

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## The Gospel: God's Promise To Abraham

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**P**aul writes, “*And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all the nations be blessed*” (Galatians 3:8). Paul refers to God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3, emphasizing how he figures in all the nations being blessed. Paul connects this promise of blessing to Abraham with God justifying the Gentiles by faith. Knowing the Gospel theme of being justified we can understand how Paul can say the gospel was preached beforehand to Abraham

Paul uses God's promise to Abraham to counteract a problem occurring in the churches of Galatia. There were some wanting to include demands of the Law of Moses, such as circumcision, (*cf. Galatians 5:3-6, Acts 15:1*) in the justifying gospel of Christ. Paul emphasizes throughout his epistle to the Galatians that no man is justified by the Law of Moses (Galatians 2:16). One of the reasons is that one under the law is under a curse if he or she does not continue to do “*all things*

*written the book of the law*” (Galatians 3:10). Picking and choosing what part of the law the Judaizing teachers want will not work in one's justification before God. “*Yea, I testify again to every man that receiveth circumcision, that he is a debtor to do the whole law*” (Galatians 5:2). It is evident then that no one would be justified by law, because keeping all the revealed law at all times would be the only way one could be right before God.

Jesus delivered us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us by hanging in death on the cross (Galatians 3:13).

This provided the basis for fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham: “*that upon the Gentiles might come the blessing of Abraham in Christ Jesus; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith* (Galatians 3:14). Jesus fulfills this stated promise to Abraham in another interesting way: the promise was not to be fulfilled in “many” seeds, but in “one” Jesus Christ. “*He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy*

*seed, which is Christ* (Galatians 3:16).

Paul stresses Abraham's connection with the Gospel by identifying it as “a promise”. God confirmed His promise to Abraham 430 years before the Law of Moses was instituted. Paul says the Law then does not “*disannul, so as to make the promise of none effect*” (Galatians 3:17). Further distinguishing between the law and the promise Paul claims, “*For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no more of promise: but God hath granted it to Abraham by promise*” (Galatians 3:18).

Inheritance as sons is also part of God's Gospel promise to Abraham regarding the Gentiles: “*They that are of faith, the same are sons of Abraham*” (Galatians 3:6-7). As all (Jews and Gentiles) become children of God by faith when baptized into Christ, they are not only justified from sin through faith, but being Abraham's seed they are “*heirs according to promise*” (Galatians 3:29). Have you been baptized into Christ to become Abraham's seed? (Galatians 3:16-27)?