



The Messiah came to do more than make us free; He came to make us family. Today we discover how the long awaited Messiah fulfilled the prophecies to bless all nations.

## 2000 Years Before Jesus

**Genesis 22:17-18** (NIV) <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and **through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed**, because you have obeyed me."

God made the same promise to Abraham's son, *Isaac* (Gen. 26:4) and *Jacob* (Gen. 28:10) - that through their family line, all nations of the earth would be blessed. From *Jacob* (aka Israel), 12 sons were born, known as the *12 tribes of Israel*.

## Judah's Scepter

**Genesis 49:10** (NIV) **The scepter will not depart from Judah**, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, **until he to whom it belongs shall come** and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

The greatest King of Israel would come from Judah. God promised David that his throne would be established forever throughout all generations (Ps. 89:3-4).

## 700 Years Before Jesus

**Isaiah 9:6-7** (NIV) <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. **He will reign on David's throne** and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness **from that time on and forever**. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

See we see **ONE was coming to sit on the throne of David forever**, from the **tribe of Judah**, who fulfills the **promise to Abraham to bless all nations**.

## John's Revelation Vision (before A.D. 100)

**Revelation 5:5** (NIV) Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of **Judah**, the Root of **David**, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

That Lion, also called a Lamb (next verse) is imagery of Jesus.

## Jesus Fulfills the Promise to Abraham

**Galatians 3:8** (ESV) And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham**, saying, "**In you shall all the nations be blessed.**"

## Birth of Jesus

**Galatians 4:4-7** (ESV) <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth **his Son, born of woman**, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "**Abba! Father!**" <sup>7</sup> So you are **no longer a slave, but a son**, and if a son, then **an heir** through God.

Paul mentions that Jesus was **born of a woman** (cradle), but focuses on his journey to the CROSS. Because Jesus perfectly obeyed **the law**, He could **redeem those** who haven't - US.

**Redeem** is a term meaning buying back or free from slavery.

We are **no longer slaves**, but adopted **sons** and daughters, receiving the full rights to be God's **heirs** with an eternal inheritance! You who once had no authority (slaves), have now been made sons & daughters - **heirs** to the King of the Universe!

The greatest proof of being adopted into God's family is when the **Spirit** of Jesus comes **into our hearts**. When a person turns from his sin and trusts Jesus, He comes in by the power of the Holy **Spirit**. Do you remember that? - when He filled you with His Presence...when you KNEW you were forgiven?

**The Spirit of his Son** now LIVING IN US (only those who have turned from sin & turned to Him) allows us to call our Creator **Abba, Father**.

- The Galatian church included both Jews and Greeks, so Paul uses 2 terms for **Father**, the Aramaic term **Abba** (spoken by Jews) and the Greek term **Pater** - translated "Father" (used by non-Jews).
- The term **Abba** is especially affectionate. Mark's Gospel uses the same two terms together when Jesus prays in Gethsemane (Mark 14:36). In other words, Paul says that the **Spirit** of Jesus lives in us and so too **calls out "Abba, Father."** It is this kind of intimate relationship that God gives to those who trust Jesus.
- God is described as **Father** over 70 times in the New Testament (no other major world religion describes the relationship between the Creator and creation in this affectionate way).<sup>1</sup>

**BIG TRUTH: Jesus makes us FREE from Sin & FAMILY in Him**

## We...Are...Family!

**Galatians 3:26-29** (ESV) <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus**. <sup>29</sup> And **if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring**, heirs according to promise.

**Baptism** is a clear New Testament expectation of those who follow Jesus, yet Paul is not pointing people to *BE baptized*. He is reminding them that *they already HAVE BEEN baptized*...and not just physically. Paul stated that he had been 'crucified with Christ' in Gal. 2:20, yet Paul had not been physically crucified next to Jesus. *The physical imagery is pointing to a spiritual reality* - that those who have put faith in Jesus have been taken off the old and put on the new, died to their sin and now have been *clothed with Christ*. When the Father sees you, He sees the righteousness of Jesus!

<sup>1</sup> Hindson & Caner. The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics, 254.

**You are all one in Christ Jesus** The Galatian church once eaten together and cared for one another regardless of racial differences - Jews and Greeks - brothers and sisters. False teachers interrupted that sweet fellowship for a time, but Paul challenges these believers to see each other the way God sees them, **as part of the same FAITH FAMILY!**

**Paul is not discounting different roles.** (He recognized differences between men and women, Jew & Gentile, free-man and slave in his writings and is NOT saying these roles don't matter, but he points to our relationship in Christ that impacts our relationship with one another - equally valuable.)

Jesus has torn down the ethnic, social, and sexual barriers. Men and women, slave or free, **Jew** and **Greek**, were recognized as equally valued as they **belong to Christ** and are part of the promise God made to Abraham, to bless all nations through him.

☀️ **Timothy George:** *"No longer is your relationship to God determined by your race, rank, or role."*<sup>2</sup>

Instead, we are **one in Christ Jesus**.

**BIG TRUTH: Jesus makes us FREE from Sin & FAMILY in Him**

- 1) **Can you honestly say you are FREE?** You have bowed your knee and will to Jesus? Is He KING over your life? Are you a FOLLOWER of Jesus?
- 2) **Do you have a closeness with your FAITH FAMILY?** Are relationships with followers of Jesus a priority in your life? \* If not, ask a same-sex believer to make some time for you. Grab dinner together. Walk around the lake or on the trail....OR....you could come CAROLING with US TONIGHT @ 6pm!

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<sup>2</sup> George, 309.