

Paul's Epistle to the ROMANS

1/7/2021 AM

"The Abrahamic Covenant" Romans 4:13-17



Introduction:

I. THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM (vs. 13)

A. To Abraham

"for the promise to Abraham"- Genesis 12:1-3

- land [*eretz*]
- people [*goi...am*]
- blessing [*bracha*]
- Redeemer - Galatians 3:8

"for the promise to Abraham...that he would be heir of the world..."

"was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith"

B. To His Physical Descendants

"for the promise...to his descendants"

- through Isaac (Genesis 17:19)
- through Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15; Leviticus 26:42)
- continuation of land, people, and blessing
- Redeemer

"the promise...was not through the Law"

"but through the righteousness of faith"

C. To His Spiritual Descendants

"not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith"

- people and blessing, but land ???
- Redeemer (amplified in vs. 16)

Question: Is there any sense in which the land promise is extended to his spiritual descendants?

Corollary Question: Does the term "heir of the world [*cosmos*]" contribute to the answer?

II. THE PROMISE IS NULLIFIED BY LAW (vs. 14-15)

A. Law Makes Void the Promise (vs. 14)

“for if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified”

B. Law Brings Wrath (vs. 15)

“for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation”

III. THE PROMISE GUARANTEED TO ALL (vs. 16-17)

A. “by faith” (vs. 16a)

“for this reason it is by faith...so that the promise will be guaranteed”

F _____

A _____

I _____

T _____

H _____

B. “in accordance with grace” (vs. 16b)

C. “to those who are of the faith of Abraham” (vs. 17)

- “that the promise will be guaranteed...also to those who are of the faith of Abraham”

- “who is the father of us all, as it is written, ‘A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU’ ”

- “in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God,”

- “who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist”

Conclusion:

- 1) Faith is distinct from the Law.
- 2) Faith has power not in itself but because of the One in whom we place our faith.
- 3) Faith is based on God’s word, not on the evidence of our senses.

Food for Thought:

- 1) What is the significance of the Abrahamic Covenant to/for the church? To me personally?
- 2) Why is our faith necessarily founded in “promise”?
- 3) In what sense do/will Abraham’s heirs inherit the world?
- 4) How is it that “the Law brings about wrath”?