



## **Lesson Fourteen: The Gospel According to Abraham**

### **Genesis 15:1-18, 17:1-8, Galatians 3:1-9**

Paul Goebel – May 2, 2023

#### **Genesis 15:1-18**

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”<sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”<sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”<sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> And he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.”<sup>8</sup> But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”<sup>9</sup> He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”<sup>10</sup> And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.<sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.<sup>14</sup> But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.<sup>15</sup> As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.<sup>16</sup> And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.<sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

## Genesis 17:1-8

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,<sup>2</sup> that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”<sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him,<sup>4</sup> “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.<sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.<sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.<sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.<sup>8</sup> And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

## Galatians 3:1-9

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.<sup>2</sup> Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?<sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?<sup>4</sup> Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?<sup>5</sup> Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—<sup>6</sup> just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

<sup>7</sup> Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.<sup>8</sup> 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.”<sup>9</sup> So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What did God promise to Abraham? How did Abraham initially respond to God’s promise?
2. How did God respond to Abraham’s doubt? What encouragement does this give for our own doubts?
3. How would you describe the nature of Abraham’s faith? What does Abraham’s faith have to do with our faith in Jesus Christ? (See Galatians 3:6-7)
4. In what way was the Gospel preached beforehand to Abraham? (See Galatians 3:8) Why is this good news for us?
5. Why is it significant that a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between the pieces of animals that Abraham cut in half?
6. What is the covenantal chorus of the Bible? (See Genesis 17:8) How has this promise been fulfilled through Jesus Christ?