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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

THE SEED

*“Now to Abraham and his **seed** were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy **seed**, which is Christ”. Galatians 3:16*

*“The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his **seed**”- τω δε αβρααμ ερρηθησαν αι επαγγελιαι και τω σπερματι αυτου*

Paul begins chapter three with the statement, “*You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you...*” using the word *baskaino*. *Baskaino* goes back to the world of magic, of sorcerers, charmers, to mixers of potions that change one's perceptions of reality, to the times of the “Evil Eye”. It meant to cast a spell on someone to get them to think and do what you want them to do, to be brought under their spell by flattery.

Certainly a spell has been cast upon many in Christianity today concerning the matter of the political state called Israel. Many Christians, in total error, believe that God has given the land of Israel to racial Jews, religious Jews, or self-proclaimed Jews, and because of that, they have a legal claim and every right to it.

There are several problems with holding to this latter century false teaching concerning to whom does the land really belong, for there is no scriptural basis for this whatsoever. Which we will see when we get into the passages in our study here and elsewhere later on in a study on the Parable of the Tenants.

Many Christians have been misled as to who the nation of Israel really belongs to, and because of that, many churches and Christians have been aiding and abetting the whole anti-christ movement and the New World Order! For it will be the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem that the antichrist rules the world from!

It is a problem that has put animosity between the Jews and the Palestinians, and sad to say, between many Christians. Many believers today hold to the position that God promised the land to Abraham and his racial descendants. A “spell” has been cast upon them through the mass media of television, radio, the printed press and certain church leaders. They, incorrectly, believe that God promised the land of Israel to Abraham and to his racial descendants.

To try to reason with them in this matter usually ends in futility and argument. Their minds are made up, regardless of what the truth is. They are like bullies walking down the street bowling over anyone who gets in their way. But perhaps, and I am talking to believers in Christ, maybe they will listen to what the Word of God has to say on this matter. Maybe they will listen to what the Apostle Paul had to say, if they can set aside their emotions and pride for a moment.

It is sad, no it is tragic, that a false political system with religious, even Christian backing, has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent people; and it can all be traced back to an incorrect interpretation of the Word of God! Martin Luther wrote in his hymn, "A Mighty Fortress", said of Satan, "One little word shall fell him."

And we have one little word that has caused so many believers to fall, and that word is **seed**! They have interpreted **seed** incorrectly. "*The promises*", *hai epangeliai*, plural, *were spoken to Abraham and to his seed.*" Now many in Israel, Judaism, and certain segments of Christianity say that "*the seed*" refers to Abraham's **racial** descendants. (One can only guess how many millions of people living on the earth today out of the twelve tribes of Israel have Abraham's seed in them, but that's not the issue!)

"*He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ*". - ου λεγει και τοις σπερμασιν ως επι πολλων αλλ ως εφ ενος και τω σπερματι σου ος εστιν χριστος Here we get into the grammar of that one little word, **seed**. In the original it says, *spermati*, the dative singular of *sperma*, the word for *seed*. As we can see, it's in the *singular* and **refers to one seed!**

Paul did **not** say *seeds*, *spermasi*, which is the dative plural of *sperma*! Are we listening to what it says? If it was in the **plural**, then it would be talking about the racial descendants of Abraham. But it **isn't!** It's in the **singular!** And if it's in the singular, then it has only one specific man in mind! **And we have stated here who was in God's mind when he promised the land to Abraham - his Son, Jesus Christ!**

The grammar of the original Greek is inescapable and irrefutable! **The land of Israel was not promised to any of Abraham's racial descendants; it was not promised to the Jews; it was promised to Abraham and his seed, Jesus Christ, who is the seed!**

And Paul tells us so right here in the passage. He says that the promises that God made to Abraham, which included the land, were promised to Abraham and to his seed, which is Christ. I hope this sinks in to the Christian out there, who is positive to truth, and that they will extricate themselves from any group that is taking a contrary position to what the Word of God clearly teaches.

To say that the land of Israel belongs to the Jews, and that God gave it to them is a **lie!** It's a lie that flies in the face of the Word of God. It is also deception, illusion and **thievery**. Yes, thievery because they are part of a movement that is stealing the land away from the one that God gave it to, Jesus Christ, and are giving it to those who have no right to it! Still not satisfied? Then let us go to the original passage in the Old Testament where God made his promise to Abraham!

3. “*And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land:*”
Genesis 12:7-וִירָא יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר לְזֶרְעֶךָ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ-

The word in the Hebrew is *zera*, akin to zero, and was the word for *seed*, semen, or one's child. It is found in the masculine singular noun, with the second person masculine singular suffix! What does this tell us? It tells us that *Yahweh* appeared to Abraham and made a promise to him concerning the land. He said to him that he was going to give this land to **his seed, singular**! In the masculine we know that he was referring to a man, and in the singular that he was giving it only to one man, the Lord Jesus Christ!

He says the same thing again in Genesis 13:15, “*For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*” He was giving the land to a man, who would descend from Abraham, and that man was Jesus Christ! Again we see that God did not promise the land of Israel to the Jews, religious or racial, nor to any other racial descendants of Abraham, but only to his son, Jesus Christ!

כִּי אֶת־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ אֶשְׂרֶ-אֶתָּה רֵאָה, לְךָ אֶת־נַגְהֵנִי לְזֶרְעֶךָ, עַד־עוֹלָם

4. “*That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*” Galatians 3:14

This is another part of the covenant that God entered into and that was in the area of blessing. That the Gentiles would be blessed because of Abraham. “*And all peoples (Gentiles) on earth will be blessed through you.*” Genesis 12:3a

So God promised Abraham that the Gentiles of the world would be blessed through him, but how we he do this? Once again it is **through the Lord Jesus Christ** and the new covenant he would implement on earth, which brought with it forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit. The Law of God could not produce a spiritual dynamic in any of us.

If there was going to be an inner change in people, then the only one who could do that is Jesus Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit indwells the believer in Christ he creates in him a new nature, thereby completely changing him.

This passage clearly teaches that the blessing aspect of God's covenant with Abraham dealt with the Holy Spirit, “*That we might receive the promise of the spirit through faith (in Jesus Christ).*” And this promise of the Holy Spirit did not come through the Law, but through faith in Christ. The promise to Abraham was made centuries before the Law was even in existence. “*And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.*” Galatians 3:17

This is how Abraham became the father of many Gentiles. *“As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations, before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.” “Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.”* Romans 4:17,18

This seems to be a sensitive issue out there, concerning who holds the title to the land of Israel with many people, but for the believer in Christ it's a simple one. What does the Word of God have to say on this matter? Shall we as Christians rob God of his glory? Shall we deny Christ his inheritance? Shall we steal from him what belongs to him, and only to him, and to give it to someone else? No! The land was given to the *seed*, singular, of Abraham, and **that seed is the Lord Jesus Christ**.

Everything centers around Jesus Christ - everything! The kingdom, the promises, the land, the Holy Spirit, forgiveness, the resurrection from the dead, access to God's throne of grace; it all centers around him and him alone! And for all believers today, special attention needs to be made concerning that aspect of the new covenant that deals with the Holy Spirit. It is through the Holy Spirit that we can overcome the pull of the world, the temptations and control of the flesh nature and the attacks of the devil. And we have the Holy Spirit because we have trusted Christ as our Savior.

Now there are those that claim that God gave the land to the Israelites, and then there is the Apostle Paul who said that God gave the land to his Son, Jesus Christ! One of them is telling the truth and the other is lying. Personally, I believe Paul is telling the truth and not the others. Who do you believe? *“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”* Galatians 3:16

Now there are those who will say, but God did “give” the land to the Jews, or more accurately, to the children of Israel! This is true, but in what legal capacity did God give the land to the Jews? This question and legal issue is covered in my Online study of, “The Parable of the Tenants”, where we will find that **God never transferred the title of the land over to the Jews!** In fact, we will find that God never transferred the title of the land over to Abraham! And more than that, we will find that God never transferred the title of the earth over to Adam, when he created him and placed him on it!

God created the earth and retained the title of the earth, and the title to the land of Israel, to himself all these years ever since creation. He did this so he could transfer the title of it all over to his son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as part of his inheritance! **The legal relationship that the Jews had with God concerning the land was only one of a tenant farmer! They've never possessed legal title to the Land of Israel!**