

# PAUL'S OT

ISRAEL, COVENANT, & COMMUNITY | WEEK 3: SEPT 27, 2015

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## THE COVENANT & ISRAEL

At the heart of Jewish belief is the conviction that the one God, YHWH, who had made the whole world, had called Abraham and his family to belong to him in a special way. The promises God made to Abraham and his family, and the requirements that were laid on them as a result, came to be seen in terms either of the agreement that a king would make with a subject people, or of the marriage bond between husband and wife. One regular way of describing this relationship was 'covenant', which can thus include both promise and law. The covenant was renewed at Mount Sinai with the giving of the Torah; in Deuteronomy before the entry to the Promised Land; and, in a more focused way, with David (e.g. Psalm 89). Jeremiah 31 promises that after the punishment of exile God would make a 'new covenant' with his people, forgiving them and binding them to him more intimately. Jesus believed that this was coming true through his kingdom-proclamation and his death and resurrection. The early Christians developed these ideas in various ways, believing that in Jesus the promises had at last been fulfilled. (Wright 2004, pg.164)

## A HOLY NATION

Holy—to be set apart (Hebrew); different (Greek)

Exodus 19:6

Leviticus 11:44-45

## GALATIANS: DO GENTILES NEED TO BECOME JEWS TO BECOME CHRISTIANS?

- 1) The Crisis in Galatia
- 2) Paul's Apostleship, Authority, & Gospel
- 3) The main argument: Galatians 2-4

Galatians 2:15-21

What are the 'marks' of covenant membership? Faith or 'works of Torah'? Or Both?

Galatians 3:6-9—Gen 15:6; Gen 12:3; Gen 18:18; Gen 22:18

Galatians 3:10—Deut 27:26

Galatians 3:11—Hab 2:4

Galatians 3:12—Lev 18:5

Galatians 3:13—Deut 21:23

Galatians 3:16—Gen 12:7; Gen 13:5-6; Gen 24:7

Galatians 3:17—Ex 12:40

Galatians 3:18—Deut 33:2; Deut 5:5; Ex 20:18-19

Galatians 3:19-4:19

Are you a slave or a son?

Galatians 4:21-31—Gen 16 & 21

Two Women, two covenants

Galatians 5

Freedom 'in Christ'

The 'works of the flesh' vs. the 'fruit of the spirit'

Galatians 6:11-18

Circumcision, Uncircumcision, new creation, & the Israel of God

References:

Gorman, M. J. 2004. *Apostle of the Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction to Paul & His Letters*. Eerdmans. 183-226.

Wright, N. T. 2013. *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*. Fortress Press. 774-1042.

Wright, N. T. 2004. *Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians*. Westminster John Knox Press.

