to whom was it not given.?

{What did Moses need to do so that Israel would have the law? Why was this procedure needed?

{Were the responsibilities of Israel decreased because Moses gave them the law instead of God giving it to them directly?

{How closely was Israel to follow the Law?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and consider the following:

{What would be the difference between the Old Covenant and new Covenant.

{What would not need to be taught to God's people?

{What promise would the new covenant include?


Read Hebrews 12:20-24 and consider the following:

{Where are the people of the new covenant registered?

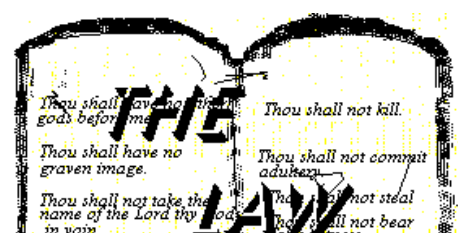
{What terms refer to the group of people that are of the new covenant?

{Are those that are of the new covenant citizens of the city of the living God?

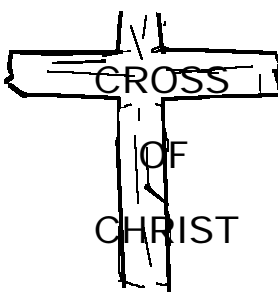
GALATIANS 3:17




ABRAHAM
ALL FAMILIES TO BE
BLESSED -- GENESIS 12:3



MOSES' LAW
NEW COVENANT PROMISED
JEREMIAH 31:31-34



DEATH OF JESUS
OLD LAW NAILED TO
CROSS -- COLOSSIANS 2:14



PROMISE TO ALL NATIONS

"And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect." Galatians 3:17

THE OLD LAW NAILED TO THE CROSS

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. -- Colossians 2:13-14

The writer of Hebrews shows that the new covenant is a better covenant, built on better promises. In reference to Jeremiah's prophecy, the writer of Hebrews, in chapter 8, says that the prophecy of a new covenant means that the old covenant is becoming obsolete.

Hebrews 8:13 says:

"In that He says, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away"

According to Galatians 5:4 one who seeks to justify himself by the law falls from grace. Paul, in Galatians 2:21, says:

"I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

BIBLE STUDY

Read Galatians 3:8-29 and consider the following:

{ What does justify mean?

{ Could one be justified by the law?

{ Did the law nullify the promise?

{ What purpose did the law serve?

(See Romans 7:7)

{ What did Paul consider the law to be in verse 24?

{ What 2 things, according to verses 25-29 make us heirs according to promise?

Summary

In this lesson we have learned about a promise to Abraham, a man noted for his faith. That promise, that all nations would be blessed, was fulfilled by Christ. The heirs of this promise are those who likewise live by faith. The law, which came about 400 years after Abraham, identified sin so that all might realize their sinful state and come to Christ for salvation.

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3: 19-24

QUESTIONS

LESSON THREE

NAME _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE (mark the correct answer)

1. Jesus:

- a) was delivered to be killed according to God's plan.
- b) was delivered by Israelites to be killed .
- c) created all things.
- d) all of the above.

2. Abraham:

- a) believed that his descendants would be many like the stars of the heavens when he was over 80 years old and childless.
- b) had many children by Sarah, but only accepted one of them as his heir.
- c) was told that because of his faith all his descendants would be abundantly blessed.
- d) all of the above.

3. Abram:

- a) left Haran all alone just as God told him to do.
- b) traveled from Canaan to Haran to visit his father.
- c) had his name changed to Abraham.
- d) was the father of Lot.

4. Abraham:

- a) was named Abraham by his mother
- b) is regarded as the father of all believers.
- c) died when he was ninety-nine years old.
- d) none of the above.

5. The *Ten Commandments*:

- a) were a part of the *Law of Moses*.
- b) are the complete *Law of Moses*.
- c) are God's universal moral laws for all time and for everybody.
- d) were guidelines for Israel to follow and were never meant to be rigidly kept.

6. Moses had to wear a veil on his face:

- a) to show his piety
- b) as a symbol of the law being covered over.
- c) because his face shone.
- d) all of the above.

7. In Moses retelling about receiving the Law in Deuteronomy chapter 5:

- a) he reminds Israel that God spoke the entire law to them.
- b) he warns Israel not to turn aside to the right or left.
- c) he told how the whole world heard the voice of God.
- d) all of the above.

8. Three understandings that a Christian should have about the law of Moses are that the law:

- a) is a continuing guideline, the fundamental law of Christ, and will not pass away.
- b) cannot justify, was nailed to the cross, and existed only until the promise came.
- c) works in the heart, is God's everlasting rule for his followers and must be obeyed by all.
- d) is good, holy and should be obeyed.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Paul said, "the law, which was _____ and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ." -- Gal. 3:17
2. Peter, speaking about Christ, says, "Him, being delivered by the _____ and _____ of God...." -- Acts 2:23
3. Paul, speaking of the son of God, says, "All things were _____ through Him and for Him. -- Col. 1:16
4. Paul calls Abraham the "_____ of all those who believe." -- Rom. 4:11
5. The writer of Hebrews says, "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, _____ up Isaac..." -- Heb. 11:17
6. Abraham was told, "In you all the _____ of the earth shall be blessed." -- Gen. 12:3
7. For out of _____ shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from _____. -- Isa. 2:3
8. "Oh, that they had such a _____ in them that they would _____ Me and always keep _____ My commandments..." -- Deut. 5:29
9. For they all shall _____ Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will _____ their iniquity, and their sin I will _____ no more." -- Jer. 31:34
10. In reference to the Old Law, Paul said, "He has taken it out of the way, having _____ it to the cross." -- Gal. 2:14
11. But you have come to _____ and to the city of the living God, the _____, to an innumerable company of angels. -- Heb. 12:22
12. For you are all sons of God through _____ in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into _____ have put on Christ. -- Gal. 3:26-27
13. If you are _____, then you are _____ seed, and heirs according to the promise. -- Gal. 3:29
14. Paul speaking as a Jew said, "Therefore the law was our _____ to bring us to Christ, that we might be _____ by faith." -- Gal. 3:24

MATCHING (Match the event, statement or person on the left with the correct answer on the right.)

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. That which was 430 years after the promise | _____A. Zion |
| 2. Offered his only begotten son | _____B. Christ |
| 3. Moses final instructions to Israel | _____C. Moses' law |
| 4. Prophesied of God's forgiving sins | _____D. Heart |
| 5. Location of heavenly Jerusalem | _____E. Jeremiah |
| 6. Abraham's seed | _____F. Abraham |
| 7. Where the new covenant is to be written | _____G. Deuteronomy |

ANSWER IN A FEW WORDS

1. What promise was made to Abraham? _____

2. What purpose did the Law serve? _____

3. How does one *put on Christ*? _____

4. How closely was Israel to follow the law? _____

5. Why was Abraham's belief that he would have vast numbers of descendants so phenomenal? _____

6. Why was Abraham willing to offer Isaac? _____

7. Why did Moses need to put a veil on his face? _____

8. Why does everyone need the redemption that is in Christ? _____
