

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT-"THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION."

By Keith Greer

Some years ago, in a Bible class, we studied brother Homer Hailey's book, "**From Creation To The Day of Eternity**". Brother Hailey did a masterful job of explaining the wonderful plan of salvation given to mankind. Let me hit some of the highlights with you.

SIN MADE THE PLAN NEEDED. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the tree He commanded them not to eat from, man was separated from God. "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." {Genesis 2: 17} How would they gain fellowship with God again?

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." {Genesis 3: 15} This "**Seed**" would be the answer!

"I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." {Genesis 12: 3} Through Abraham, three promises are made— Land, nation, and seed. (Also see Genesis 12: 7) Did God fulfill these promises?

"Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed." {Joshua 23:14} The children of Israel were given the land of Canaan and became a mighty nation! What of the "seed" promise?

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." {2 Samuel 7: 12,13} This was promised to King David just before his death.

"And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." {Daniel 2:44} Daniel, in this vision, sees a kingdom in the days of the "fourth kingdom" which surpasses all other kingdoms. Why? It will last forever, **meaning that it will be spiritual and not physical.** Man cannot destroy it, stop it coming into existence and the one who would rule with complete justice and authority would never give up His throne—until the end of time!

"Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne," {Acts 2:30} Please read Matthew 1: 1, to see check the lineage of Christ. What about the "seed" promise?

"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." {Galatians 3:16}

"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. "{Galatians 3:29} Thus the promise made to Abraham is now fulfilled through Jesus Christ! What about the kingdom promise?

"And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power. "{Mark 9 :1} Did it come? "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things." {Luke 24:47,48} Also read Mark 1:15; Acts 2:1-4; Colossians 1: 13;

The key to the whole plan was Christ! God designed this plan before the world was even created. Before one word was offered to bring this world into existence God had this "eternal plan" for redeeming man and bringing him back into fellowship with His Creator. None can defeat the plans of God and it went according to His divine purposes. Thanks be to God for such a plan. ***