

The Gospel

The
Promise



Galatians 3:15-18

The Promise

Book of Galatians

- Setting
- Audience
- So Far

Today - The Promise 3:15-18



The Promise

“Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. ¹⁶ The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. ¹⁷ What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.”



The Promise

1. Nature of the Promise – Irrevocable

- something that cannot be altered
- covenant promise

a) Promise to Abraham

- Gen 12:1-3 ***“The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”***



The Promise

- Gen 22:17-18 *“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,¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”*

b) Confirmation of the Promise

- Gen 15 – covenant with Abraham



The Promise

- - Gen 15:8-17 “⁸ But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”
- ⁹ So the LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”
- ¹⁰ Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. ¹¹ Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.
- ¹² As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. ¹³ Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.



The Promise

- ***¹⁵ You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”***
- ***¹⁷ When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰ Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹ Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”***



The Promise

2. The Point of the Promise vs.16

a) Perception of the Jews

- chosen, recipients of this blessing
- ethnicity qualified them “children of..”

b) God’s Perspective

- fulfillment of covenant went beyond:
 - land, possessions, etc
- blessing all peoples of the earth
- plan that pointed to Christ



The Promise

3. Priority of the Promise vs. 17

- argument of the law superseding
- argument of the law adding to
- a) not in contradiction to one another
 - promise and law both have purpose
 - next week – purpose of the law
 - promise – given by God, kept by God



The Promise

4. Extended by Grace vs.18

a) inheritance you have

- eternal life
- indwelling Holy Spirit
- personal relationship with God

b) granted by grace

- undeserved favor
- given to Abraham, to us



The Promise

So What

1. God extends a covenant relationship
 - able to keep it
 - we are unworthy of it
 - extended by his grace
2. It is through Christ
 - death on a cross in my place
 - resurrection from the grave



The Promise

3. There is nothing I need to add
 - accept the gift extended to me
 - cannot qualify, earn, deserve, pay back
 - no new set of obligations or chains
4. I am free to respond to this grace
 - inheritance is mine because of who I am not what I do
 - live faithfully in response to the truth

