

JESUS THE SON OF ABRAHAM

Peter Hay, prepared for word ministry, 25 April 2021
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We are to be children of Abraham

In our Bible study today, we will consider how we become 'children of Abraham according to the flesh'.

Recently, in our previous studies, we learned that Yahweh said to Abraham that the heirs of salvation would come from his body, or his flesh.

We made the point that this is a great company of believers who, in this age, are citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, and in the age to come will be the citizens of the new heavens and earth.

It is important for us to understand that no-one will be a citizen of the new heavens and earth unless they are a citizen of the heavenly Jerusalem in this age, which means that they are a son or daughter of Abraham.

Unless we are children of Abraham, we will not be citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, and we will not enter heaven as citizens of the new heavens and earth.

Genetic connection does not make us children of Abraham

This is an important subject for us to understand, but it also raises for us some significant questions.

How do we become Abraham's children according to the flesh, if we are not Jews?

It also brings to our attention the words of John the Baptist when he was speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees.

'But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'"'
Mat 3:7-9.

The Jews understood that there was a promise to Abraham and to all of his children. And John the Baptist told them that they were not going to escape the wrath that is coming on the earth simply because they had a genetic connection to Abraham.

'For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones [or from the dust of the earth]. And even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees [The root of the trees means all of humanity]. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire [or we could say taken down and cast out into the lake of fire].' Mat 3:9-10.

John the Baptist was making a major point here.

We understand that we all must be children of Abraham in order to inherit the new heavens and earth. But we are not inheritors of that, nor are we children of Abraham, simply because of a genetic connection to Abraham as part of the nation of the Jews.

We need to understand how we become children of Abraham according to the flesh. What is the process that this involves and what does it mean to be a child of Abraham?

Yahweh Son became Abraham's son in the flesh

We will spend two weeks on this, so we will first speak about Christ, who was Abraham's Seed. Then, in our next session, we will talk about how we become children of Abraham through Christ, as those who are part of His body.

When the word of the Lord came to Abraham, he received faith to believe that Yahweh Son would become his Son in the flesh. Gen 15:1.

He actually understood two things.

First, he understood that Yahweh the Son would become his 'exceedingly great reward' as Abraham's Son, after the flesh.

He also understood that the life of the Son of God would become the life of Abraham's sonship forever, as an eternal inheritance.

These were the two things that Abraham understood the 'exceedingly great reward' to be.

Jesus was to be his Seed, or Son, in whom all of the families of the earth would be blessed.

The Lord said to Abraham, 'In your seed [that's in your child, your descendant] all the nations [or

families] of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.' Gen 22:18.

That could mean in Isaac, couldn't it? It could mean in all of the children following after Abraham. But Paul, in the book of Galatians, made it very clear that when the Father said that to Abraham, He was not talking about Isaac in the first instance. He was talking about Jesus.

'In your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice'. Then Paul wrote, 'Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.' Gal 3:16.

Paul made it very easy for us in this passage in Galatians.

Yahweh the Son became the Son of Man

It is important to understand that Yahweh the Son, before He was the Son of God, was co-equal with Yahweh the Father and Yahweh the Holy Spirit.

He was begotten as the Son of God by the word of the Father, because He had emptied Himself.

He had offered Himself to become the Son of the Father, and the Father said to Him, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.' Heb 1:5.

Yahweh the Son was born, or begotten, by the word of the Father, and became the Son of God through this process.

He was not yet the Son of Man. He was the Son of Man through another process, which is 'incarnation'.

The Son of God became Abraham's son in the flesh through incarnation when Mary, who was the direct descendant of Abraham through King David, gave birth to Jesus. Remember that He was not only the Son of Abraham; He was also the Son of David.

The incarnation occurred when Yahweh Son, who had been begotten as the Son of God, came in the flesh and was born as the Son of Man.

This was proclaimed to Mary through Gabriel, the angel of the Lord.

'Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God [that is sent by the Father] to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed

to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

'And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favoured one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

'But when she saw him, she was troubled [she was unclear about what this word meant for her] at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was [like Abraham when Melchizedek came and blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abraham, possessor of heaven and of earth', and obviously Abraham was troubled by that, because the word came again and said, 'Do not be afraid, Abraham'. That is exactly what happened to Mary].

'Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.

'He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.' Luk 1:26-33.

The word addressed fear in both Abraham and Mary

When Gabriel said to Mary, 'Do not be afraid for you have found favour with God', she received the same gospel that the Lord Himself ministered to Abraham when He said to Abraham, 'Do not be afraid Abram; I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.'

In both cases, the word came and addressed fear, and explained that there was a favour, or a reward.

By the faith that Mary received from the word of the Lord's messenger, she confessed, 'Behold, the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to Your word.' Luk 1:38.

This was the same response of faith that Abraham made. When Abraham received faith, he didn't say, 'All that you say, I will do.' He said, 'How will I know I will inherit?'

In the same manner, Mary did not say, 'I will go and get myself ready to bring forth the Son of God.' She said, 'Let it be to me according to Your word.'

Each day is according to the Scriptures

Those who have been illuminated to see that each day has been 'turned on' by the Holy Spirit, according to a word of the Scriptures, demonstrate that they are availing themselves of the mercy of God by saying, 'Let it be to me according to Your word.'

It is the word that is lighting up our day, granting to us our participation in the grace, or favour, of God.

Instead of saying, 'I am going to do the will of God today', we should be saying, 'Holy Spirit, lead us in all truth and let it be to me according to Your word,' so that all things are working together for good.

This was the very faith of the Son of God that Mary demonstrated, and that Abraham demonstrated, and that we are receiving and are to walk in.

Mary brought forth the Son in whom all the families of the earth are to be blessed. That faith is critical for us in understanding how we become part of this family.

Mary's participation in this was not just constrained to bringing forth the child - it was right through to the conclusion of the Lord's mortal life.

The fall and rise of many is likened to a sword

Simeon prophesied that Mary would be connected to the offering and sufferings of Christ in a very specific way.

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to be dedicated in the temple, and Simeon was led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Child into his arms. He blessed Jesus and then he also blessed Mary.

'Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed".' Luk 2:34-35.

He said that the fall and rise of many in Israel is the outcome of a sign which is likened to a sword. He proclaimed the circumcision of Christ, because he then said, 'A sword will pierce your heart also.'

He said that Mary was not going to escape connection to what the Son of Man had come to deliver to the world. 'Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.'

Every person will have their heart exposed to Him to whom they must give an account.

Abraham became the father of humanity

When Melchizedek blessed Abraham, identifying him as the possessor of heaven and earth, Abraham replaced Adam as the heir of the world. Adam was no longer the heir of the world.

Abraham had replaced the heir of the world, and only sons of Abraham, who are likened to the stars of heaven, would inherit eternal life, or the new heavens and earth.

This meant that Abraham would become the father of a new humanity. Adam's children are all gone; all judged; all dead.

In Abraham, the Lord was establishing a *new* humanity. They were still human, still the sons and daughters of men, but something new was going to be established and it would come to pass through Abraham's Seed, Christ.

Abraham would become the father of the new humanity that would populate the heavens and earth, and only those who were children of Abraham would belong to this new humanity.

Remember, we are not referring to those who are naturally Abraham's children or those with a similar belief system but, rather, it is about how a person becomes connected to his family. Only those who are children of Abraham would belong to this new humanity.

Everyone who remained a son of Adam only, would be forgotten by God in the lake of fire, which is the sea of His forgetfulness.

That is exactly what John the Baptist said to the Pharisees. He said that the axe is already laid to the root of every tree that does not bear good fruit. Every tree that is not bearing forth the fruit of light, which marks them as citizens of this heavenly company that looks like stars, will be cut down and thrown out into the lake of fire. Luk 3:9. That is all of the 'trees' from Adam.

Eternal, spiritual identity comes through procreation

Paul made the distinction between the first Adam – that is, Adam and Eve – and the last Adam. He said that the first Adam was a living soul; and the last Adam, Christ, was a life-giving Spirit. 1Co 15:45.

He identified both of them as ‘Adams’, or another was of saying it is ‘as human’, or ‘as a man’. But the first Adam is finished, and only those who are from the last Adam are inheritors of eternal life.

From the first Adam, which is all of us, the sons and daughters of man are brought into being through procreation.

A mother and a father procreate, and through that process comes not just a biological entity, a little baby in a mother’s tummy, but an *identity* – a spiritual being with a biological body.

The point to note is that that eternal, spiritual identity came into being through a biological process called ‘procreation’. Unless that woman and that man procreated, that identity would not exist.

An eternal spirit, or identity, is created through this process of procreation.

There is no identity, there is no spirit, unless there is procreation; but what comes forth from that process is an eternal spirit. It is not *the* Eternal Spirit from the Holy Spirit; it is a spirit, or an identity, that will *exist forever*.

Biological life expresses our identity

As a living soul, or as an identity, the life of our spirit is from our biological body. When we are talking about life, we are referring to ‘expression’.

How do we know that something is alive? It is because it has communication, or speech; and speech is conversation and conduct.

The life of an identity is an expression, and is through biological life. You are hearing me speak at the moment, I am moving; these are some indicators that my identity is alive.

Unless we are born again from above, when our body dies, or our biology ceases, our spirit, or identity, will exist, but we will no longer have expression. When the biological body is dead, there is no capacity in that body for expression.

It means that we will have awareness, but will have no capacity for the expression of our identity.

That is actually what hell is. That is what life will be like in the lake of fire. Eternal identities will be fully aware, but will be in corrupting and dead bodies that have no capacity for expression.

You can imagine the torment of that! That is not our subject today, but it does explain what it is like when our life is only through biological life.

Adam was a living soul in a biological body, and God said to him that as soon as he left the fellowship of Yahweh and lived only by his biology, he would die forever.

Yahweh Son existed before He was begotten by the word of the Father

Jesus, the last Adam, did not receive His identity through procreation. It was the *virgin* Mary, so obviously there was no procreation.

But that’s not the focal point. The point is that His identity preceded, or existed, *before* He was in the flesh.

Jesus, the last Adam, did not receive His identity through the process of procreation. Furthermore, He did not receive His identity from the Father when He was begotten as the Son of God.

When the Father said, ‘You are My Son, today I have *begotten* You,’ that is *not* when the Son began to exist. For those of you who are aware of the theology of eternal generations, that is absolute nonsense.

How do we know that? It is because the Father was speaking to *someone*. Yahweh Son obviously existed before the Father said this.

God the Son, Yahweh the Son, existed *before* He was begotten by the word of the Father as the Son of God. That was the outcome of offering.

His existence was not dependent on the Father.

This is what it means for the Trinity to be co-equal. But the Son did not grasp for that; He laid down His life to be brought forth by the word of the Father.

Christ’s identity, or Yahweh the Son’s identity, preceded both His birth as Son of God and His birth as Son of Man.

The Son of Man came into being through incarnation

The Son of Man's conception and birth occurred through an entirely different process from procreation. He came into being through *incarnation*. This is the word of God coming into flesh.

That is how John opened His Gospel. He said, 'The word of God became flesh.' Joh 1:14.

So, how was that manifest? The physical body of Jesus was formed in the womb of the virgin Mary once the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Father, who is the source of the word, overshadowed her. Luk 1:35.

There was a biological egg in Mary, and the Father spoke to it. The Holy Spirit, who is the One who sanctified this process so that the identity of the Son was not lost, also came into the womb of Mary. The Son was 'clothed' by the Father with a physical body, and the genetics of that body came from Mary.

'And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and power of the Highest [the Father] will overshadow you; therefore, also, the Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God".' Luk 1:35.

He is going to be called 'the Son of God'!

Before the beginning, before there was the heavens and the earth, the natural creation, the word, as the seed of God, enabled Yahweh the Son to be born as the Son of God, and formed His heavenly body. This is the same word that formed His physical body.

So, the seed of God, in conjunction with the egg of Mary, gave to Christ His human body. There was no procreative process there.

An egg, and the word of the Father, and the capacity of the Holy Spirit brought this process of incarnation to pass.

Christ received His physical body from Abraham

When He was born, He was the natural seed of Abraham and, as the Son of Man, He had received His physical body from the father of faith.

In Genesis Chapter 15, we read that when Yahweh Son came to Abraham and said to him, 'I am your exceedingly great reward', that came to

pass when He came into flesh as the Seed, or Son, of Abraham, when He actually had a physical body.

God the Son was not clothed merely with mortal, human flesh by the command of the Father. The identity of God the Son was not merely 'wrapped around' with a mortal body, as though it were merely a casing used to fulfil a process that would have a conclusion; then He just went back to what He was before.

As the Son of God, He was 'the express image' of the word of the Father who, before the beginning, said, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.' He who became the express image of God the Father, who was the express image of the word of the Father as the Son of God, *became* flesh.

He was not just an identity 'wrapped around' with flesh; that identity *became* flesh. That life came *in* the flesh, and John said, 'He dwelt among us.'

Christ, a new creation – more than incarnation

The *zoe* life that was in the Spirit of the Son came into the flesh, becoming *part* of His mortal body.

Do you see how amazing this is? Our theological understanding of incarnation is hopeless.

It is not just that God the Son came into a vessel; the *life* that was in the Son *became* flesh. It became part of His mortal body. That is important, because He is *still* in that body. It was not just a means to an end.

We see that the body was important to Jesus; and it was important to Nicodemus, who was illuminated about new birth. We have to see that there is a connection between new birth and the mortal body of Jesus, which becomes an immortal body through the process of the cross.

The *zoe* life that was in His Spirit came into His flesh, becoming part of His mortal body, so that Christ, who was born of Mary, was more than an incarnation - He was a new creation.

When Abraham became the father of all the nations, he became the father of a new humanity. Jesus was the first of the new humanity.

He was the New Creation, and He was the Father's 'pattern' Son. We are being made in the image of *that* likeness.

In contrast to Adam's life, the life of Christ's identity was not sourced from His biological body. His life was the divine nature from the Father.

He is executing judgement, but sharing His life with all who believe

We note the testimony of Jesus: 'For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority [for what purpose?] to execute judgement also.' Joh 5:26-27.

So, He is coming in the flesh, and He is executing judgement. But He is also the One who is *sharing this life* with all those who will believe.

The Father has given Him authority to execute judgement also, because He is the Son of Man by incarnation.

The point to note is that when Jesus came in the flesh, His own confession, 'When He came into the world', was that 'He said [to the Father]: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me".' Heb 10:5.

A body You have prepared for Me; that was His physical body.

'In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said [the outcome, or the response, of the One who received this body], "Behold, I have come - in the volume of the book it is written of Me - to do Your will, O God".' Heb 10:6-7.

What is the will of the Father? It is *for many sons!*

So, this body that He received is the vessel through which many sons, who are sons in the flesh of Abraham, will come.

The Father's house is His body of sons doing His will

He said to the disciples, 'Let not your heart be troubled.' Joh 14:1.

That sounds a little like, 'Don't be afraid', doesn't it? He spoke this to His disciples just before He was about to go to Gethsemane to commence His journey.

He said to the disciples, 'Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.'

What is believing the evidence of? *Believing* is the evidence of *receiving faith*. 'Do not be troubled. I'm granting you faith to believe.'

What were they believing for? He said, 'In My Father's house are many mansions.'

What did Jesus receive? 'A *body* You have prepared for Me, to do Your will.'

What is the will of the Father? The *will* of the Father is for many sons.

What, then, is the Father's house? The Father's *house* is His *body*, and in His body are many mansions. Those mansions are yours and my heavenly bodies, as children of Abraham.

'In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.' Joh 14:2.

How did He prepare that place? He prepared it *through His offering journey*.

If you and I want to obtain that mansion, which is our body belonging to the Son, that He received from Abraham, then we have to be joined to that same offering fellowship.