



The blessing, the covenant and the new creation

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What is 'the blessing'?

- **Derived from the Hebrew "berākhāh" - an invocation of good. Related to "shalom"**
- **Also means an empowerment to prosper – consider Deuteronomy 8:18**
- **The blessing is a result of an identification by God with a person - Genesis 39:2.**
- **Distinguish the blessing from its consequences – Proverbs 10:22**

The blessing and the covenant

- **The blessing came before the covenant – Gen. 12; Gen. 15.**
- **The covenant came to confirm and operationalise the blessing – Heb. 6:13-20**
- **Explore blood covenants in old Jewish traditions**
- **God cut an unconditional covenant with Abraham and His seed**

The new creation and the blessing

- **The promise (or blessing) was made to Abraham and his 'seed', i.e. Christ – Galatians 3:16**
- **At that time, Abraham knew God was not referring to Isaac but to Christ – Romans 10:14**
- **Who is Christ? Christ refers to the head and the body – Matthew 1; Psalm 22:30-31**
- **The church of firstborns (Heb.12:23) is therefore an heir of the blessing through faith (Gal.3:29; 1 Peter 3:9)**

Entering into the blessing

- **Circumcision is the portal of entry – Genesis 17:10**
- **The communion – Heb. 9:15-17**
- **Tithing – Gen.14:18-20**
- **Finally, be mindful of His covenant - 1 Chronicles 16:15**