

2.3a Discussion

Note: returning to the broad theme of the covenant in Scripture in both testaments, it is helpful to review all the saving blessings that Paul cites in Galatians 3-4 that are “according to the promise” (according to the covenant) made with Abraham are comprehensive. That is, they cover, in sample form, all the doctrines that the writers of the NT expound and explain. Note what we found so far (perhaps you can find more):

Oneness in Christ (with no Jew or Greek, 3.28)

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Sonship-adoption to God by faith (3.26; 4.5-7)

²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Life (3.21-22)

²¹ Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.

²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

The promised Spirit (3.14)

¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Redemption (3.13; 4.5)

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"-

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Justification (3.6-9)

⁶ just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"?

⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

⁸ 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."

⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Knowledge of God (4.9)

⁹ But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

These things define the blessing that God promised to give to the families of the earth through Abraham's offspring. The Gentiles are heirs of these things *according to promise* (3.29). Therefore, those of faith are the sons of Abraham (3.7), and blessed with Abraham (3.9) through faith (3.14) as his offspring (3.29). This inheritance defines the sense in which even Gentiles (all people that are “not my people”) are the children of Abraham by faith.