



## **THE PROMISE OF GOD**

(Galatians 3:15-22)

### THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT (15-18)

- God promised Abraham that through his lineage all the nations of the earth would be blessed (3:8; *Gen 12:3*)
- this promise of redemption has been delivered through Jesus Christ to all who believe as Abraham did (*Gal 3:6-9,13-14,16; Matt 1:1; Gen 15:6*)
- this covenant is not changed by the Mosaic Covenant (Law) which came 430 years after God's promise to Abraham (15,17)
- the inheritance promised to Abraham only obligates God; it is not earned by keeping the Law (18; *Rom 4:13*)

### THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW (19-22)

- given because of mankind's sin (19)
  - brings knowledge of what sin is (*Rom 3:20; 7:7*)
  - reveals mankind's sinful nature (*Rom 5:20; 7:8-24*)
  - condemns sinners (*Rom 3:19; 4:15*)
- does not oppose the promises of God to Abraham (21)
- does not impart righteousness or spiritual life (21)
- imprisons (confines/guards) sinners, making their need for a Saviour obvious (22-24)

*The Law is a jail cell; Christ is the key that unlocks the door  
and sets the sinner free*

## APPLICATION

More than 4000 years ago, God made a promise to a man named Abraham that is relevant to us today. Abraham was promised that one of his descendants would be a blessing to all people. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of that promise. When God made promises to Abraham, scripture tells us that Abraham believed what God told him, and as a result, God forgave all of his sins. The Bible tells us that if we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, our sins will also be forgiven. Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins through His death on the cross. God has accepted that payment. Do you believe this?

To many, this promise is too good to be true. They can't accept that salvation is theirs simply through faith in Christ. They want to add something to the formula – something that they can do to earn blessings from God. This cannot be done. God made a promise to Abraham that does not depend on our deeds or merit. Through Christ, God did all of the work necessary for us to receive the blessing He promised Abraham and those who believe as he did. That blessing is part of an everlasting covenant established by God alone – it cannot be annulled, amended or changed by any other rule, regulation or covenant. Stop trying to do what God has already done for you in Christ. Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and rest in His finished work.

*“For the promise that he would be heir of the world was not to Abraham or his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” (Romans 4:13)*