

# ABRAHAM'S SEED

## WHY THE NATION ISRAEL HAD THREE FATHERS

*"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed,  
and heirs according to the promise."*

~ Galatians 3:29

### 1. Galatians

- a. Is Abraham our father? How? Why? What do we inherit? What is the promise?
- b. Don't miss the forest for the trees - Galatians is about how we are justified.
- c. Paul rebukes Peter on this point - Gal 2:14-16
- d. The conclusion: it is **NOT** by circumcision (flesh), law (works), or Israel (covenanted)
  - i. Gal 3:6-14 = how are we justified? → promise, Spirit, faith, Christ.

### 2. The Promises

- a. A promise received is what someone else does - not all promises are the same.
- b. The lessons we learn from covenants are different from their details:
  - i. Abraham, faith - Sarah, grace - Isaac, promise - Jacob, election.
- c. The promises given to the fathers - land, seed, blessing, world Gen 12:1-3, Rom 4:13
- d. The promise in Galatians 3 is defined in Gal 3:2-6 = righteousness by faith.

### 3. 3 Fathers of Israel

- a. There were three fathers for good reasons: singular seed, many nations, bless world.
- b. Sarah had one child: Abraham had more. From this we learn - Rom 4:1, Gen 25:5
- c. 0 = Number of fathers under the law of Moses
- d. 1 = Number of fathers that could be called Israel
- e. 2 = Number of fathers that were circumcised when they received the promise.
- f. Abraham had a unique blessing w/o circumcision, law, or Israel.
  - i. If Abraham were called Israel then no "many nations"
  - ii. If Isaac were called Israel then Israel would be the only recipient of promise.
  - iii. Jacob did not have a promise of many nations - Gen 35:10-12
- g. All three fathers were needed so as to teach the lessons to Israel and to us.

### 4. The Seed of Abraham

- a. Multiplied seed was promised to all - Gen 17:2, 22:17, 26:4, 28:13-14, 35:11
- b. Galatians 3:15-20 → The promised singular seed was fulfilled in Christ (not us)
- c. Galatians 3:16 - "and to one" - one father/son which excluded circumcision, law, Israel
- d. Galatians 3:21-26 → Made children of God by faith in Christ.
- e. Galatians 3:27-29 → How we are Abraham's seed and heirs (because of Christ)
- f. Galatians 3:28 - We are in Christ according to a mystery
- g. We are Abraham's seed, because Christ fulfills that promise and we are in him.
- h. We inherit the things of Christ not Abraham, according to promise (grace) not law, works, or covenants given to Israel. Romans 4:10-25