

WordBytes

We Are Blessed with Believing Abraham

(Galatians 3:9)

God promised to bless Abraham and make him a blessing, and this promise was subsequently passed on to Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants through the Abrahamic covenant. The Apostle Paul revealed that it was not annulled by the introduction of the Mosaic covenant and the law of Moses; and when Jesus brought the law and its curses to an end and established the New Covenant, the blessing of Abraham was extended to Gentile believers. This WordByte shows from the Scriptures that the blessing of the Abrahamic covenant covers every area of life, and still applies to believers today through faith in Jesus.

Abrahamic Covenant Not Annulled by the Law

God renewed the Abrahamic covenant with Isaac (Genesis 26:1-5) and Jacob (Genesis 28:10-15), and their descendants lived under this covenant until the Mosaic covenant, based on obedience to the law of Moses, was instituted at Mount Sinai, about 430 years later.

However, in Galatians 3:17 the apostle Paul tells us that the Abrahamic covenant was not annulled by the law, and therefore remains in effect:

“the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.”

and verse 19 confirms that the law was an **addition**, not a replacement, and would remain in effect until Jesus (the “Seed”) came.

“What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made”

Blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant Available Through Keeping the Law

Deuteronomy 7:11-12 tells us that under the Mosaic covenant, if the Israelites kept the law of Moses, God would keep the **promises He swore to their fathers** (i.e. the covenant made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).

“Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them. Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.”

However, if they disobeyed the law, they would come under curses covering every area of life, as listed in Deuteronomy 28:15-68.

“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you”

In his mercy, foreshadowing the sacrificial death of Jesus, God provided a means to obtain forgiveness and regain God’s blessing through a system of animal sacrifices.

Blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant

The blessings provided by the Abrahamic covenant, which the Israelites would receive if they obeyed the law of Moses, **covered every area of life**. They are listed in numerous scriptures including Deuteronomy 7:13 and 28:1-14:

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"He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you. You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock. And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known"

Jesus Redeemed us from the Curse of the Law

The Jews continued under the law until the coming of the promised "Seed of Abraham", Jesus, who ended the law and established the New Covenant:

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." (Romans 10:4)

He redeemed both Jews and Gentiles from the curse:

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law..... (Galatians 3:13-14)

and the blessing of the Abrahamic covenant was extended to the Gentiles:

".....that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus"

As discussed above, the Abrahamic covenant already applied to the Jews, as affirmed by Jesus in Luke 13;16:

"So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound - think of it for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

in which He also confirmed that healing is one of the blessings of Abraham.

In Galatians 3:9 the apostle Paul states that:

"those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham."

so that all the blessings enjoyed by Abraham listed in the Scriptures now apply to both Jewish and Gentile believers covering health, financial provision, safety, long life, family, household affairs, work, etc. However, as with all God's promises, we need to believe that they belong to us today and appropriate them by faith.

Also, like Abraham, we are called **to be a blessing**, which includes sharing material blessings as well as proclaiming the spiritual blessings of the new covenant. This is reflected in the emphasis in the New Testament on sharing among believers and giving to the poor. Being financially blessed greatly increases our ability to help others – as demonstrated by the "Good Samaritan" who was able to pay for the stricken traveler to be taken care of at the inn!

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WordBytes are Bible teachings to inspire faith and spiritual growth.

JO-AL Bible Teaching & Publications is based in Melbourne, Australia, and was founded by Alan and Joan Taylor in 2009. Alan and Joan have experience in pastoring and pioneering churches, and in travelling teaching, worship and music ministry. At the same time they have established a successful secular technical consulting company.