

Two Plans of Salvation

Plan #1 Announced by the apostles, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to new believers in Christ who had asked what they must do:

"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." {Acts 2:38}

Plan #2 (The Promise Keepers Plan of Salvation) "You need to do five things to become a part of God's family. If you haven't already done this, I urge you, if you're sincerely ready, to do them now: 1) Admit your spiritual need, "I am a sinner." 2) Repent. Be willing to turn from your sin and, with God's help start living to please him. 3) Believe that Jesus died for you on the cross and rose again. 4) Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and life. 5) Pray something like this from the sincerity of your heart:

"Dear Lord Jesus, I know I'm a sinner. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the grave. Right now, I turn from my sins and open the door of my heart and life. I receive you as my personal Lord and Savior, Thank you for saving me. Amen."

Christ's church in Graham (and in Navarre, editor) is happy with Plan #1 and thankful to the God of all grace for it. We cannot recommend Plan #2 at all, but will change our minds when this prayer, or something like it, can be shown to us in the Bible. (From the bulletin of a church of Christ located in Graham, Texas) ~

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre.
Call for directions and more information (850) 939-8109

Navarre church of Christ
8490 James M Harvell Rd
Navarre, FL 32566

Place Stamp Here

Assembly Schedule Sunday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service ___ 10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service ___ 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Class for all ages ___ 7:00 PM

VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

This entire publication and previous issues are available online at navarrechurchofchrist.net along with some more useful information

For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

NAVARRE MESSENGER

Abraham's Land Promise



by David Padfield

Premillennialism is a doctrine taught by many religious groups in our day. This theory teaches Jesus will return to this earth and set up a literal, earthly kingdom for a 1,000 years. Proponents claim that prior to His return there will be a period of tribulation for seven years (some say three and a half years). Then, according to

their speculations, the Lord will reign in Jerusalem (like David and Solomon) and the Jews will receive the land God promised to Abraham in Genesis 12:7.

In 1970 Hal Lindsey wrote a best selling book, The Late Great Planet Earth. He said, "For God unconditionally promised Abraham's descendants a literal world-wide kingdom over which they

would rule through their Messiah who would reign upon King David's throne. The Jews who believe in the Messiah will also possess the land which is bordered on the east by the Euphrates River, and on the west by the Nile."

Many of Lindsey's other predictions have already failed. He claimed the Soviet Union was

going to invade Israel and start World War III. Well, the Soviet Union is now out of business, but Hal Lindsey is still out on the lecture circuit. If Lindsey had any integrity, he would issue an apology for his book and offer a refund to all who purchased it.

Lindsey's book, along with many others, denies God has ever made good on His promises to Abraham. Let us examine the promises and see if He has kept His word.

When God called Abraham to leave the Ur of the Chaldees, He said, "Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 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 12:1-3). Notice the three promises:

Abraham would be the father of a great nation (Genesis 12:2; 22:17). This promise was fulfilled in Exodus 1:7-15. A new king ascended to the throne in Egypt and saw the descendants of Abraham outnumbered the Egyptians. In Deuteronomy 1:10, prior to the Israelites entering the promised land, Moses said, "The Lord your God has multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of the heaven in multitude."

Through Abraham's seed, all nations of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:3; 22:18). This promise was fulfilled by the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. In Peter's sermon on Solomon's porch, he said, "You are the sons

of the prophets, and of the Covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed.' To you first God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities" (Acts 3:25,26). The apostle Paul taught the same thing in Galatians 3:9 when he said, "those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham".

The third promise was the land of Canaan itself. God told Abraham, "Unto thy seed will I give this land" (Genesis 12:7). In Genesis 13:12 we find Abraham was dwelling in that land. God commanded Abraham to "Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou seest to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever" (Genesis 13:14,15).

God made good on this promise when Joshua led the Israelites into the land of Canaan. "And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it and dwelt therein There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass" (Joshua 21:43,45).

Retention of the land was conditional. Israel had a choice between being blessed or cursed by God. If they would "harken diligently" unto the Lord, they would dwell in the land and be blessed (Deuteronomy 28:1-14). However, if they turned aside from the law of God, they would be cursed and driven out of the land

(Deuteronomy 28:15-68).

Joshua promised them, "When ye have transgressed the covenant of the Lord then shall the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he has given unto you" (Joshua 23:16).

These people later rejected the Lord and were sent into Babylonian captivity. God kept His word, even though they didn't keep theirs. ~

Joshua 21.43-45

43 So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it.

44 The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.

45 Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

What Means This Fish Symbol?



The fish symbol is seen on bumper stickers, business cards, hats T-shirts, and so on. To many people it has almost become as much a symbol of Christianity as the cross. Sometimes, as in our background, it contains several Greek letters.

What does the fish symbol mean? What are the Greek letters and what do they mean?

The fish symbol is called ICHTHUS, pronounced: ikh-thoos, and means fish in Greek. The Greek letters contained in the symbol spell the word ICHTHUS in Greek. The five Greek letters are: Iota, Chi, Theta, Upsilon, Sigma. To the early Christians these letters stood for five words confessing our "Lord, Jesus Christ God's Son Savior". While some believe the Greek letters stand for the English word JESUS such is not the case.

It is not known when the fish symbol was first used to refer to Jesus Christ as God's Son and our Savior but it was well established by the last half of the second century. By this time the fish symbol was appearing on sarcophagi, rings, seals, and catacombs used by Christians. The first written reference regarding the fish and its letters was in 180 a.d.

Why a fish with letters?

Around 200 a.d. Quintus Tertullian wrote a short thesis on baptism for those who were preparing for baptism at the local church gathering place. He made this observation, "We as little fishes, in accordance with our ICHTHUS Jesus Christ, are born in water." Tertullian is saying the fish symbol is a confession of Christ and our new birth in Christ. The fish symbol, then, is a confession of Christ. It also means those who

confess Christ understand the new birth, being born again, takes place when they are immersed in the water of baptism. The early Christians understood they were not saved or born again till after they were immersed in water. In fact in those early days the Latin writers call the baptistery a Piscina, which means fish pond in Latin.

Interesting Observation

Most who wear or use the ICHTHUS do not believe baptism in water is necessary for remission of sins. Yet, they proudly display the very symbol confessing the necessity of water before one can be saved, before one can be born again.

Read and Reflect
Leon E. Cathey ~