

NOVEMBER 2004

THE SEED

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ”. Galatians 3:16

1. *“The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed”*- τω δε αβρααμ εροθησαν αι επαγγελιαι και τω σπερματι αυτου

Paul begins chapter three with the statement, *“You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you...”* using the word *baskaino*. *Baskaino* goes back to the world of magic, of sorcerers, charmers, to mixers of potions that change one's perceptions of reality, to the times of the “Evil Eye”. It meant to cast a spell on someone to get them to think and do what you want them to do.

Certainly a spell has been cast upon many in Christianity today concerning the matter of the political state called Israel. Many, in error, many have had their perception changed to believe that God has given the land of Israel to the Jews and because of that they have every right to it. There are several problems with holding to this teaching, a couple of them are: one, there is no scriptural basis for this whatsoever, as we will see when we get into the passages concerning to whom does the land belong, and two, because the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem will be the place that the anti-christ rules the world from, so anything Christians have to do with that are aiding and abetting this whole anti-christ movement. (See study on the City of Babylon).

It is a problem that has put animosity between the Jews and the Palestinians, and sad to say, between many Christians. Many believers today hold to the position that God promised the land to Abraham and his descendants. A “spell” has been cast upon them through the mass media of television, radio, the printed press and certain church leaders. They, incorrectly, believe that God promised the land of Israel to Abraham and to his racial descendants.

To try to reason with them in this matter usually ends in futility and argument. Their minds are made up, regardless of what the truth is. They are like bullies walking down the street bowling over anyone who gets in their way. But perhaps, and I am talking to believers in Christ, perhaps they will listen to what the Word of God has to say on this matter. Maybe they will listen to what the Apostle Paul had to say, if they can set aside their emotions and pride for a moment. As always, the issue is the Word of God. I have included the text of the original Greek and Hebrew in this month's newsletter to prove the point, with the words for seed underlined to help you follow along.

It is sad, no it is tragic, that a false political system with religious, even Christian backing, has resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent people; and it can all be traced back to an incorrect interpretation of the Word of God! Martin Luther wrote in his hymn, “A Mighty Fortress”, said of Satan, “One little word shall fell him.” And we have one little word that has caused so many believers to fall, and that word is seed! They have interpreted *seed* incorrectly to say that it refers to the racial descendants of Abraham, when it actually refers to Jesus Christ.

The promises, hai epangeliai, plural, were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Now many in Israel, Judaism, and certain misinformed segments of Christianity say that “the seed” refers to Abraham's racial descendants. (One can only guess how many millions of people living on the earth today out of the twelve tribes of Israel have Abraham's seed in them), but that's not the issue!

2. “He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ”. - ου λεγει και τοις σπερμασιν ως επι πολλων αλλ ως εφ ενος και τω σπερματι σου ος εστιν χριστος

Here we get into the grammar of that one little word, *seed*. In the original it says, spermati, the dative singular of *sperma*, the word for *seed*. As we can see, it's in the singular and **refers to one seed**. Paul says not *seeds, spermasi*, which is the dative plural of *sperma*! Are we listening to what it says? If it was in the **plural**, then it would be talking about the racial descendants of Abraham. But it isn't! It's in the **singular**! And if it's in the singular, then it has only one specific person in mind! And we have stated here who was in God's mind when he promised the land to Abraham- **his son, Jesus Christ!**

The grammar of the original Greek is inescapable and irrefutable! **The land of Israel was not promised to any of Abraham's racial descendants; it was not promised to the Jews; it was promised to Abraham and his son, Jesus Christ, who is the seed!**

And he tells us so right here in the passage. He says that the promises that God made to Abraham, which included the land, were promised to Abraham and to his seed, which is Christ. I hope this sinks in to the Christian out there who is positive to truth, and that they will extricate themselves from any group that is taking a contrary position to what the Word of God clearly teaches.

To say that the land of Israel belongs to the Jews, and that God gave it to them is a lie! It's a lie that flies in the face of the Word of God. It is also deception, illusion and **thievery**. Yes, thievery because they are part of a movement that is stealing the land away from the one that God gave it to, Jesus Christ, and giving it to those who have no right to it! Still not satisfied? Then let us go to the original passage in the Old Testament where God made his promise to Abraham!

3. “*And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land:*” Genesis 12:7-
וירא יהוה אל־אברם ויאמר לזרעך אתן את־הארץ

The word in the Hebrew is *zera*, akin to zero, and was the word for *seed*, semen, or one's child. It is found in the masculine singular noun, with the second person masculine singular suffix! What does this tell us? It tells us that Yahweh appeared to Abraham and made a promise to him concerning the land. He said to him that he was going to give this land **to Abraham's seed, singular!** In the masculine we know that he was referring to a man, and in the singular that he was giving it only to one man, the Lord Jesus Christ!

He says the same thing again in Genesis 13:15, “*For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*”-:כי את־כל־הארץ אשר־אתה ראה לך אתננה ולזרעך עד־עולם. Again we see that God did not promise the land of Israel to the Jews, nor to any other racial descendants of Abraham, but only to Jesus Christ!

4. “*That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*” Galatians 3:14

This is another part of the covenant that God entered into and that was in the area of blessing. That the Gentiles would be blessed because of Abraham. *"And all peoples (Gentiles) on earth will be blessed through you."* [Genesis 12:3a](#)

So God promised Abraham that the Gentiles of the world would be blessed through him, but how would he do this? Once again it is through the Lord Jesus Christ and the new covenant he would implement on earth, which brought with it forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit. The Law of God could not produce a spiritual dynamic in any of us. If there was going to be one, then the only one who could do that is Jesus Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit indwells the believer in Christ he creates in him a new nature, thereby completely changing him.

This passage clearly teaches that the blessing aspect of God's covenant with Abraham dealt with the Holy Spirit, *"That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (in Jesus Christ)."* And this promise of the Holy Spirit did not come through the Law, but through faith in Christ. The promise to Abraham was made centuries before the Law was even in existence. *"And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect."* [Galatians 3:17](#) This is how Abraham became the father of many Gentiles. *"As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."* [Romans 4:17](#) *"Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be."* [Romans 4:18](#)

This seems to be a sensitive issue out there, concerning who holds the title to the land of Israel, with many people, but for the believer in Christ it's a simple one. For the Christian this is not an emotional issue, it is not a political issue, nor is it an "anti-anything" issue. It is a doctrinal issue. What does the Word of God have to say on this matter? Shall we as Christians rob God of his glory? Shall we deny Christ his inheritance? Shall we steal from him what belongs to him, and only to him, and to give it to someone else? No! The land was given to **the seed, singular**, of Abraham, and that seed is the Lord Jesus Christ. Under our law today, if you aid a thief in his thievery, you are guilty of theft along with him.

Everything centers around Jesus Christ- everything! The kingdom, the promises, the land, the Holy Spirit, forgiveness, the resurrection from the dead, access to God's throne of grace; it all centers around him and him alone! And for all believers today, special attention needs to be made concerning that aspect of the new covenant that deals with the Holy Spirit. It is through the Holy Spirit that we can overcome the pull of the world, the temptations and control of the flesh nature and the attacks of the devil. And we have the Holy Spirit because we have trusted Christ as our Savior.

5. *"But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance."* [Matthew 21:38](#) , Read [Matthew 21:33-46](#)

This that passage referred to as the Parable of the Tenants. It tells of a landowner, who had planted a vineyard, then rented out to some farmers and went away on a journey. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to collect the payment in fruit. But instead of paying him what was due him, they beat one, killed another and stoned a third. He sent other servants to them, but they were all treated the same way. So, last of all, he sent his son. He thought, *"They will respect my son."* But when the servants saw the son they said to each other, *"This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance."* So they took him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

One can easily see that this is a reference to God the Father, as the landowner, his Son, Jesus Christ, the heir and the nation of Israel. It boggles one's mind to think how this passage, (along with all the others), have been completely glossed over by so many people in Christianity! Christ was talking about a phenomenon that was going on in his time concerning the land that was **his inheritance** given to him by the Father, and how that those living in Israel at that time **knew** that he was the heir to the land and wanted to kill him anyway! They thought that once he was out of the way they could have it for themselves.

And we have the same thing going on today! We have people living on the land today saying that the land belongs to them, when it doesn't! Christ is the heir of the land, the only heir, and it is his inheritance from the Father. And any Christian who says that the land belongs to somebody else other than him is in the same league with those who were trying to steal the son's inheritance. Not in the sense of going as far as to kill him, but certainly along the lines of giving moral support and justification to thieves. Whose side are you on, the Son's, or the wicked tenants?

Pastor Mike