

THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE

THE GOSPEL FOR ALL NATIONS

PROMISED TO ABRAHAM • FORETOLD BY ISAIAH • PROCLAIMED BY PAUL

GENESIS 12:3

“In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

GENESIS 18:18

“All the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.”

PAUL GIVES THE INTERPRETATION

“And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith,
preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.”
GALATIANS 3:8

THE PROMISE WAS THE GOSPEL: GOD WOULD JUSTIFY THE NATIONS THROUGH FAITH.

PAUL'S MISSION TO “ALL MEN”

THE GROUPS NAMED • ACTS 9:15

“...to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings,
and the children of Israel.”

THE MISSION SUMMARIZED • ACTS 22:15

“For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what
thou hast seen and heard.”

ALL MEN = GENTILES + KINGS + THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

ISRAEL AND THE GENTILES

“It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob,
and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles,
that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.” • ISAIAH 49:6

RESTORE
THE TRIBES OF JACOB • ISRAEL

“I WILL ALSO”
A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES

**Isaiah distinguishes the Servant's work for Israel from the salvation that would reach
the Gentiles. The word “also” adds the Gentiles beyond restored Israel.**

PAUL SAW THESE GENTILES AS HIS MISSION

THE JEWS HEARD FIRST

“It was necessary that the word
of God should first have been
spoken to you... lo, we turn to
the Gentiles.” (Acts 13:46)

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PAUL APPLIED ISAIAH

“For so hath the Lord commanded
us... I have set thee to be a light
of the Gentiles... for salvation unto
the ends of the earth.” (Acts 13:47)

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THE GENTILES REJOICED

“And when the Gentiles heard this,
they were glad, and glorified the
word of the Lord...”
(Acts 13:48)

**Paul distinguishes the Gentiles from the Jews who heard the word first.
He applies Isaiah 49:6 to his own mission and then preaches to those Gentiles.**

A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING “ALL MEN”

ROMANS 5:18

“...as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men
to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the
free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.”

1 TIMOTHY 2:4

“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come
unto the knowledge of the truth.”

**Acts shows that “all men” reaches across the groups named in Paul's mission.
This provides a biblical framework for universal language: the scope is mankind, not Israel alone.**