

A Covenant People: From Abraham to the Church

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New Testament written to churches

- 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus... To the church of God in Corinth...
- Galatians 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle... To the churches in Galatia: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...
- Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus... To God's holy people in Ephesus...
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...

Church is:

- A chosen people
- A royal priesthood
- A holy nation
- God's special possession
- A people of God

• 1 Peter 2:9-10

Genesis 12:1-9

Genesis 13:14-18

Genesis 15:1-7

Abraham's offspring: Jesus Christ

- He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.
Galatians 3:14
- 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. Galatians 3:16

Genesis 17:1-11

Genesis 15:8-20

Jeremiah 34:18-20

- Those who have violated my covenant and have not fulfilled the terms of the covenant they made before me, **I will treat like the calf they cut in two and then walked between its pieces.** The leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests and all the people of the land who walked between the pieces of the calf, I will deliver into the hands of their enemies who want to kill them. Their dead bodies will become food for the birds and the wild animals.

Galatians 3:13-14

- Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Revelations 7:9-10

- After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”

What it means to be God's people?

- 1. It is God's grace to be God's people

What it means to be God's people?

- 2. God's people is a people of faith (Romans 4:18-25)
 - 1. Faith comes from the Word of God
 - 2. Put faith in God alone, not in people or riches (Genesis 14:22-23, Acts 4:12)
 - 3. Faith in action and in perpetuity (Hebrews 11:8-17, James 2:14, 26)

What it means to be God's people?

- 3. God's people worship God together
 - Genesis 12:7
 - Genesis 12:8
 - Genesis 13:3-4
 - Genesis 13:18
 - Exodus 3:11-12

What it means to be God's people?

- 4. God's people have circumcision of the heart
 - Philippians 3:4-5
 - Romans 2:28-29
 - Romans 3:29-30
 - Romans 4:9-12
 - Ephesians 1:13
 - Hebrews 10:16

How God's people think and act

- 1. About the Sabbath
- 2. About prayer
- 3. About the Bible
- 4. About the purpose of life
- 5. About relationship with others

Church = God's people = Abraham's descendants

- Galatians 3:26-29

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.