

The Seed of Abraham

by Hendrik Joubert

One thing that was very important to the Jews of the time of Christ was the fact that they were descendants of Abraham – ***They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." John 8:39.*** This was because of the promise God made to Abraham: ***"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." Genesis 22:18.*** The original blessing is recorded in **Genesis 12:3** "...***And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.***", but in **22:18** we find the "***in your seed***" phrase, the meaning of which is explained by Paul in his letter to the Galatians: ***Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. Galatians 3:16.***

Over the years it became obvious that the Jews considered this promise as referring to them as a nation, and that ***restoring the kingdom to*** was going to be part of the fulfillment of this ***seed*** promise. Their concept of the Messiah seems to be of One who would sit on a physical throne so that they would rule with Him over the nations of the world. They also believed this physical reign would be endless: ***The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, "The Son of Man must be lifted up"? Who is this Son of Man?" John 12:34.*** Up until the last moment before the Lord Jesus left this earth even the eleven asked: ***"Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to ?" Acts 1:6.***

A physical reign in was what they had in mind, as do many people in our age, in spite of the Lord declaring: ***"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." John 18:36.*** Earlier in His ministry, after He took care of a physical need in a miraculous way, the people were ready to make Him king ***by force***: ***So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone. John 6:15.***

Those who want a physical kingdom in for a thousand years, suppose that the Jews were not ready for Him to become King, so He departed to try again, more forcefully, next time around. Then He will bring an army to fight, something He said His servants would be doing ***if His kingdom were from this world.*** Some are insisting on a ***physical*** kingdom with a ***physical*** battle, and they are insisting that the Messiah, the Son of God Almighty, failed with His first attempt.

This physical kingdom is forced in before His faithful servants get to spend eternity with Him. The church, a spiritual kingdom to which Peter and the apostles received the keys, ***cut*** in heaven (**Matthew 16:18-19**), is considered a makeshift alternative while the Lord departed before He would try again. They insist that He failed at the first attempt, in spite of the numerous prophecies He fulfilled in the process of bringing the blessing of salvation for ***all the nations of the earth.*** The Lord did fail to fulfill their interpretation, just as He failed to fulfill the views of the Jews, causing Him to be crucified – fulfilling prophecies announced many years before.

Another fact that seems to go by unnoticed is who the true descendants of Abraham really are. It is determined by faith, and not by physical lineage: ***Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 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. Galatians 3:7. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise. Galatians 3:28-29***

The seed promise in its true meaning, therefore was already an indication that His kingdom was not going to be of this world – it had a spiritual meaning right from the outset. When the Helper, the Holy Spirit came to remind the Lord of all He taught them, (**John 14:25-26**) and to reveal all the truth to them, (**John 16:12-13**) the apostles obeyed the great commission, to preach the gospel of the good news of salvation in Christ to all nations. He said to them, ***"It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*** Acts 1:7-8

When the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, they received the keys cut in heaven. (**Matthew 16:19**) Peter was the first to announce the terms on entrance, thus unlocking the doors of ***the kingdom of His beloved Son*** (**Colossians 1:13**), made up of Jew and Gentile. Citizens have been, and still are, ***rescued from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of His beloved Son***, and these are the true seed of Abraham.