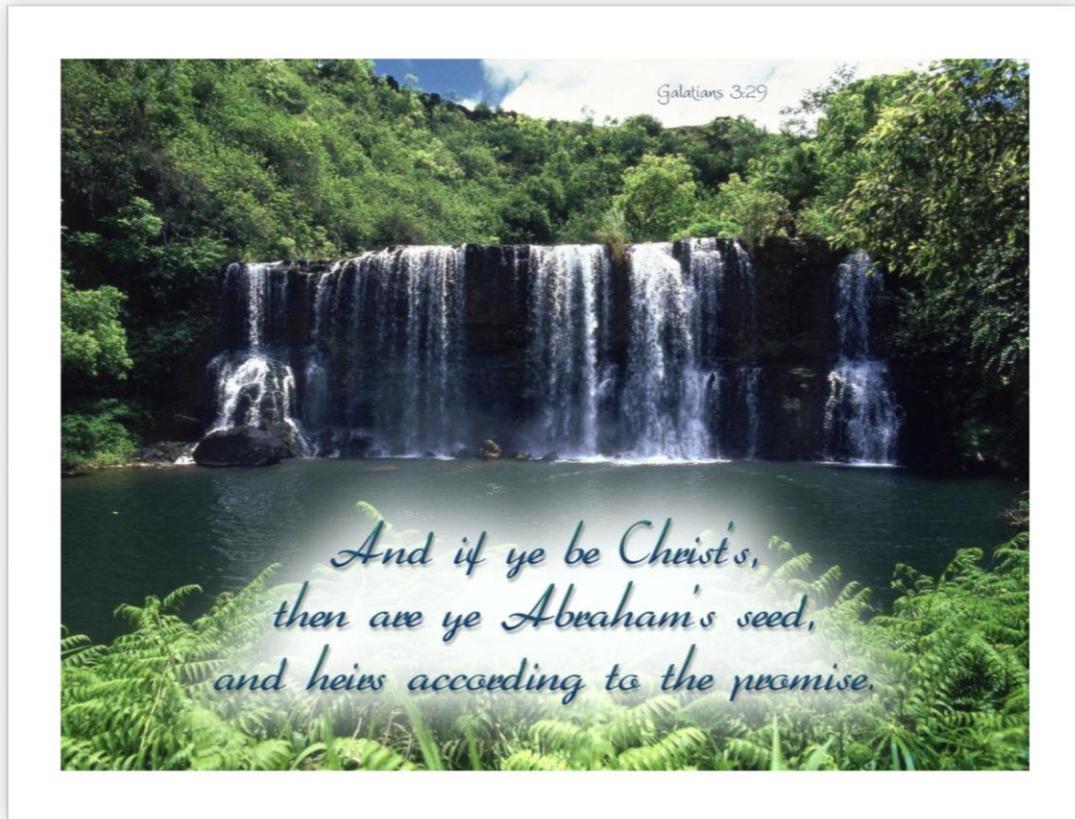


Abraham's Seed

Galatians 3:26–29 (NIV)

²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



Abraham's Seed

THIRD QUARTER 2015 SERMONS

Barry G. Johnson, Sr. | Sermon Outline | August 16, 2015

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Thesis:

Abraham is the father of all who believe in Jesus Christ.

Objectives:

- I. The significance of Abraham for nations other than Israel
- II. The significance of Abraham for the people of Israel
- III. The significance of Abraham for Christians

Introduction:

All mankind can look to Abraham to gain hope of salvation. All nations can enter the promises of God made available by Abraham's Seed. That seed is Jesus and our connection to Him and Abraham is realized by obedience to His Word. An obedience which is manifested by faith. A faith that hears God and responds to His commands. Our heritage is meaningless unless we belong to Jesus the Christ.

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Sermon Outline:

I. The significance of Abraham for nations other than Israel

A. Abraham the father of many nations

Genesis 17:3–6 (NIV)

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.

B. God uses Abraham to bless all nations and if one is to attain the blessings of God he would have to be Abraham's offspring.

Genesis 17:20 (NIV)

²⁰ And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation.

C. Ishmael did become a mighty nation and is an offspring of Abraham.

D. Abraham a blessing to many nations

Genesis 12:3 (NIV)

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.”

Acts 3:25 (NIV)

²⁵ And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, “Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’

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- E. The blessing God intends here is not blood association but faithful compliance like that of Abraham.
- F. Israel counts on its lineage with Abraham for its righteousness and blessings.

II. The significance of Abraham for the people of Israel

- A. Israel traces its origins back to God's call of Abraham

Hebrews 11:8–10 (NIV)

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the Promised Land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

- B. Abraham realized God's promise would be ultimately expressed spiritually.
- C. God promises the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants

Acts 7:4–5 (NIV)

⁴ "So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Harran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living. ⁵ He gave him no inheritance here, not even enough ground to set his foot on. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child.

- D. Without child and beyond child bearing years Abraham believed God and did as he was commanded.
- E. God is subsequently known in Israel as the God of Abraham

Acts 7:32 (NIV)

³² 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

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- F. Israel associates its heritage with its lineage to Abraham.
- G. Abraham is seen as the father of the Jewish nation

Acts 13:26 (NIV)

²⁶ "Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent.

- H. Notice that the Gentiles are mentioned where salvation is concerned. Not only Israel can be saved.
- I. God deals with Israel on the basis of his covenant with Abraham

Luke 1:68–75 (NIV)

⁶⁸ "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David ⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), ⁷¹ salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— ⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

- J. That promise is fulfilled in Abraham's Seed, Jesus. Not in the mere gift of land possession.
- K. Circumcision was the sign of participation in God's covenant with Abraham

Genesis 17:9–14 (NIV)

⁹ Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. ¹³ Whether born in your household or bought with your money,

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they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

- L. This covenant of circumcision is pointing to a spiritual covenant where by all people and nations will be circumcised of the heart.

III. The significance of Abraham for Christians

- A. Abraham was an ancestor of Jesus Christ

Matthew 1:1 (NIV)

¹ This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

- B. The New Testament confirms the connection of Jesus to Abraham. Making Jesus Abraham's Seed.
- C. Jesus Christ attacks Jewish confidence in mere physical descent from Abraham

Matthew 3:9–10 (NIV)

⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

- D. John the Baptizer puts into proper perspective blood lineage to Abraham. It would not be a worldly connection to God's Covenant.
- E. Jesus Christ makes a point of identifying outcasts as children of Abraham

Luke 19:7–9 (NIV)

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." ⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

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- F. Zacchaeus is a son of Abraham because of the faith in Jesus he demonstrated.
- G. God's promise to Abraham is not inherited by those who obey the law

Romans 4:13–16 (NIV)

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

- H. Righteousness that comes by faith is the sign of those who Abraham's offspring.
- I. God's promise to Abraham is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who is Abraham's seed

Galatians 3:16 (NIV)

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.

- J. Jesus is our connection to Abraham and we are connected to Jesus by faith that demonstrates its belief in obedience.
- K. Abraham is the father of those who are justified by faith

Genesis 15:6 (NIV)

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

- L. If we are to be righteous then we are to believe as Abraham did.

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M. Abraham's obedience to God shows that faith must lead to good works

James 2:20–24 (NIV)

²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

N. Men must achieve the works of God and not the works of men to achieve faith that makes men God's friend.

O. Fellowship with Abraham is a symbol of salvation

Matthew 8:11–12 (NIV)

¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

P. If you want to be Abraham's offspring that will inherit heaven as our home then do as he did and believe and obey God's commands.

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Conclusion:

All the world can have a hope of being Abraham's offspring. What you need to do is believe God that it would produce saving faith by your obedience to His commands.

The Israel that is saved through Abraham's Seed is one who obeys whether blood related or otherwise. If you are only connected by earthly heritage, your hope is only earthly. If you are connected by faithful obedience then the promises of faith can be yours. Those promises are spiritual, heaven as our eternity.

Today you can begin to receive the inheritance of God's great promises by believing His Word and obeying it.

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Invitation:

Romans 10:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ So faith comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** through the word of Christ.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

⁶ And without **faith** it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must **believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Acts 17:30 (ESV)

³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to **repent**,

1 Timothy 6:12 (ESV)

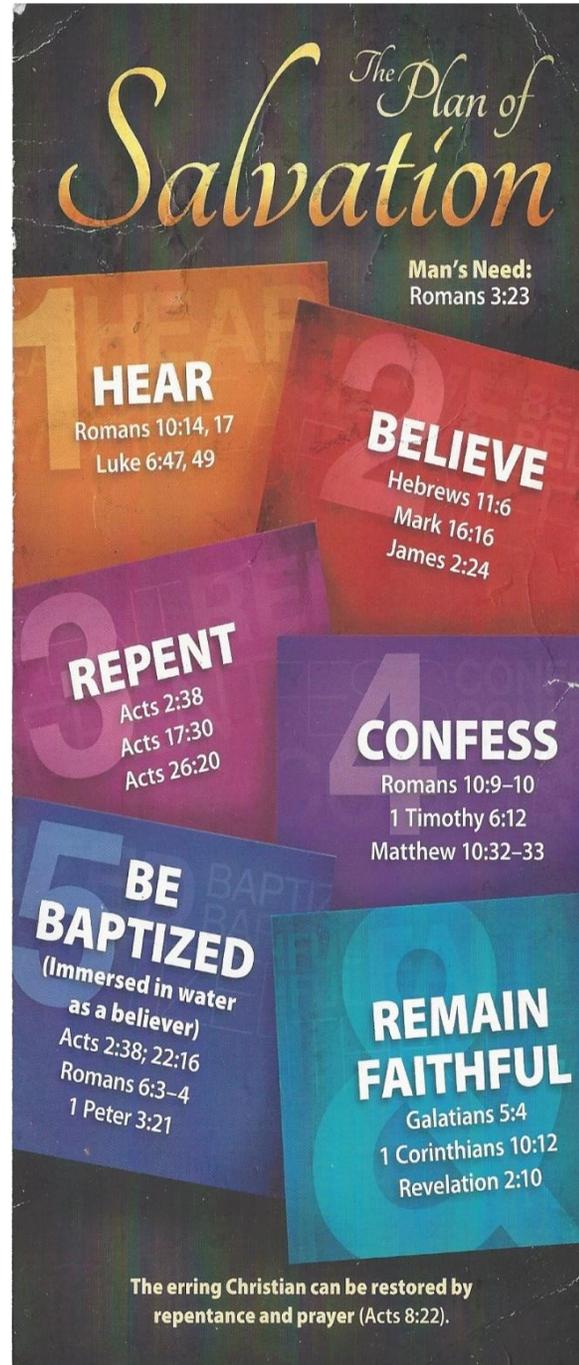
¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good **confession** in the presence of many witnesses.

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 2:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.



The Plan of
Salvation

Man's Need:
Romans 3:23

1 HEAR
Romans 10:14, 17
Luke 6:47, 49

2 BELIEVE
Hebrews 11:6
Mark 16:16
James 2:24

3 REPENT
Acts 2:38
Acts 17:30
Acts 26:20

4 CONFESS
Romans 10:9–10
1 Timothy 6:12
Matthew 10:32–33

5 BE BAPTIZED
(Immersed in water as a believer)
Acts 2:38; 22:16
Romans 6:3–4
1 Peter 3:21

6 REMAIN FAITHFUL
Galatians 5:4
1 Corinthians 10:12
Revelation 2:10

The erring Christian can be restored by repentance and prayer (Acts 8:22).