

Morning Sermon June 3, 2018  
"I AM, Abraham Questions" John 8:51-59

I. Did or does God's covenant with Abraham bring lasting benefits to the descendants of Abraham who fight against Jesus Christ?

Those who fought with Jesus Christ clung to Abraham, regarding:

1. Freedom –

A. They claim freedom because of being Abraham's descendants – They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?" (John 8:33 NKJ)

B. Jesus calls them slaves of sin –

Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. (John 8:34 NKJ)

2. Identity –

A. They claim being physical descendants of Abraham makes them children of God –

<sup>39</sup> They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." ... (John 8:39 NKJ)

"You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father-- God." (John 8:41 NKJ)

The word might seem to back them -

"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. (Exodus 4:22 NKJ)

B. Jesus admits they are physical descendants of Abraham but fights them about their true identity as Abraham's children –

- Their works (heart) did not match Abraham's -

Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham (John. 8:39 NKJ)

- Their works (heart) match Satan's –

"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the

truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:44 NKJ)

3. Their connection to Abraham and the Covenant promises of God

–

A. Through Abraham all the families of the earth would be blessed I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:3 NKJ)

B. How would those blessing extend from Abraham to the families of the earth? Circumcision, God's covenant sign gives us a hint "and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. (Genesis 17:11 NKJ)

- This was a sign performed upon Abraham and his descendants -

"He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. (Genesis 17:12 NKJ)

Some including the Israelites arguing with Jesus, seem to think this (1) physical descendancy from Abraham + circumcision = Salvation, + unimpeachable guarantee of participation in God's covenant promises

–

C. Yet Jesus says ETERNAL LIFE is through HIM –

"Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." <sup>52</sup> Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' <sup>53</sup> "Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Whom do You make Yourself out to be?" (John 8:51-53 NKJ)

D. Christ is INDEED Greater than Abraham, note:

The covenant sign is performed on Abraham's and his descendants reproductive organs! God does not put the sign on Abraham's ARM to point at the strength of his faith, or on his head to mark his knowledge of God's Word, or on his hand for his works or his feet because of his walk with God! The Covenant Sign is performed on Abraham's

reproductive organ because the SEED of Abraham (singular) would bleed and die for our sin, the sign points to Christ and to no one else ...

E. In Genesis 22 God challenged Abraham to offer up Isaac and by faith and in obedience to Abraham started to do just that, and yet God STOPPED him, why?

- Isaac was the child of promise, not Ishmael -

Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. (Genesis 17:19 NKJ)

- Yet his death would not make all the promises of God available to all men, God would provide a Lamb -

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29 NKJ)

## II. Scripture points to Jesus before Abraham -

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." (John 8:56 NKJ)

Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." (John 8:58 NKJ)

1. Obviously, this points to Jesus eternal Deity, which I have spoken to these past couple weeks - Exodus 3:14; John 1:1-5

2. Yet, He was also before Abraham in Divine revelation - And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15 NKJ)

3. Also, in God's plan for our redemption - ... in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8 NKJ)

4. Christ is key to our receiving Abrahamic Covenant blessings - Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),<sup>14</sup> that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:13-14 NKJ)

## III. Jesus is greater than Abraham ...

1. He is greater than Moses' Manna -

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (Jn. 6:35 NKJ)

2. He is greater than the Shekinah Glory, as He gives even a clearer picture of God -

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12 NKJ)

3. He is Great as the only Door to salvation, and only WAY to the Father -

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. (John 10:9 NKJ) Salvation, Heaven

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6 NKJ) Relationship with God

4. He is superior to David, He is the Good Shepherd -

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. (John 10:11 NKJ)

5. He is superior to Israel, as the True Vine, abide in Him -

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (John 15:1 NKJ)

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5 NKJ)

Israel (apart from Christ) is not the Vine from which we find good fruit or blessings - Isaiah 5:1-6 Jesus speaks against mere physically born "Jews" -

"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. (Revelation 2:9 NKJ) Just like John 8:44

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us-- by me, Silvanus, and Timothy-- was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.<sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. (2 Corinthians 1:19-21 NKJ)

*Arnold A. Brevick*