

Galatians Unearthed Part 6: 3:3-9; Who Are the Children of Abraham? Who Are the Jews? (1/20 2018)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhPiXm42p_0&feature=youtu.be

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a written document. All the Scripture verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted and are in the red text. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We are going to start this part by going back to the verse we ended with in part 5. Galatians 3:3—³ **Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?** So the Galatians were falling into the lie they can't be saved unless they are circumcised in the flesh. Paul is saying in this verse they have been circumcised. They were circumcised with the circumcision made without hands. This is a divine circumcision by the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit). Continuing in Galatians 3:3-5—**Having begun in the Spirit [through faith], are you now being made perfect by the flesh?** ⁴ **Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?** ⁵ **Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the Law, or by the hearing of faith (emphasis added)?**

This is a typical Pauline style because what you find is the Apostle Paul will make a statement, and then he will make the same statement again right after for emphasis. What I love about Paul is he makes the same statement, but he always changes the terminology by tweaking it just a little bit to give you a much broader understanding of what he's talking about. Make no mistake. As you start to study the Apostle Paul's epistles, you will notice he does this intentionally.

So we have his statement in Galatians 3:3— **Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh (Galatians 3:3)?** Paul goes on to say the same thing in Galatians 3:5—**Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you.** In other words, what Paul is saying is when the Spirit was poured out on them, they saw with their own eyes the power of God and what the Holy Spirit did. He then asks them if this happened because of works of the Law or because they got circumcised in the flesh. Or did that happen because they had faith? Go back to Acts 10 and the experience Peter had at Cornelius' house. Peter was preaching to these Gentiles, and they believed in their hearts. They believed the Word of God, and the Ruach HaKodesh fell down upon them. It was awesome! It was in power! It happened through faith. That is the very thing Paul is saying here.

Now, pay close attention because what does he say next? Galatians 3:6—⁶ **just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."** Isn't that interesting to hear? So Paul is dealing with this deception where the Galatians are being told they can't be saved unless they get cut in the flesh. How does Paul respond? He brings Abraham into the discussion, and he doesn't just do this in any fashion. Paul draws from Genesis 15:6. What do we know about the context of Genesis 15:6, which is literally the verse Paul quotes in Galatians 3:6? We know Abraham had not yet been circumcised when he was declared righteous. Paul bringing this into the letter is powerful. Talk about getting the Galatians attention. Paul goes back to the Torah, and this is where we have that saying, "The deeds, the

actions, of the father are a sign for the children.” In other words, we look at the actions of the father, and we recognize they are prophetic. Paul brings this to the table and says, “Look at this. This is prophecy detailing what would happen to the Gentiles. Look at Abraham!”

Paul goes on in Galatians 3:7—**Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham (emphasis added)**. Paul has just defined what it takes to become part of Abraham’s household. I want you to think about something for a second. What’s the controversy all about in the first century? Most of us would say it was circumcision. Yes, but it’s deeper than that. What is it about circumcision that they’re trying to obtain? They are trying to obtain salvation. This is about salvation. This is about being a part of Abraham’s household because only those who are part of Abraham’s household are going to be saved.

Now, when we go to define those terms, that’s where there’s this breach. You can look at both sides of the argument, and they can both say salvation is at stake. The men who came to the Galatians and told them they must be circumcised, and Paul, along with the Apostles, who told the Galatians they did not need to be circumcised, were all saying what they did because of Salvation. However, when it came to defining the term, there are two completely different interpretations. Then Paul comes on the scene and drops this nuclear bomb of revelation. He says, “Whoa, time out. Only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.”

Think about the implications of this statement, and not just for the Gentiles, but for the Jews. This is what they would call a life-altering statement. This is one of those statements they say will change your religion. That is how profound this is. This is the point Paul is really trying to reiterate to them over and over again.

In fact, this very statement—**only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham**— is a statement Paul repeats multiple times in this very chapter. I want to look at some of these other ones because again he’s going to say it a little different. We’re going to learn something here. In Galatians 3:26, we find Paul stating this—**For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus**. I love this because if you want to get technical, we can read the statement—**only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham**. Great! Faith in what? What are we going to have faith in? Well, in Galatians 3:26, Paul tells us—**faith in Christ Jesus**.

The other thing to notice in this verse is to be sons of Abraham means you are sons of God. Think about that statement for a second. To be a son of Abraham is to be a Son of God. That is powerful!

I want to show you one more in Galatians 3:29—**And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise (emphasis added)**. All three statements are saying the identical thing but a little bit differently. Here they are again.

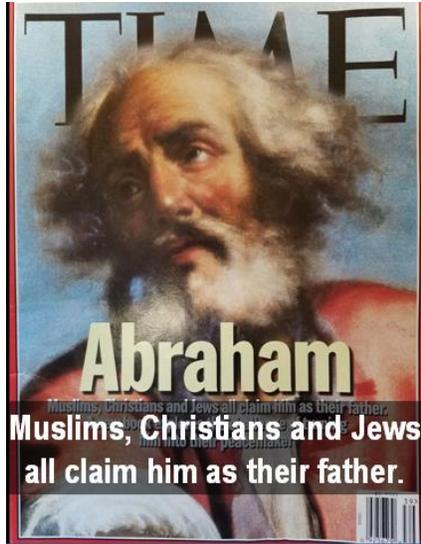
Galatians 3:7- Therefore know that **only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham**.

Galatians 3:26- For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:29- And if you are Christ's, **then you are Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise.

It all boils down to this. If we are the Messiah Yeshua's, if we have put our faith in Him, guess what? You get to be a part of Abraham's household. Look at the last thing he says in Galatians 3:29—**heirs**. In other words, you are going to receive the inheritance, the promise, that was given to Abraham and his descendants. It comes to you through faith in the Messiah Yeshua.

I want to share something with you that I bought in 2002. I was in a store, and I noticed this Time magazine. This addition looked really important because they offered a depiction on the front cover of



someone that we all know. Now, obviously, this isn't literally a photo of the person, but I'll put this up here.

I didn't buy this because of the picture; I bought this because of what it said on the front cover—**Muslims, Christians, and Jews all claim him as their father**. I want you to think about this. Muslims, Christians, and Jews all proclaim their identity is in Abraham.

For those of you who have been to Israel, you know exactly what this is talking about. This becomes tangible when you go to Jerusalem because you will find Jerusalem is divided into quarters. There is a Jewish quarter, a Muslim quarter, and a Christian quarter. You can see this difference as you walk through the quarters; they're all separate. It is an amazing thing. Why are they all in the holiest city in the universe, Jerusalem? Because they all claim Abraham as their father.

In fact, when I went to the Cave of Machpelah, which is the gravesite of Abraham, I found the tombs of the Patriarchs are divided between a Jewish area and a Muslim area. When you go there, you have Jews and Muslims. You also have Christians flooding both the Jewish and the Muslim sides. All three groups are going there to pay homage to Abraham. Why? Because all three groups identify him as their father.

Do you understand the wars about identity? This whole war is all about identity. The question becomes, who really are the children of Abraham? With all due respect, you look at Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, and in many ways, they could not be farther apart. Their beliefs and doctrines are in total opposition to one another. They believe different parts of the Bible. Islam has changed the story of Abraham. They say he didn't sacrifice Isaac. They say Abraham sacrificed Ishmael. They couldn't be farther apart, and yet all of them are claiming Abraham as their father.

Who are the children of Abraham? The one thing all of us can agree upon is when a man has children, the children take on the characteristics and personality traits of their father. While you were growing up, how many times did your father say something that drove you nuts? You would say to yourself, "I will never say that to my kids." Yet twenty years later when you have become a father, you start to say the same things. Your thought is, "Oh my goodness! I've become my father. I'm saying the same thing." The reason is that's the expectation; it makes sense because it's natural to be like your father. These characteristics will bleed through.

When looking at who the children of Abraham really are, pay close attention to what Paul just told us— **Only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham (Galatians 3:7)**. What does this tell you about Abraham's House? What does this tell you about the faith? It tells you it is completely Spiritual.

Listen to me carefully because this entire message is dedicated to this. It tells us faith is completely Spiritual in nature, which means you can't obtain it by the flesh. You can't simply become part of Abraham's household because you receive circumcision in the flesh. Abraham's household, his family, and his children are completely Spiritual in nature. This is something that transcends bloodlines and genealogy, so it transcends circumcision in the flesh. If you want proof of this, look at Abraham. When Abraham was called, was he called while circumcised or while uncircumcised? It was while he was uncircumcised, and Paul makes this known in Romans 4. We find salvation only came to Abraham through Spiritual means. In other words, by grace, God called Abraham. It was through faith and belief in what God had told him. That was the means by which it was accounted to him for righteousness. Because of that grace through faith, the covenant would be established through him. Why did God choose him? It was not because of his flesh, who his father was, or who his family was. It was because of his faith. That is why Muslims, Jews, and Christians are all running to Abraham. They all recognize he's the father of the faith. They recognize if you're going to have an identity at all, it needs to be in Abraham's house.

Here's what's really interesting. As you study Abraham's descendants, what you find is this testimony or template of what salvation looks like doesn't stop with Abraham. Rather, it gets further manifested through his descendants. The promises, the covenants, the blessings, and the inheritance are all obtained through faith. It is all completely Spiritual. All those elements are 100% Spiritual.

A perfect example of what I'm talking about is Abraham's firstborn son, Ishmael. He was the son of Hagar, the Egyptian. Hagar was the maidservant of Sarah. Because Sarah was barren and couldn't have children, she gave her maidservant Hagar into Abraham's embrace as a wife. As a result, Hagar conceived. Sarah was looking for a surrogate, but that didn't work out so well, obviously, because the moment Hagar gives birth, Sarah realizes she's despised in Hagar's eyes. What do you think a mom is going to do? It's a natural, maternal instinct; she wants her child. So this is Ishmael's heritage.

Now there are a couple things about Ishmael you need to understand, and this is very important. Number one, he is Abraham's firstborn son. If you ever read the Bible, and you realize the weight of the gravity of what that means, it is really special to be the firstborn. There are specific things you acquire as the firstborn the rest of the family doesn't get. It is for no other reason than the fact you were the firstborn.

The second thing is very unusual. Abraham and Ishmael, as father and son, were circumcised on the same day. Would you call that special if a father did that today with his son? Yes. Point being is how you can see Ishmael has some things going for him. He was circumcised with Abraham, his father, at age thirteen, and Abraham was ninety-nine.

Let me ask this question. Did God establish His covenant with Ishmael? No. He established it with Isaac, the son of Sarah. Isaac was the son of a woman who couldn't bear children. So looking at the two sons, what is the difference between Ishmael and Isaac? With Ishmael, the covenant was not established. With Isaac, the covenant was established. We need to identify a distinction here; I will give a very simple example. Ishmael was a product of the flesh; Isaac was a product of the Spirit. Isaac was the son of a woman who couldn't bear children, and the Bible takes the time to specifically tell you that.

Sarah was past the age of childbearing; it was impossible for her to have a son. What does that tell you about Isaac? It tells you he was a product of power; he was a product of the Spirit. He literally is a miracle of God, and in every way he is a product of the Holy Spirit.

If you really want to feel the weight and gravity of how miraculous this was, go read Genesis. What you'll see is God comes to Abraham and says, "Your wife, Sarah, is going to conceive and bear you a son." Do you know how Abraham responded? He laughed. What is peculiar to me, and it has nothing to do with anything, is Sarah gets in trouble for laughing, but Abraham doesn't. Not a word is said to Abraham for laughing. That is pretty unfair!

The point is you have Abraham who is told he is going to have a son, not by Hagar, but by this woman who can't bear children. He laughs. But if you really want to experience this, look at what Abraham said to God—**Oh that Ishmael might live before you (Genesis 17:18)**. Think about that. God came and told Abraham his wife was going to bear a son. Abraham looks at the reality that he is one hundred years old, and Sarah is ninety. It is impossible for that to happen. So Abraham basically says, "I appreciate your heart, God. That is awesome, but Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

Do you understand this? You have to appreciate how impossible this was. Yet look at how the LORD responded to Abraham—**¹⁹ Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him (Genesis 17:19)**.

Isaac is supernatural. He is the product of Spirit; he is the product of power. That's why the covenant could only be established through him, because it began in the Spirit. You can't go from Spirit to flesh back to Spirit and then back to flesh. That is not how the genealogy of the Spirit works. It goes from Spirit to Spirit to Spirit and from power to power.

The story doesn't end with Isaac. It continues through Isaac's seed which is his descendants, his children. Like his father Abraham before him, Isaac has two very specific children. However, unlike his father Abraham, Isaac does not have these children by two different wives. These two children were born from the same woman, who was Rebecca, Isaac's wife. The LORD opened her womb, and she conceived. Inside she had twins.

The text records that she's sitting there as her pregnancy continues, and there is war in her womb. She makes the statement—**If all is well, why am I like this?** So she goes to inquire of the LORD regarding what is going on in her womb because she doesn't know she has twins. This is what is said in Genesis 25:23—**And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger."**

Who are these children? They are Esau and Jacob. Jacob would later be called Israel. Esau is the older; he came out first. Jacob came out second holding onto Esau's heel, which is prophetic. You can read the Apocrypha and see this is prophetic regarding moving from this age into the next age. Because Esau came out first, he's the first born and gets everything regarding the firstborn status. He receives the blessing and the birthright. It was all his, but what does the prophecy say? It says—**the older shall serve the younger**. However, something happens here. Jacob grows up and receives the birthright and the blessing. It all falls to him. Esau got nothing.

When we look at Mount Sinai, it was Jacob who received the covenant. Wasn't it his children at Mount Sinai? The covenant wasn't given to Esau's descendants. Think about the insight from the prophets Malachi 1:2-3— **Yet Jacob I have loved; But Esau I have hated.** This might explain the war that was ensuing in the womb.

Through this story, we get this perfect clarity of the fact the faith, the inheritance, the covenant, and the promises are not explicitly obtained by means of the flesh. I want you to think about something for a second regarding being a child of Abraham. For those who are considered Israel, even for those who identify as Jews, where does that identity come from? How do we determine it? Is it merely flesh? Do you get to say, "Well, I'm Jewish because my parents are Jewish." If you ask a rabbi today how to determine if you are Jewish, he will ask you if your mother is Jewish. It is all based on fleshly genealogy.

So how do we define what being biblically Jewish is? Is it something more than genealogy? Everything we read in Scripture would indicate there is more. In other words, you can't define what a biblical Jew or biblical Israel is explicitly through fleshly means or physical genetics. If you fall into that category, you're going to have a real problem. Why do I say that? Well, how many of you see Esau as a Hebrew? Have you ever read through the Torah and seen that Esau is considered a Hebrew? I mean, if it's genetics, isn't Esau the twin brother of Jacob? Both of them have the same mother and father. They were in the same womb. If this is all about the flesh, then with all due respect, Esau is Jewish.

However, Esau is not Jewish. Esau was completely separated from his mother and father, and he became the father of the Edomites. Think about that for a second. Do you think this story is in Scripture by accident? Absolutely not! The story is revealing to us Israel's heritage, who they are, is completely supernaturally filled with power and miracles. It is Spirit. That is who Israel really is. That is their very heritage. That is their definition.

In Deuteronomy 4:33-34, we read this—³³ **Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live?** ³⁴ **Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?** What do you call that? I call that Spirit. That is a calling based totally upon power, not of the flesh. This is Israel's heritage.

Let me take you to Mount Sinai. It is here we read something amazing. The children of Israel are coming into covenant with the God of Israel. Exodus 19:5—**Now, therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine (emphasis added).** Isn't that amazing?

See, if this were merely about flesh and genealogy, when the children of Israel had arrived at Mount Sinai, God would have simply told them the door was open and go ahead and enter the Promised Land. However, that's not Israel's heritage. That is not the name Abraham left to his descendants. The LORD brought them to the mountain and portrayed the very same thing He portrayed to Abraham, "Walk before Me and be blameless. I will establish My covenant with you."

Isn't that interesting? God does the same thing with the children, "If you obey My voice...." God is talking about His commandments. Look at what Yeshua said in John 6:63—**The words that I speak to you are Spirit, and they are life.** The words that are coming from Mount Sinai, from Yeshua, are the Spirit coming forth. This is a Spiritual inheritance and heritage. Yeshua is telling them, "If you do what I

say, then you become my special people.” That is why you cannot define Israel explicitly through fleshly means. You will not find a fleshly inheritance anywhere in Scripture. In fact, the deeper you go into studying this, the farther away any idea of fleshly inheritance goes.

Israel's calling transcends everything, such as bloodline, genealogy, and flesh. We need to understand this especially when you consider what Paul is actually sharing with the Galatians, and the point he's trying to make to them. He is trying to get them to understand they're being called, grafted, into this family of Israel.

So what does that mean? Does it mean I can only be a part of them if I have this marking in the flesh? Scripture would tell us otherwise.

I want to bring this conversation to the New Testament to show you how first-century Jews understood this. Here we have the Apostle Paul speaking in Romans 9:3-4—³For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption. I want to stop right here and explain something. Romans chapters 9, 10, and 11 are grouped together because of the subject matter of what Paul is dealing with in regard to explaining who Israel is.

The first thing you need to recognize is Paul has such a heart for his Jewish brethren. They are his actual, physical descendants through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Because of that, he wishes he were accursed from the faith so some of them might be saved. That is interesting because Moses said the very same thing in Exodus 32. A true intercessor is someone who truly cares. Moses told God if He wasn't going to forgive His people, then blot me (Moses) out of Your book. You can see why the LORD picked him as a leader. Talk about a quality to possess as a leader. Despite how the Israelites treated him, he was willing to die and to be blotted out for their sake. Amazing!

The Apostle Paul had that same heart for his own Jewish people in the flesh. Now he says in Romans 9:4—⁴who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the Law, the service of God, and the promises. Every single descriptor used there is 100% Spirit. They are all a product of the Ruach HaKodesh.

Moving to Romans 9:5-6—⁵of whom are the fathers [Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the 12 Patriarchs] and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. ⁶But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. What is Paul referring to? He is relating to the natural branches; some of the natural branches, not all, are being cut off. So he's letting the Romans know they shouldn't think for a second—that the Word of God has taken no effect. Then he says—For they are not all Israel who are of Israel (Romans 9:6).

Think about how hard it was for Paul as the Jew to make this statement knowing the heart and the love he has for his nation. It was painful. This wasn't something he took light heartedly and just threw that statement out there. It was painful, but he's bringing a reality out that just because people are of the flesh regarding genealogy, they're not all a part of Israel.

Now Paul is getting very specific regarding how to define who Israel is, and this is supposed to strike fear into the hearts because there are a lot of people who think they're fine because they are the seed, the lineage, of Abraham when in fact they are lost.

Going back to Romans 9:6-7—⁶ For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, ⁷ nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." So here again is where we find the saying, "The deeds, the actions, of the father are a sign for the children" as being applicable. All this is the prophetic template for us today to understand who Israel is and who Israel isn't. It is not a product of the flesh; it is in Isaac. Paul has taken all of this and pointed to Isaac. What do we know about Isaac? He was a miracle; he was a product of Spirit. Isaac was the product of total promise. We have got to pay attention to what Paul was saying here.

Moving on to Romans 9:8—That is, those who are **the children of the flesh**, these are not the children of God; **but the children of the promise** are counted as the seed (emphasis added). There it is laid out crystal clear. The children of the flesh are not children of God. Only the children of promise are.

Let me say this; this is not just important for you to know for your own sake. This is important for you to know because this is for the sake of the Jewish people. In other words, this is the deception of dual covenant theology. According to that theology, we don't need to proselytize or proclaim the gospel to the Jewish people because they have a different covenant. They are the actual seed of Abraham. Therefore, we don't have to worry about them. That is a lie from the pit of Hell. The only way the Jewish people are going to see salvation like their father Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is by faith in the Messiah Yeshua. There is no other way.

What is actually being conveyed here is so deep on multiple levels regarding how we need to yearn like Paul yearned for the Jewish people so they don't rely on the flesh and instead rely on their Jewish Messiah. The flipside is we need to understand what Paul is saying to the Galatians. Paul is telling these Gentiles, who think they can't be saved unless they have that marking in the flesh, that they don't know anything. They don't understand Isaac; they don't understand what happened with Isaac's children, Esau and Jacob. They don't understand Abraham.

Let me take this to John the Baptist as recorded in Matthew 3:7-9—⁷ But when he [John] 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? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

So here we have John the Baptist who was a Priest. He was well respected by the people. Then we have other well-respected men, his brethren, come out to see him. Calling them a brood of vipers is not typically what you want to hear when you enter into somebody's house, but he sends them a warning. The one warning send to them was—**and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'** What is John saying? He is telling them not to rely on their physical genealogy as though they had an open door of inheritance no matter what they did. Instead, they should bear fruit worthy of repentance, or they were not going to receive a share in the world to come. It was not going to happen.

Here is what is interesting about this. These men do not take the advice of John the Baptist. How do we know this? Yeshua has an interaction with a group of particular Jews in John 8:31-33. This is what we read—³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." ³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants. Let me be very clear. This was a Jewish audience, and John the Baptist had warned his own brethren, "Don't go there. Don't say this." Yet this is exactly how they respond to Yeshua.

Continuing in John 8:33—**and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?"** These Jews are baffled by Yeshua's statements they need to be made free. Think about the context of this. They are living in the land that was promised to them. The temple is functioning. They're going to the temple and praying at the temple. They are descendants of Abraham. What in the world is Yeshua talking about regarding his statement they need to be made free?

Here is Yeshua's response in John 8:34—³⁴ **Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed (emphasis added).** What house is Yeshua talking about? He is talking about the house of Abraham. That is how we identify who we are.

So the same focus Paul is sharing with the Galatians, where he's putting all the emphasis on Yeshua is the same emphasis Yeshua is putting on Himself with these Jewish people. Yeshua is having this discussion with his fellow Jewish brethren telling them, "If I don't set you free, you will not continue to abide in Abraham's household. You will be removed."

This is terrifying! Listen to what Yeshua says next because it gets more intense—I **know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you (John 8:37).** The first thing I want to mention is Yeshua recognizes their genealogy. He recognizes according to the flesh they are Abraham's descendants, but then He says—³⁸ **I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father (John 8:38).**

That is not good! Yeshua just revealed to them they have different fathers. His Father is not their father. That is a frightening statement. Well, how did they respond to Yeshua? John 8:39—**They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father."** Think about that. Yeshua tells them their father is not Yeshua's Father. Their immediate response is, "I don't think you understand who we are. Abraham is our father." Do you see how they keep going back to the very thing John the Baptist warned them not to do? This is where they're resting their argument. They are resting it on the fact they are Abraham's descendants.

Yeshua responds to them—**Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham (Romans 8:39).** That is the nuclear bomb! What Yeshua just did was He brought everything we're covering today into perfect focus down to the finest point. He is telling them, "If you want to be in Abraham's household and have that inheritance, that future, and the promises, you have to **do** what Abraham did. Only then are you truly Abraham's descendants. This is the ultimate paternity test.

If there is a question as to who someone's father is, a person can take a paternity test. The Bible gives us this test. What is scary is this is not a test any of us want to take. Start doing an audit of your life, and start asking yourself the questions, "Do I walk like Abraham? Do I do the works he did? Do I say the words Abraham said? Do I have the faith that Abraham had where he literally was called out from his own heritage in the flesh? He was living in his own land; he had his own family. Then he came out from his own gods. Abraham left everything to walk with the LORD. The LORD didn't tell him where he was going. How many of you are willing to walk that walk with Yeshua?

This is frightening. When you take this paternity test, only those who do the works Abraham did are his children. That is scary! So despite these particular Jews who are clearly Jewish in the flesh, Yeshua confirms this and drops this bomb on them, "You're not very Jewish."

This is my point. If you are attempting to define who is a Jewish person today explicitly through fleshly means, you will completely fail because there is nothing in the Bible that dictates it's explicitly a fleshly thing. It is Spirit, power, and miracles. Story after story in the Bible, that is all we see.

Think about the Exodus story. God, by power, brings these people out of Egypt. This is a supernatural calling, yet only two people made it into the Promised Land, Joshua and Caleb. There were over six-hundred thousand men who were over twenty-years-old. They all died in the wilderness; every one of them, except two, because they did not do the works that Abraham did. They did not have the faith. Read the end of Hebrews chapter 3 into chapter 4. They didn't have the faith to do what needed to be done.

Moving on to Romans 8:44—**You are of your father the Devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.** You thought it was bad before; now we've hit a crescendo here. It is one thing for Yeshua to say, "My Father is not your father," but now He is revealing who their father is. These are His Jewish brethren. And make no mistake; Yeshua took no pleasure in this. It pains Him their father is the devil. This is the nuclear bomb of revelation.

I want to take you to the book of Revelation because Yeshua says the same thing to His brethren in Smyrna—I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan (emphasis added).

That is interesting. These people are Jews in the flesh, and Yeshua knows it because He says they are Jews. Yet Yeshua says they're not. Do you see how this is attempting to define this term of what a biblical Jew really is? It cannot be defined explicitly through the flesh. If that were the case, Yeshua could not say the words He said. To Him, what being Jewish is is so much more than physical. If you go back to Mount Sinai, you will find out what a biblical Jew is. God said this over and over again—if you obey my voice, then you will be my special people (Deut 11:27, 30:10, Exodus 19:5, and 23:22 are just a few). Israel's heritage is totally Spiritual. This is the reality we need to understand as we look at the Galatians. As we peer into this dialog Paul is having with them, pleading with them to understand what he knows and understands about his own nation.

Going back to Galatians 3:5-7—⁵ Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the Law, or by the hearing of faith? ⁶ just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." ⁷ Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. As we look at the information we've covered today, we again find—the deed, the actions, of the fathers are a sign for the children. We need to go back and look at Abraham's life to understand what Paul is trying to convey. Paul is bringing them back to the Torah; he is bringing them back to Abraham's life.

It is not just that. When you think about it, the fact is, there is no greater expression of Spirit than faith in Yeshua. The whole point Paul is making here is we're only sons of Abraham through faith.

There is a verse I grab at here that is so powerful because it kind of ties everything together when you understand the heritage of Israel is completely Spiritual. Abraham began in the Spirit, he was confirmed in the Spirit, and his descendants that went on were all confirmed in the Spirit. It was not Ishmael but Isaac. It was not Esau but Jacob. It was Spirit to Spirit to Spirit and power to power to power.

When you think about this concept, and you want to wrap it all together, there is a passage in 2 Corinthians 3:17 where Paul reveals something about Yeshua. It is a really powerful image. I'll show it to you—**Now the LORD is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is liberty.** The word LORD is not referring to θεός, *theos* (Strong's 2316) which is the Greek for God. You can verify this by going back to 2 Corinthians 3:17 and check the wording in the Greek. This "LORD" is κύριος, *kyrios* (Strong's 2962) who is the Yeshua whom the Father sent.

So we're looking at Israel, and they are completely Spiritual. Their heritage is completely Spiritual. Then Paul tells them Yeshua is the Spirit, and all hinge on Him. Everything Paul is trying to convey to the Galatians all hinges on the Messiah Yeshua. It is faith in Him. So Israel is built upon the Spirit; they're built upon the rock. They're built upon the LORD Yeshua. How powerful is that?

We're going to close with this verse from Paul. Silly Paul just keeps going back to Scripture to show that Elohim would justify the Gentiles by faith. Galatians 3:8-9—⁸ **And the Scripture [Torah], foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."** ⁹ **So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.**

Do you understand what he just did? This is so profound! He did it again. Paul specifically went to a passage to show something—**In you all the nations shall be blessed (Galatians 3:8).** Guess what? When Abraham was given this promise, he wasn't circumcised.

Paul did it again. What he is saying is, "Look at Abraham's life. It was a prophetic template to show you what was to come. You Galatians are now living this prophecy. Why are you rejecting it?"