

FROM SLAVES

TO HEIRS



Lesson 8 for August 19, 2017

SONS AND HEIRS OF GOD (Galatians, 3: 26-29)

GOD SENT HIS SON (Galatians, 4: 4)

**HEIRS BEFORE CHRIST:
SLAVES (Galatians, 4: 1-3)**

**HEIRS AFTER CHRIST:
ADOPTED (Galatians, 4: 5-7)**

TURNING BACK (Galatians, 4: 8-11)

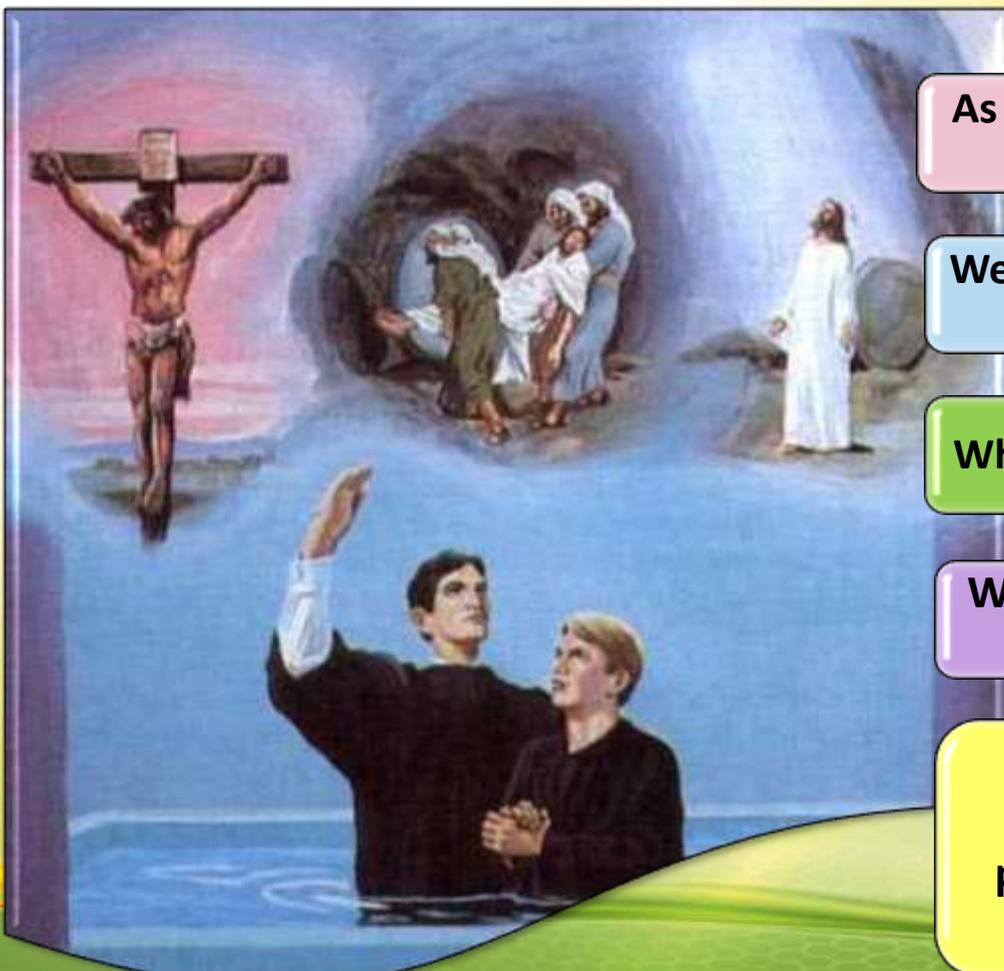


SONS AND HEIRS OF GOD

(Galatians 3:26-29)

“And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:29)

How did we become heirs after being children under a tutor?



As we studied earlier, we are no longer children under a tutor after meeting Jesus (v. 25).

We become adult sons and daughters of God by faith in Christ—without a tutor (v. 26).

When we are baptized, we put on Christ (v. 27).

We are one in Christ; race, social status and gender don't matter anymore (v. 28).

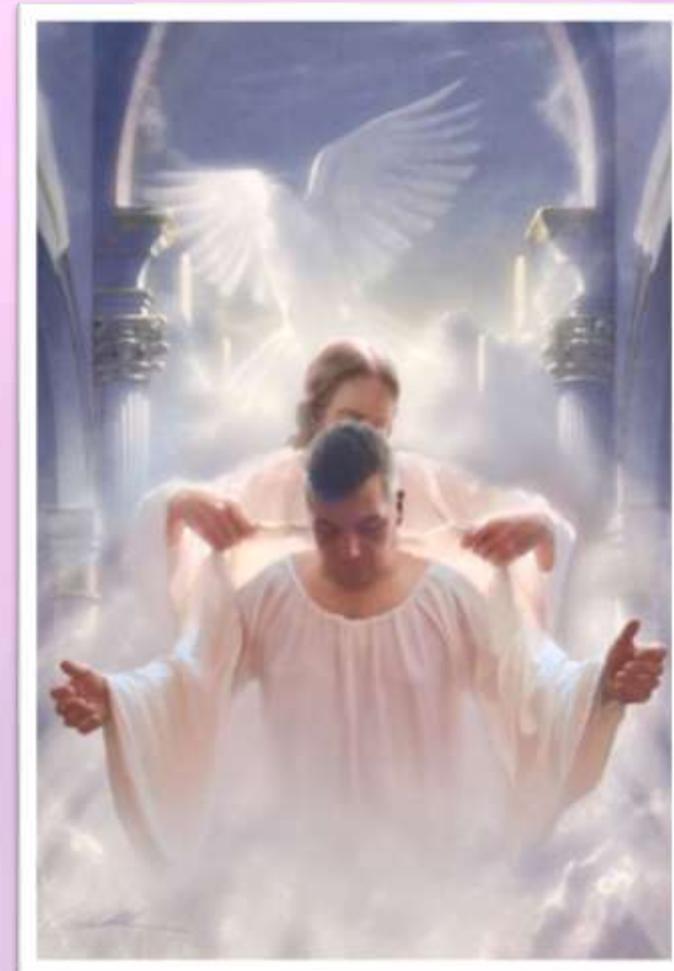
We became sons and daughters of Abraham and “heirs according to the promise.” (v. 29). Now Jews and Gentiles have eternal life in Jesus Christ.

SONS AND HEIRS OF GOD

(Galatians 3:26-29)

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27)

What does putting on Christ mean?



- ❖ **When we're baptized, we take part in Jesus' death and resurrection.**
 - We die to our old life and we are born to a new life in Christ. Now we have a daily relationship with Him and we imitate Him.
- ❖ **We put His robe of justice on.**
 - We are considered just because of His righteousness so we can live according to the Law.
- ❖ **“it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20).**
 - That's the key to a successful Christian life: Christ living in us, showing His spotless life before everyone. The love of Christ compels us (2 Corinthians 5:14) and His righteousness becomes real in our lives (Romans 8: 3-4).

ENSLAVED HEIRS

(Galatians 4:1-3)

"Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all." (Galatians 4:1)

Paul explains a story; a child that inherits the family property when his parents die. Nevertheless, he must be under a tutor and an administrator because he's under age. Therefore, he's actually living like a slave.



That's the kind of heir Israel was before Jesus came. They were "in bondage under the elements of the world." (v. 3).

Those "elements" are the ABC, the basic principles of the faith in this case. They are the ceremonial laws that acted as Israel's tutor. They were a basic gospel, just a shadow of what was to come.



“The sacrificial offerings, and the priesthood of the Jewish system, were instituted to represent the death and mediatorial work of Christ. All those ceremonies had no meaning, and no virtue, only as they related to Christ, who was Himself the foundation of, and who brought into existence the entire system. The Lord had made known to Adam, Abel, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and the ancient worthies, especially Moses, that the ceremonial system of sacrifices and the priesthood, of themselves, were not sufficient to secure the salvation of one soul.”

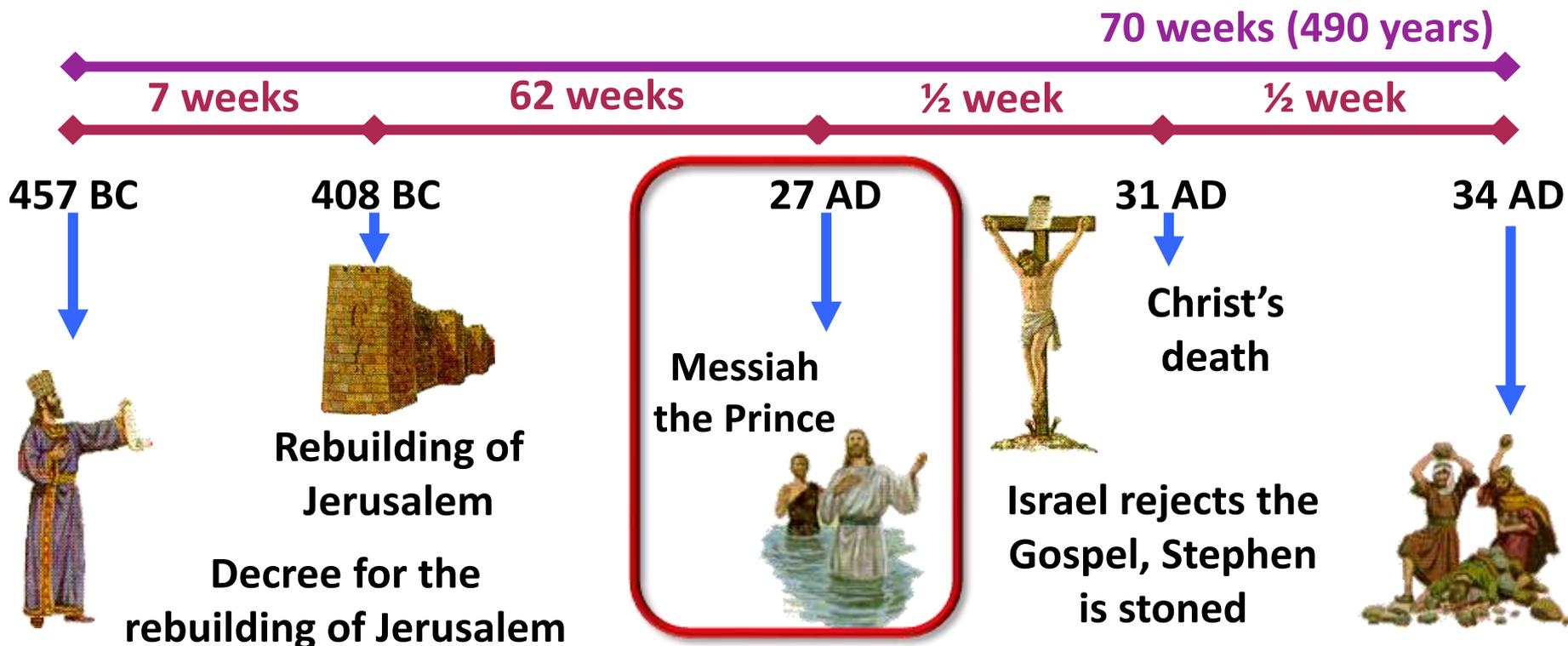
E.G.W. (Lift Him Up, January 10)

GOD SENT HIS SON

(Galatians 4:4)

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.” (Galatians 4:4)

Rome’s conquest of the Mediterranean world brought peace, a common language, favorable means of travel, and a common culture that facilitated the rapid spread of the gospel. From a biblical perspective, it also marked the time that God had set for the coming of the promised Messiah (see Daniel 9:24–27).



GOD SENT HIS SON

(Galatians 4:4)

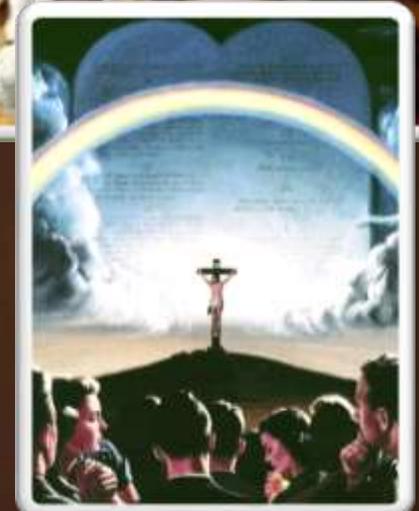
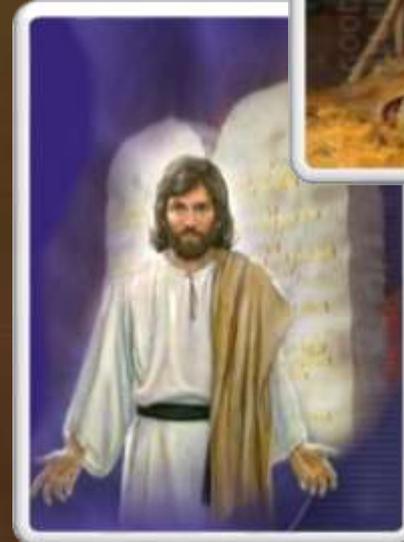
*"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law."
(Galatians 4:4)*

Jesus came to Earth as part of a foretold divine plan, not by chance.

Although He was God, He was born from a woman. He took our humanity to be our legal Substitute, our Savior and our High Priest.

He was born under the Law. He fulfilled its demands and carried our condemnation.

By His death on the cross, He met the justice of the law, which required the death of the sinner, thus gaining the right to redeem all who come to Him in true faith and surrender.



ADOPTED SONS AND DAUGHTERS

(Galatians 4:5-7)

“to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”
(Galatians 4:5)

Jesus bought us at a price—He redeemed us—, so he released us from:

- ✘ The devil and his tricks (Heb. 2:14-15).
- ✘ Death (1Co. 15:26-57).
- ✘ The power of sin that enslaves us (Rom. 6:22).
- ✘ The condemnation of the law (Gal. 4:5)

Which privileges does an adopted child have?

-  He's treated as an authentic son.
-  He's raised properly and his needs are provided.
-  He cannot be repudiated.
-  He cannot become a slave.
-  His original parents cannot demand him back.
-  He has the right to inherit.



TURNING BACK TO SLAVERY

(Galatians 4:8-11)

“But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?” (Galatians 4:9)

Paul showed the Galatians all the benefits of becoming heirs of God by faith in Jesus, so he’s surprised they chose to turn back to the “elements” of the faith. According to verse 10, they decided to keep:

- A. The days (the ceremonial Sabbaths).
- B. The months (the New Moons).
- C. The times (the annual feasts).
- D. The years (the Sabbatical year and the Jubilee).

They were heirs but they rejected their adoption and became slaves again.

If we have a relationship with God based on laws and rules only, we’re missing the privilege of living like **SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD**.



“God wills that all men should be saved; for ample provision has been made, in giving his only-begotten Son to pay man’s ransom. Those who perish will perish because they refuse to be adopted as children of God through Christ Jesus. The pride of man hinders him from accepting the provisions of salvation. But human merit will not admit a soul into the presence of God. That which will make a man acceptable to God is the imparted grace of Christ through faith in his name. No dependence can be placed in works or in happy flights of feelings as evidence that men are chosen of God; for the elect are chosen through Christ.”

E.G.W. (Sings of the times, January 2, 1893)