

Two Elections / Two Aspects of Election

- *But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, 7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." 8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.
Rom 9:6-9*
- Two different lines of descendants who will come down through Abraham's Seed.

Abraham's Two Distinct Offspring

- *For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,*
- Those who are of Israel and are Israel.
- Those who are of Israel but are not Israel.
- *Not all children because they are Abraham's seed*
- Those who are Abraham's seed who are children.
- Those of Abraham's seed who are not children.
- *the children of the flesh are not God's children*
- *children of the promise are counted as the seed*
- Abraham's descendants who only possess his fleshly resemblance are NOT God's Children.
- Only with his spiritual character counted as seed

Children of Flesh or Children of Promise

- *For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, 24 which things are symbolic.*

Gal 4:22-24

- Abraham had two sons.
- One by bondwoman (Hagar) (born after the flesh)
- One by freewoman (Sarah) (born through promise)
- symbolic (*allegoréo* – to illustrate principles)
- *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.*

Ishmael and Isaac Illustrate Principles

- *But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.*
- *And even so it had always been:*
- *You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, Acts 7:51-53*

They are Not all Israel of Israel

- *(for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), Rom 9:11-12*
- The only reason God did this was to reveal that physical fleshly children were never what made them children of Abraham.
- The rest of this chapter unveils this allegory and reveals one aspect of God's eternal purpose.

Vessels of Wrath / Vessels of Mercy

- *What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? Rom 9:22-24*
- Vessels of wrath fitted for destruction Acts 7:51
- Vessels of mercy prepared for glory
- Even us whom he called not just from Jews but also from Gentiles.

Vessel's of Wrath fitted for Destruction

- The Pharisees proclaimed to Jesus , *“Abraham is our father.”*
- Jesus, pointed out the very error the Holy Spirit used Paul in Romans 9-11
- *“If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.”*
- Jesus then revealed the bitter truth to them. Even though you are of Israel, you are not spiritual children of Abraham.
- *“You do the deeds of your father.” “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.”* (Jn. 8:39-45).

Abraham – Vessels of Mercy

- Abraham would become the father of all children of Promise.
- *And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, **that he might be the father of all those who believe**, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but **who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had** while still uncircumcised. Rom 4:11-12*
- *Not based on fleshly but spiritual resemblance.*

The Spiritual Descendants (of Promise)

- *“Therefore know that **only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.**” Gal. 3:7*
- *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ **have put on Christ.** ... 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 seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

A Father of Many Nations

- *Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all 17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") Rom 4:16-17*
- Those with Abraham's spiritual characteristics are the children of promise. Those who "are of the faith of Abraham who is the father of us all (All Christians) as it is written I have made you the father of many nations.

Abraham's Spiritual Characteristics.

- Everything God told Abraham to do, he did as soon as possible and exactly as God asked
- Three are recorded as examples for us.
- **God called him at the age of 75**, (Heb 11:8-10; Acts 7:2-5), he went.
- **God made him wait until 99**, and no longer possible to have a son, Abraham never wavered, but always and completely trusted God to fulfill His promise. (Rom. 4:16-32).
- **God asked him to offer his son and the promises** Isaac represented as a sacrifice, (Jas. 2:20-24), he got up the next day and did exactly what God asked him to do.

Look To Abraham

- *"Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug. 2 Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him." Isa 51:1-2*
- Abraham is the father of all the elect.
- God promised Him and it is fixed.
- If we want to be true children of promise like Isaac was, then we must have the same spiritual qualities.

Abraham's Two Lines

- The vessels of wrath fitted for destruction.
- All of Abraham's seed who refused to become his true sons of faith.
- The vessels of mercy prepared for glory
- All of Abraham's seed due to spiritual likeness. Children of promise because only God can draw them and make them.
- Both are based on free will choices and decisions.

Both Elections Based on Abraham

- *“get out of your country, from your family, and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you,”*
- *God promised: I will make you a great nation And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*
- *Once in Canaan, covenant promise sealed. Then oath:*
- *“By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son,” “I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore” and “in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” (Gen. 22:16-19). Promise and oath Christ to come through the nation of Abraham’s descendants.*

Fleshly Israel “as the sand of the sea”

- *Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. Rom 9:27*
- From the call out of Egypt, until Rome destroyed them in AD 70, a small remnant in each generation were the true spiritual children of Abraham.
- God used these “*elect according to grace*” as “*vessels of honor*” and “*vessels of mercy.*”
- Spiritual descendants doing everything God asked them to do in a humble and submissive way. Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Elijah and Elisha, and all the prophets, and it is why they all did His will. “*walking in his steps*” and doing the “*works of Abraham.*”

Abraham's Fleshly Children

- stubbornly refused to become part of God's scheme of redemption,
- God therefore elected them to bring salvation to His true elect ones.
- This is what the Holy Spirit revealed in the first gospel sermon:
- *“Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.”*
(Acts 2:23)

Abraham's Fleshly children

- God had “*endured with much longsuffering*” those “*who were Israel, but not of Israel.*”
- Even with all that God had done to keep them from it, they had only made themselves “*vessels of wrath prepared for destruction.*”
- He had “*endured with much longsuffering*” through the centuries, but would now use them “*that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles.*” (Rom. 9:22-24).

The Terrible Contrast

- those who were only used for “*God’s purpose of election*” (Rom. 9:11), and those who were part of the “*election of grace.*” (Rom. 11:5).
- Beginning with Abel, Enoch and Noah, God worked out His “*election of grace*” and has continued to do so right up until today.
- All who have Abraham’s spiritual characteristics of Abraham are “*elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father.*” “*God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel.* (2Th. 2:13-14).

- Therefore, all who “*were baptized into Christ,*” are “*Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*” for “*we brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.*” (Gal. 3:27-29; 4:29).
- Thus like Isaac, true “*children of promise*” are brought to Abraham, by the power of God through the gospel.
- Those who reject the gospel do so because they refuse to submit to God’s eternal purpose.