

At The Court, The Trial Goes on...

(Part 1)

“Brothers, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no-one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has duly established, so it is in this case. The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The scripture does not say ‘and to seeds’, meaning many people, but ‘and to your seed’, meaning one person, who is Christ. What I mean is this: The law introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away the promise. For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in His grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.” (Galatians 3:15-18)

“Oh, it is a large file! It must have been a long case.” The Attorney said. He has to review all the papers and examines them carefully. A lot of them need rearrangement and to be fixed in sequence. It may seem a difficult case but that is his job, to trace the truth and then to present the verdict to the juries and to the judges.

But before that, few more terms need to be defined in order to understand how the trial and hearing goes on. And these terms are:

Covenant or a treaty: It is an agreement between two parties about a subject with certain conditions. The first person has to do his obligation for the second person, and in the same way the second party has to do his duty or obligation for the first party. Any violation of the agreement will make the covenant or the treaty invalid. Covenant is an agreement between two parties of different level. Covenant is usually between God and man.

Promise: A provision from a certain authority to a person or to a group of people accompanied by condition is a promise. This needs to be followed and to be fulfilled.

Seed: It is the smallest part of a plant that contains life in a dormant state, but will give rise to a big tree when it grows.

Law: A decree or a regulation put and amended by an authority that has the power to conduct and execute over a group of people. It is issued to control the life of people in the context of society, government and country.

Grace: An indescribable gift, blessing or provision, unexpected but yet received in spite of undeserving state of the receiver.

Land: It is a place of settlement. It is the longing of any human to have a land for final settlement to live all the remaining of his life. The spiritual meaning of the land in the Bible is the paradise where we will have the eternal life.

From those above points we will listen to the Attorney while he presents the case to the court.

All of us who are sitting here agree that God spoke to Abraham who was the descendant of Shem, and made His promise with him. At first, Abraham was living in Ur of the Chaldeans in the area called Mesopotamia, an area known today as Iraq. **“The Lord has said to Abraham, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the Land I will show you’.” (Genesis 12:1)** Abraham obeyed God and travelled. When he reached the Land of the Canaanites, **the Lord appeared to Abraham and said, “To your seed I will give this land” (Genesis 12:7)** **The scripture does not say ‘and to seeds’, meaning many people, but ‘and to your seed’, meaning one person.** This point needs some emphasis: Abraham had two sons, one from Hagar who was named Ishmael, and the other from Sarah, named Isaac. And from both, many tribes and mighty nations came out and many claimed they were the right seed, **but only one was the true seed, the true person.** But who is He? For sure He should be the descendant of Abraham. Did he come out from Ishmael or Isaac? This is the leading question that needs to be answered to solve the riddle for the case of this message!

About 430 years after He spoke to Abraham, God introduced the Law through Moses, or what is called the Ten Commandments, and these are: **“You shall have no other God before me.” “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything.” “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord.” “Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it Holy.” “Honour your father and your mother.” “You shall not murder.” “You shall not commit adultery.” “You shall not steal.” “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.” “You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife.”** This law is part of God’s covenant with the Jews that they should keep as their duty toward God. But, the above law was imitated by the humankind, and many other nations from the same frame made their own laws, the details of such are not important for us to discuss. But the fact is this: We claim to follow rules and laws as how men created and proclaimed but we always meet difficulties making them impossible to achieve.

So, now we have the promise, the covenant and the law but;

1) How can we inherit the land (i.e. the eternal life)? To answer this let us go back to Abraham. When God spoke to him and told him **‘To your seed I will give this land,’** did Abraham do something to make God fulfil his promise? Did God ask Abraham to do something in return? Did Abraham expect the big land that will belong to him, and that he will not toil to be his own? And finally, do you think Abraham deserved all the above provision? The answer for all these question is this, he believed and obeyed God. So how can we inherit the land, the eternal life? From the discourse of this trial we can say confidently **“only through the grace of God,”** That grace that defined in the word of God, **“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” (Titus 2:11-14)**

2) What is the true seed, that will give rise to the big tree and through it we can inherit eternal life? From the same line of discussion, the true seed was not link to the law. God gave Abraham the land through promise only, **for if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise, What I mean is this: the Law introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away the promise; but God in His grace gave it to Abraham through a promise. So the true seed that gives eternal life comes from a promise and should carry God’s grace.**

Out of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael, many people came out claiming to be the true seed, but only one is the true and the others are to be false. The common saying of *“all the way lead to Rome”* has no place here and we can’t use it in our decision today.”

My dear and Beloved: The only seed that fits all the above description of God’s provision to humankind in giving them land or the eternal life is Christ Jesus. Why? Because his message is this: He died for us on the cross, He took away our sins, and whoever believes in Him, in that person, Jesus, the true seed, he will inherit the land and he will have eternal life. You may say this is incredible, unbelievable, why it is so easily to gain! Just to follow Jesus who died on the cross and I will have eternal life? You are right! But just remember this: when God promised Abraham to give him the land he responded in this way: **“But Abraham believed the Lord, and He credited to him as righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6)** Me and you, we have to do the same, to believe in God’s grace through Jesus and we will have and live the eternal life as we follow Christ, for it is written, **“The righteous will live by faith.”**

My Prayer: *Father God in heaven I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give m eternal life. Lord I commit my life into your hands, believing fully in the grace of God and the work of Jesus on the cross as atonement for my sin, not by any work I have done and not for anything good of me. Thank you Lord, uphold me with your grace and lead me toward eternity, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*