

## BLESSING OF THE FIRSTBORN

*Gal 3:13 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"), Gal 3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

There is a pattern with the Patriarchs of the Bible. The patriarchs are the men whom God gave His covenant of grace to before the Law. These men included Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Ephraim. God chose to make a covenant of grace with Abraham. God promised that He would bless him and that through His seed He would bless the whole world. [Gen. 22:18] There was no stipulation of certain rules and laws Abraham would have to keep to receive the blessing. God swore by Himself and made an unconditional covenant. When He made the covenant He put Abraham into a deep sleep so that Abraham could not help or assist in the least bit. [Gen. 15:12] In this covenant God the Father, seen in the smoking furnace made a covenant with Abraham's seed Jesus Christ, seen in the torch. Abraham got in on this covenant by simple faith. The New Covenant that we are in right now is made between God the Father and His Son Jesus, the seed of Abraham. It is a covenant of blessing.

It is interesting to follow out how this blessing was passed down from Abraham to his descendents. **The family blessing in the ancient world went to the firstborn.** They had the birthright and the family blessing due them. However, when we follow the blessing and favor of Abraham being passed down we see a consistent pattern where the firstborn was rejected so that the younger child would receive the blessing of the firstborn. **This firstborn blessing in each case was given to those to whom it was not owed and to those who it were undeserving to receive it.** Abraham had two boys. His first born was Ishmael. The second born was Isaac. God told Abraham to cast out the first born. When Abraham died he gave all that he had to Isaac. [Gen. 25:5] Isaac received the blessing of the firstborn even though it was neither due him nor was he deserving of it. When it was time to pass the family blessing on before he died Isaac instead of giving the blessing to Esau his firstborn, gave it unknowingly instead to his second born Jacob. Isaac did not plan this but God had told Rebecca, Jacob's mother before he was born this was in His plan. Esau, the firstborn was rejected, so the firstborn blessing would come to Jacob. Jacob received the blessing of the firstborn even though it was not owed to him and he was definitely not deserving of it! Jacob in turn showed favor to Joseph, the youngest in the family at the time, instead to his first born Reuben when He sowed the coat of

many colors for Joseph to wear. This designation was owed to Reuben the firstborn but it was given to Joseph instead. Joseph was sold off to Egypt and Jacob thought that he had lost his son. When Jacob was reunited with Joseph in Egypt he blessed the two sons of Joseph before he died.

**Gen 48:9** "They are my sons, whom God has given me here in Egypt," Joseph answered his father. Then Israel said, "Please bring them to me so that I may bless them."

**Gen 48:13** Then Joseph took both of them, Ephraim on his right, facing Israel's left, and Manasseh on his left, facing Israel's right, and brought them close to him.

**Gen 48:14** But Israel crossed his hands and reached out. He put his right hand on Ephraim's head, although Ephraim was the younger son. He put his left hand on Manasseh's head, although Manasseh was older.

**Gen 48:17** Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

**Gen 48:18** And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."

**Gen 48:19** But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."

Joseph brought his two sons to Jacob to be blessed by Him. He placed the firstborn Manasseh to Jacob's right hand (the hand of honor and blessing) and put Ephraim at Jacob's left hand. Jacob reached out his arms and crossed them. He placed his right hand on the second born (Ephraim) and his left hand on the firstborn (Manasseh) and spoke the blessing. Joseph thought that Jacob was making a mistake not knowing which boy was which, but Jacob knew exactly what he was doing. The firstborn was set aside so that the younger would receive it instead.

We see this pattern repeated down the line of the Patriarchs. Why would God do this? The Old Testament contained types and shadows in story form which teach us of the covenant that we are in now- the New Covenant of Grace. God was showing us back there that the firstborn was rejected in order that his blessing would pass on to someone to whom it was not owed to nor was it deserved. God's blessings are based upon His grace and not our merit or what is owed to us. The rejection of the firstborn was for the purpose that those who were undeserving of it and to whom it

was not owed could have it. What is in story form in the Old Testament was fulfilled in reality when God rejected His firstborn Son, Jesus Christ, at Calvary. God turned his back on His firstborn Son on the cross and rejected Him as he bore our sin and shame. God rejected His firstborn so that the blessing that belonged to the Firstborn would come on us! We now are the recipients of the blessing of Abraham because Jesus was rejected and cursed for us!

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Jesus became a curse for us and was rejected by His Father so that He could freely pronounce His blessing on those who would be later born to Him. [Gal. 3:26] The blessing of Abraham has passed on to us. The blessing of Abraham includes righteousness, healing, prosperity, and peace. These blessings are given to us not because of what we have done or can do and not because they are owed to us! They are given to us freely because the Firstborn to whom they belong was rejected! So many of us want to do something to get God's blessings or be in a place where it is owed to us even just a little bit. God wants you to know He had to reject His firstborn to give you these blessings. Just receive them! He gave up much so you could have them!

***(Rom 8:32) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?***

Your Father did not spare His own firstborn Son for you. He delivered Him up as a curse and payment for our sin and rejected Him for you. He did this freely and offers salvation through Him freely. How much more will He not also with Him **FREELY** give us all things? The firstborn blessing is yours! Just receive it and give God and His Son Jesus Christ all the glory for it!