

An Heir of the World

Romans 4:13-16a

The concept of *Messiah*, the "Anointed One" of God who would one day come to redeem his people from oppression at the beginning of an era of **World Peace** has been the sustaining hope of the Jewish people for more generations than most other nations have even existed. Hassidic Rabbis traverse the Holy Land publicly proclaiming the imminent arrival of King Messiah. These Rabbis explain excitedly that the conflict in the Middle East is setting the stage for the revelation of the Messiah, and that when he comes, the Jews will reign with him. Jews believe **God promised** this to Abraham in the Pentateuch.

I. This is **the promise** within our text . . . "*he should be heir of the world*" (v.13).

The promise to Abraham and his seed, that they would inherit the world, involved three things in the Jewish mind from the time of their father Abraham.

(A). A possession of the land . . . "*I will give to you and your descendants all the land for an everlasting possession*" (Gen. 17:8).

(B). A personal relationship with God . . . "*I will establish my covenant between Me and you and your descendants . . . to be God to you*" (Gen. 17:7).

(C). A position of authority over all people . . .

"Your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies" (Gen.22:17).

The Jews consider themselves the descendants (seed) of Abraham, the Muslims also claim to be the true (seed) of Abraham, and they see the promise for them.

II. This is **the problem** within our text . . . "*Abraham's seed* (descendants)" (v.13).

Who are the true descendants of Abraham? Who are they that shall inherit the world?

"And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise" (Galatians 3:29).

Jews who reject Jesus as their Savior forfeit the promise to be heir of the world, and Gentiles who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior become heirs of the world.

(A). The Jews thought **the promise** came from obedience to the law (v.13-15).

The Mosaic law regulated everything in worship, family, culture and life.

(B). Paul shows that **the promise** comes from the righteousness of faith (v.13-15).

This is the righteousness of God apart from works. It is imputed righteousness.

This is the righteousness of Jesus Christ --- given to those who believe in Him.

The promise to be an heir of the world is given to believers in Jesus Christ.

III. This is **the power** within our text . . . *you are an heir of the world with Christ.*

This means God has given to you all the promises of Israel. What does this mean?

(A). Spiritually --- Canaan is an OT type of heaven -- you have been given this gift.

You have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and "*He that is in you is greater than he (or anyone) that is in the world.*" The Messiah reigns.

(B). Physically --- Have you ever thought of the possibility that heaven may be the inheritance of this earth? "*The meek shall inherit the earth*" Jesus said, and it could be that eternity is enjoyed living here with Christ reigning on His throne.