

The Epistle to the Galatians
Lesson #10 • Galatians 3:15-18
“The Seed of Abraham”

• H A N D O U T •

[No. 2 of 5 Statements on Justification by Faith Alone.]

► This lesson picks up the discussion from the preceding section where Paul introduced the significance of God's promise to Abraham and its affect on the NT church. This study passage will continue to develop the significance of the Abrahamic Covenant, looking at it from the perspective of how it relates and compares to the giving of the Law.

Paul accomplishes this by returning to the original question he asked in Galatians 3:2, “*Did you receive the Spirit by observing the Law, or by believing what you heard?*” But, this time, Paul will look at it from the view point of everyday life, with the goal of proving that nothing which happens – good or bad – could ever change the promises made to Abraham. *Not even the giving of the Law could change the Covenant God made with Abraham.*

Point No. 2 - The Seed of Abraham

Galatians 3:15 • Brothers, 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.

Q: Why is it significant that Paul opens this portion of his letter with “Brothers?”

Q: What is the point that Paul is making when he refers to “a human covenant?”

Galatians 3:16 • The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.

Q: What is significant about Paul's teaching that the Abrahamic Covenant referred to the single seed, which is a reference to Christ Jesus, and not to plural seeds, which would refer to the great numbers of people that would come from Abraham's line?

Q: Paul's letter was written to many who did not want to embrace the Gentile believers unless they became Jewish proselytes. How would Paul's statement here be received by them?

Q: The word “nations” especially in the OT, was a reference to the Gentile world – those who were not part of the Covenant. What is the far-reaching conclusion regarding these Gentile believers and the Abrahamic Covenant?

Q: How does Paul connect the principles of Justification by Grace Thru Faith, and not by the Law, with the Abrahamic Covenant?

Paul continues to reason with the Judaizers regarding the **Covenant vs the Law**

Galatians 3:17 • 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.

Q: What is significant about Paul's statement concerning the giving of the Covenant followed later by the giving of Law?

Q: What does the comment about the “430 years” refer to?

Q: What does the event of the “430 years” have to do with God's Covenant with Abraham?

Q: Do we know the actual number of Israelites who were led out of Egypt by Moses?

Q: Why is it important that we know how many Israelites were led out of Egypt by Moses?

Q: The question of how many Israelites actually left Egypt under Moses' leadership is obviously a problem and may even contain a scriptural error. So how do we solve this variant?

“ Elef ” translated as the word:	Scriptural References:
	Exodus 12:37;18:21; Numbers 10:36, 31:4-5; Joshua 7:3, 1 Samuel 23:23.
	Deuteronomy 7:13, 28:4, 18, 51
	Joshua 22:14; Judges 6:15, 1 Samuel 10:19, Isaiah 60:22; Mich 5:2.
	Numbers 1:16
	Joshua 22:21, 30
	Isaiah 30:24, Psalm 8:7
	Numbers 10:4.

Q: What conclusion can we reach from the above information?

Paul restates his argument ...

Galatians 3:18 [NLT] • For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise.
But God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise.

- Q: Paul now adds the concept that the Covenant Promised is an inheritance. What is the significance of that?
- Q: When Paul says God “gave” it to Abraham, he used the Greek word *kecharista* which means “grace” and he wrote the word in the perfect tense. What is the significance of that?
- Q: What is the summary or “bottom-line” of “The Seed of Abraham,” which is Point #2 of 5 on Paul's discourse on Justification by Faith?



Next Time • Lesson #11

~~ The Law vs The Covenant ~~

[No. 3 of 5 Statements on Justification by Faith Alone.]

Galatians 3:19-22

