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Genesis Chapter 12b Dividing, Electing and Separating

Last week as we ventured into the 12th chapter of the book of Genesis, we spoke a lot about Abram and who he was, and why it was that God had chosen him to be the father of all nations in the first place. And so, before we move forward into Genesis chapter 12 I just want to once again share with you the Scripture that tells us very clearly why it was that God chose Abram to be the father of all nations. Once again just to refresh our memories let's turn back to Genesis chapter 26 versus four and five:

Gen 26:4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,

Gen 26:5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

Once again, we can see that Abraham had found favor in the eyes of our Father in Heaven by obeying his voice, keeping his charge, keeping his commandments, and his statutes and his laws. Too many modern-day professing Christians today will wrongly proclaim that obeying our Father's voice and keeping his charge and keeping his commandments and his statutes and his laws is absolutely worthless because all of his commandments, statutes, and laws have all been nailed to the cross. Many of today's modern-day denominational charters of men wrongly teach their congregants, and those who have chosen to follow after them, that works are dead, and that there are no works anymore today within the confines of their newfound dispensational state of grace that they have concocted for themselves. But as for those of us who abide by our God breathed Scriptures... we clearly understand that just as James the brother of our Messiah clearly states in the book of James, and I quote, "*just as the body apart from the spirit is dead... So too, is faith without works is dead.*" Let's turn to James chapter 2 versus 20 through 26:

Jas 2:20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

Jas 2:22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

Jas 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.

Jas 2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Jas 2:25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she

received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

Jas 2:26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

This is becoming a tough pill to swallow for many modern-day Christians because their denominational charters of men, and their so-called early church fathers, and their prestigious Bible commentators and councils of men have all taught them the exact opposite of what our God breathed Scriptures clearly tell us.

And so, I just want us to once again be fully aware... as we walk through our father's Torah, what it is that has always made man righteous in the eyes of God. Man's tongue, and what it says has never been what makes man righteous in the eyes of God. Man's tongue, can say anything, and often does, but what really tells God what's in the heart of a man, is the fruit that he bears. The tongue of a man alone will never be able to please the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. Let's turn to Matthew chapter 15 versus eight and nine:

Mat 15:8 "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;

Mat 15:9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

You see the mouth of a man and his tongue will often times not tell us what's in his heart, but his actions will. The fruit that a man bears is what tells God what is in his heart and what is not. Let's turn back to the red-letter words of our Messiah found in Matthew chapter 7 versus 15 through 20:

Mat 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Mat 7:16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Mat 7:17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.

Mat 7:18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

Mat 7:19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Mat 7:20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

And so, I ask you plainly my friends, if a Christian knows and understands these red-letter words... how then can he ever say that works are dead? How can a true Christian ever proclaim to anyone that our works have been nailed to some tree somewhere? Abraham knew full well that the law of our Father in Heaven is perfect. Abraham knew full well how important the precepts of our Father in Heaven were back then, and would be throughout all of time. Let's turn to Psalms chapter 19 versus seven through 11:

Psa 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Psa 19:8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

Psa 19:9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

Psa 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Psa 19:11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

You won't find too many modern-day pastors priests, bishops or Pope's proclaiming the truth of Scripture found in the book of Psalms. For a clearer picture as to how important our Father's laws, commandments, and appointments were to David... a man who is said to have been after God's own heart, each and every modern-day Christian should take the time to sit down and read through Psalms 119. If you have been preprogrammed to think that God's law is nothing but a burden to mankind and some kind of curse... do yourself and your family a favor and take the time to sit down and read Psalms 119. The love of God's word (which is his law) is indeed the biblical definition of the love of God according to first John 5:3, and it saddens my heart to think about how many modern-day professing Christians have been wrongly preprogrammed to believe that our Father's laws are nothing more than a curse that our Messiah has somehow wrongly nailed to the cross that took his life.

And so, if we're going to understand our Father's Torah at all... we must first understand that his Torah is his word, and that his word is his law. And our Father's word, which is his law, are indeed the essence of who our Father in Heaven is. This biblical truth has been hidden, and all but erased from the biblical narrative by the lying tongues and the mouths of men. And I want us to understand how dangerous and how deadly the tongues of men can be according to our God breathed Scriptures. Let's turn to the book of James chapter 3 versus one through 10:

Jas 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Jas 3:2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

Jas 3:3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

Jas 3:4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

Jas 3:5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

Jas 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

Jas 3:7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,

Jas 3:8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Jas 3:9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

Jas 3:10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

I tell you the truth my friends, the tongues of today's modern-day pastors, priests, bishops and popes have done more damage to the truth of God's word than any other people on the face of the earth. With their tongues they build denominational empires of dirt. With their tongues they set ablaze the very pages of their very own Bibles so that they can rewrite those pages with more words that come from their very own tongues. It is not the tongue of God that they seek after or listen too, or hear. It is their own tongues that they love to hear, and it is their own tongues that not only condemn them... but will ultimately condemn and destroy all those who listen to the rotten fruit that their tongues continuously utter.

And so, as we continue through Genesis chapter 12 and on into our Father's Torah, I want us to reflect upon what we are reading... versus... what we have been taught in the past. I want us to contrast what we are hearing in these God breathed Scriptures to what men have been telling us for generations, and I want us to realize the stark differences between the two.

Let's turn back to Genesis chapter 12 verses one through three:

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

Gen 12:2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

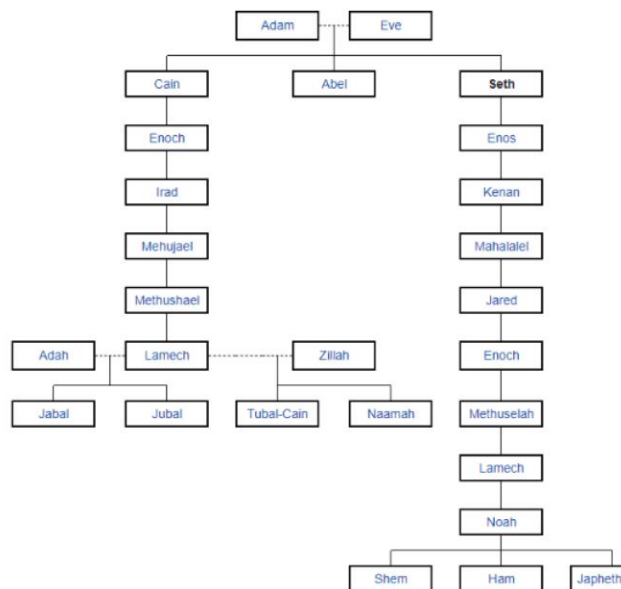
Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

In verses one through three God makes Abram several promises. One of the first things that God promises Abram is that he will make him a great nation, I want us to see very clearly here that so far Abram has done nothing to really deserve the blessings that are being bestowed upon him. Everything that Abram receives is given to him by the grace of God, and this is extremely important for us to understand. God also tells Abram that he will bless those who bless him and that he will curse those who curse him and that all the families of the earth shall be blessed through him.

I want to stop here for just a moment and I want us to contemplate what is being said here because this is massively important to understand. This is a serious warning from our Father in Heaven that goes out to all people throughout the whole world and throughout all of time. Our Father in Heaven is warning the world in Genesis chapter 12 verses two and three that he will bless all of the people of the world who bless Abraham, and that he will curse all the people of the world who dishonor Abraham... and not only Abraham... but the nation that he will soon become. If you curse the seed of Abraham, you are cursing Abraham because the seed of Abraham is indeed of Abraham. Our Father in Heaven tells us very clearly that he will indeed judge those who align themselves against Abraham which also include his seed who are his

descendants.

What's also massively important to understand about this Scripture is that not all of Abraham's descendants have this special blessing and warning attached to them. Abraham would eventually have many children, but only one of his children will be the line that leads to the house of Israel. As we have already seen before all throughout our Father's Torah... our Father is constantly dividing, and electing, and separating. That's what our Father does, he divides, he elects, and separates and he drills down through the chaff to get to the wheat. I want us very quickly to take a look at this chart that shows us the lineage of Abraham and how God has divided and elected and separated his people all throughout Abram's lineage.



Abraham came from the line of Peleg, who was divided and elected from the line of Shem, who was divided and elected from the line of Noah, who was divided and elected from the line of Seth, who was divided and elected from the line of Adam. And so, we see this rather long line of people that our Father has divided and elected, and I would submit to you my friends that our Father in Heaven to this very day... is still extremely busy dividing, electing, and separating. Let's turn very quickly to the new Testaments of the we can see this concept being played out in the red-letter words of our Messiah found in Matthew chapter 10 verses 34 through 39:

Mat 10:34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Mat 10:35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

Mat 10:36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

Mat 10:37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Mat 10:38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Mat 10:39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Dividing, selecting, and separating is exactly how our father in heaven drills down through the wickedness of mankind and the offspring of the serpent, to find his children and to lead them back to himself, and his only begotten son was well aware of this technique.

In Genesis chapter 12 verse two, God tells Abraham that he will make a great nation out of him, but he also tells him that he is going to make his name “great” so that he will be a blessing. And I just want to again remind us again, that even in our time 4000 years later, more than half of the population of this planet is represented by three monotheistic religions that have ultimately sprung up through Christianity. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all revere the name of Abraham as being “great”. And so once again we see the prophetic implications of Genesis chapter 2 even in our day over four thousand years later.

Another point that I’d like to make is that God told Abram in verse three, that through Abram he would make all the families of the earth to be blessed. This promise that God made to Abram extends to all who believe, and have faith in his seed, who is Yeshua, Jesus our Messiah, and we’ve already covered that in Galatians chapter 3 verse 16, but I would also like to remind us of what it says in the back half of the book in Galatians chapter 3 versus 27 through 29:

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

And so, once again we can see the spiritual implications of this very special promise being made to Abraham in the book of Genesis chapter 12 verses one through three. It is this very promise that was made over 4000 years ago, that is deeply woven into the fabric of salvation offered to men today. And to better understand this, we need to understand the importance of a “covenant” according to Scripture.

I would submit to you my friends that many modern-day professing Christians today have no idea what the biblical definition of a “covenant” even is, according to Scripture, and the reason that they don’t understand the importance of what a “covenant” is according to Scripture, is because most of today’s modern-day professing Christians have all been conveniently programmed not to read the beginning of the book, because they have been pre-programmed to believe that the beginning of the book has all been nailed to the cross according to their denominational charters of men and their so-called “early church fathers”.

It’s tectonically important that we understand what a “covenant” is, because it is through the “covenants” of God that he set apart the house of Israel, and it is through the “covenants” of God, that we as his people have the hope of salvation. Our 21st-century Western culture has a

very different idea of what a “covenant” is.. compared to... the proper biblical understanding of what a “covenant” is. And this is important to realize.

There are indeed different types of “covenants” that can be found within the pages of our Scripture. A biblical “covenant” could be made by mutual agreement, where both parties have obligations to fulfill a covenant. Some covenants are made by one party to the other, and only the one party has a responsibility to keep the covenant. A covenant can also be imposed upon a nation, or a single person as God sees fit, and so the first thing we need to understand is there are different types of covenants found within the pages of our Scripture.

Our 21st-century Western culture often times thinks of a “covenant” as a promise or a contract that has been made within the framework of our judicial systems. We think of a “covenant” as something like a wedding vow that a court of law can invalidate or change... or that men and women can break, (and often do in a fairly consistent basis.) Governments form constitutions which are direct contracts with their people, and then they amended them or change them it will, or they overthrow these constitutions, and sometimes start all over again. When we talk about a “covenant” we often times think in our 21st-century Western thinking, that people can mutually or unilaterally change their mind and simply dissolve or disavow a contract or promise or a “covenant”, but this in no way describes the Hebraic, scriptural definition of a biblical “covenant”.

The Hebrew word for covenant is “Brit” which comes from the Hebrew root word “Barah, which means to “cut or divide”, and we’ll talk more about the significance of this as we move forward. The Greek word for “covenant” is “diatheke”, and this Greek word misses the mark rather substantially as a translation of the Hebrew word “B’rit”.

What we must understand is that the Hebrew Bible is about two thirds of the number of pages of an English Bible. And that should give us a clue about translation difficulties when trying to translate the Hebrew language into the English language. There are some Hebrew words that can directly correlate to an English word, but there are also Hebrew words that cannot directly correlate or be translated into a single English word because there is no English word to describe it, and so often times translators have to use several English words to translate one Hebrew word, and this can become not only difficult, but also confusing for the reader of an English translated Bible to understand. For example, the word “Yom” in Hebrew means “day” in English. So, the Hebrew word “Yom” is very easy to translate into English, however the Hebrew word “shalom” does not exist in the Greek or the English languages. There is no Greek or English word for the Hebrew word “shalom”, so our Bible translators try to get as close to it as they possibly can by using a series of words to try to get the concept across to the reader. To describe the Hebrew word “shalom” translators will often times use words like “peace and grace”, but peace and grace just scratch the surface of what the single word “shalom” means to the Hebrew mind.

Another problem that many of our English translators have had is that they have no

understanding of the culture behind the Hebrew language that they are trying to translate from, and this also creates another stumbling block for translators who are trying to translate the Hebrew language into the English language. One of the major differences between the typical Christian understanding of a “covenant”, and what the Scripture means by that word, is that a biblical covenant is permanent, unless it is clearly stated to only be conditional. We see both conditional, and permanent covenants within our Scripture. A permanent covenant cannot be retracted, and a conditional covenant can. Another very clear difference is that the penalty for breaking a biblical covenant was usually extremely severe and often times called for the death of whoever broke that particular covenant.

A God instituted, biblical covenant literally becomes a physical law of the universe just like gravity or the speed of light, or the laws of thermodynamics. The Hebrew people understood this concept very clearly. The Hebrew word “B’rit” that they use for “covenant” is also used to indicate the “laws of nature”. When God makes a covenant with his creation, that covenant is woven into the very fabric of both space and time... it affects how the universe operates, and it also has an effect in the spiritual realm as well, because the spiritual realm is the source of a God made a covenant.

For example: when God first made the universe, there was no death. The laws of the universe (that many of us call the laws of nature) were such, that everything that was created was to exist forever. But, upon the fall of man, and what took place in the garden... Something changed. Death entered the world when Adam and Eve fell from grace.

What’s important to understand, is that our Father in Heaven often times uses patterns to reveal things to us. We know that the fall of Satan occurred sometime before Adam’s fall, because Satan had already been exiled to the earth by the time Adam and his wife Eve had arrived. Satan’s crime against God was pride and rebellion and this crime first occurred in the spiritual realm and not in the physical realm that we know of today. But, this sin that took place against God in the spiritual world, directly affected what happened here in our physical world as well.

Satan’s fall caused God to change the way his universe operated. After the fall of Satan everything that existed would now start to deteriorate and to die in our world without exception. Sometime later when Adam and Eve arrived on earth, Satan infected them with the plague of sin, which brought death to everything living. Since that point in time, the whole universe, except for the spiritual realm, was decaying. Time itself is essentially the measurement of decay. If there is no decay, there is no time. On earth, the wind and the rain erode mountain tops and seashores. The sun has a finite amount of fuel and it will eventually also decay and run out of that fuel. Everything physical is slowly but surely dissolving back towards its basic elemental makeup. God clearly told Adam and Eve, that if they took of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil that they would surely die, but they chose not to listen to what God told them.

Sin, can be thought of as a computer virus. The system runs well until infected with a virus that ultimately kills the system. It’s the same way with the human plague. Sin is a virus. Sin is a

plague among humanity Satan brought that virus... that plague... with him to the earth and infected man with it along with his fallen Angels that were condemned to the earth.

I want us to think for just a moment. Why is man here on earth? Why did God make man in his own image? Why does God call us his children? Our Father in Heaven is read duplicating himself. A man's children grow up in his ways according to the things that that man teaches them. Our Messiah was a perfect example, in fact he is the example that we are told to follow. Where did our Messiah windup? He wound up sitting at the right hand of God his Father. Our Messiah was raised up by his Father to be like his Father, and our Messiah wants us to be raised up to also be like him, and to be like his Father just like he is. Our Messiah was a man who was raised up by our Father to have all authority in heaven and on earth. And who is it that is going to rule and reign with him according to the Scripture? Let's turn to Revelation chapter 20 verse 4 through 6:

Rev 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

If our Father in Heaven knew the difference between light and dark. If our Father in Heaven was well educated in the differences between good and evil... and if our Father in Heaven new how to defeat evil with good... does it not seem to make sense, that he would also want his children to know the difference between the light and the darkness, and between good and evil? As difficult as the lesson may be... we are being schooled in spiritual warfare. We are in training to be his priests. We are in training to be those who will rule and reign over the nations with our Messiah during his millennial reign. And so, there is much to consider here, and there is much that the spirit needs to know and to understand so that we can comprehend the importance of the office that we hold, and the office that we will be soon given when he returns. God was simply re-creating himself through his children. We are to be "perfect" even as he is perfect. Matthew chapter 5 verse 48:

Mat 5:48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

A "covenant" that is put forth by the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob is much like gravity. Even if we don't know exactly how gravity works, we know a lot about what it does. Gravity causes our feet to stay on the ground. It is a law or "covenant" of nature put forth by God himself. If, one-day gravity were to disappear... think about how this would change. And

not only the earth... but how the planets revolve around one another. How this would affect the universe!? Without gravity we would all float off into the sky never to be heard of again. Without gravity the tides of the earth would not come in and out, the moon would no longer make its rounds with the sun. Plants and all living things on the earth would die and the ramifications would just go on and on and on, all because one law of nature, or one covenant that God had enacted from the beginning of time was changed. This is much how a covenant that is put forth by God works.

If God is going to communicate with man, it must be in terms that man can understand. And I would submit to you that in the beginning, man understood what a covenant was, and especially a covenant that came from the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. We're told in our Scripture that God cannot tell a lie. In the beginning when man made a covenant with another man it looked an awful lot like the covenants that God made with man. In the beginning of time man did not simply put his John Hancock on a piece of paper and shake another man's hand. A "covenant" or contract had many different symbiology's and rituals attached to it. Remember the Hebrew word for covenant is "B'rit" which again means to "cut or divide".

In the beginning when men would make a covenant with each other it involved each party cutting their arm with a knife and then holding the cuts together to signify mixing the blood. In some early cultures the covenant involved each party literally sucking the blood out of the other party's arm and ingesting it in order to seal the covenant which signified that the covenant was now live in both parties. During a covenant between two men solemn oaths were sworn invoking the name of the God that each party worshiped. A covenant was not just some frivolous thing that men did on a whim. Back then, a covenant was seen as sacred... and both blood and God were always at the center of the ceremony.

In time the tradition of covenant making evolved into cutting animals instead of each other. And generally speaking, this meant killing the animal and cutting it up into separate pieces. These pieces would then be laid out on the ground in a very specific way and separated into two groups... and then both parties of the covenant would walk in-between the pieces of animals while swearing an oath in the name of their God.

Blood was always an important part of covenant making because it was always known that life is in the blood. The covenant therefore would be lifelong, and the participants considered themselves to have been joined together as one flesh in agreement according to that particular covenant. Consider what is written in the book of Leviticus chapter 17 verse 11:

Lev 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

Understanding this will help us to understand why many of the sacrifices that were made at the Temple involved slaughtering an innocent animal. And we must remember that when a covenant was made between two men back then, the penalty for breaking that covenant was

often death. So once again a “covenant” in biblical times meant something very different than a “contract” between two men today. Men today think nothing of breaking a contract or a vow. We do it all the time and think nothing of it, but in the beginning a “covenant” or “contract” between God and man, or even between two men, meant something altogether very different.

Salt was also a very big part of covenant making. Salt was a way of sealing the deal so to speak. Salt was considered a symbol of peace. When the salt was partaken of, the covenant process was completed, much like we complete a contract today by signing our names to the paperwork. After the arrival of Moses came into the picture and he received the Torah in written form on mount Sinai, and the sacrificial system was instituted, God instructed the Levites to always add salt to the sacrifices. The God ordained practice of sprinkling salt on the sacrifices was to remind Israel that the covenants between God and Israel were everlasting, and, that these covenants were being used in order to make peace between God and the house of Israel.

As we walk through the Torah we’ll see some of these covenants, ceremonies and procedures being played out throughout our Scripture but I also want to mention of how the symbolism of salt is used in the New Testament. Let’s turn to Mark chapter 9 versus 49 and 50:

Mar 9:49 For everyone will be salted with fire.

Mar 9:50 Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Our Messiah also tells us that we are the salt of the earth, and Paul tells us to let our speech be gracious, always seasoned with salt. Once again, we see the symbology of salt as being the conclusion of a covenant that represents peace and purity. So, it’s important for us to understand that when we see the word “salt” in the Scripture, we need to understand that in the mind of the Hebrew author, something of great holiness in relation to a covenant or a sacrifice is being referred to.

So now that we have a better understanding of what a biblical “covenant” was really all about, let’s go back to the terms of the covenant that God made with Abraham, and let’s remember that this was not a conditional covenant. This promise that God made with Abraham was a permanent covenant which means that it was indeed forever.

In Genesis chapter 12 verses one through three we see that God made a covenant with Abram and told him that he would be a great nation and that he would bless him and make his name great so that he would be a blessing. God also told Abram that he would bless those who blessed him, and that he would curse those who cursed Abram, and through Abram all the families of the earth would be blessed. This covenant between the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and Abram and his descendants is just as much a law of the universe as gravity itself. God does not simply run around making covenants frivolously or carelessly. We have to remember that God spoke things into creation... God said... And it was so.

And so, it should be important for us to understand who Israel is today. Who are the descendants of Abraham that are under this Abrahamic covenant that God made with Abraham? Some people say that it's the people who live in the geological area of Israel. Some people say that it is we who have been grafted into The House of Israel. Some people say that it's only the Jews. And some poor lost denominational charters of men even proclaim that it's their new found Gentile church who have replaced those nasty old Jews who hung their Jesus on the cross. Of course, for those of us who have studied the Scripture... we know full well by whose hands our Messiah was nailed to the cross, and it was not at the hands of the Jews, but by the hands of the Gentiles. His crucifixion was instigated and brought forth by Jewish people, but the actual wicked deed of the crucifixion itself was carried out by the hands of the Gentile Roman soldiers. So, in other words, no human being, whether they be Jew or Gentile is innocent of the blood that was shed at that cross, not to mention the fact that anyone who reads the Scripture for themselves will surely know and understand that there is no such thing as a "new Gentile church". Nowhere in any of the 66 books of the Bible does God ever call any people "his people" other than "The House of Israel," and according to Romans 11, Galatians chapter 3, Jeremiah 31, Numbers, Exodus, and the rest of the Scriptures, if you are not grafted into the Olive tree that is The House of Israel... then you are not the Messiah's. If you are not doing the will of his Father in Heaven you are not the Messiah's, according to the Messiah and his own red-letter words found in Matthew chapter 7 verse 21. And so according to the Scripture, and the Scripture alone, the descendants of the seed of Abraham are those who have picked up their crosses and have made a conscious decision to follow the Messiah who is Yeshua Hamashiach, Jesus our Messiah.

But what we must also remember is what the apostle Paul wrote very clearly in the 11th chapter of the book of Romans. Let's turn to Romans chapter 11 verses 25 through 32:

Rom 11:25 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Rom 11:26 And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";

Rom 11:27 "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

Rom 11:28 As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.

Rom 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Rom 11:30 For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience,

Rom 11:31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.

Rom 11:32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

This Scripture is all about the Jews my friends as well as the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and just as were told in Romans chapter 11 verse 26 and I quote... "All Israel will indeed be

saved". They are enemies for our sake, but as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers, and notice what it says in verse 29 (which is exactly what we've been talking about concerning covenants) "*for the gifts and the calling of God are your revocable.*", Which means they are forever. We must also remember that it is written and I quote, "*first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*" And we also know that our Father in Heaven has put his name in Jerusalem. Let's turn to second Chronicles chapter 6 verse six:

2Ch 6:6 *but I have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.'*

Lets also turn to second Kings chapter 21 verse four:

2Ki 21:4 *And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem will I put my name."*

And so, it should be clear to us that anyone who stands against Abraham or his seed will be cursed by the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, and that there are both Jew and grafted in Gentiles who are both part of Israel that are now living in the land of Israel where Jerusalem resides, which is where our Father has put his name. Should we support the Jew that is now living in Israel? According to the apostle Paul in Romans chapter 11 and all throughout the Scripture... the very evident answer to that question is indeed "yes we should."

We should know that it is written in our Scripture that all Israel will be saved, and that includes many of the Jews who are rejecting our Messiah right now as we speak. They are enemies for your sake. But, as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. He has called them and them alone as his people. We are either grafted into them or we are not. For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

And so, just because the Jew has become our enemy for a time... we should understand that God's plan includes them just as much as it includes those of us who have been grafted into the house of Israel, so too will they be grafted back into the original Olive tree. Those who curse Abraham and his descendants, God will indeed curse. Those people who are persecuting us now today in our time are causing themselves to be cursed by God. Cursing someone who is of the body of the Messiah is like dumping hot coals on top of your head. They may not know it now, because they are ignorant and unstudied, but they will know it soon enough, when he returns to sweep the threshing floor clean and to burn the chaff and to take the wheat into his barn.

We do not pray for the political nonsense that Israel does. We do not pray for the wicked things that are being done within the land of Israel, but we do pray for both Jew and Gentile that have been grafted into the Olive tree that is the house of Israel in the land of Jerusalem where the

name of our Father resides to this very day. And we'll talk more about this in some detail next week on Wednesday evening at 7 PM Eastern standard time... live, right here on Holy Impact Ministries Bible Study Night.