

Topic: **ADOPTION INTO GOD'S FAMILY
(Part 1)**
Text: **Galatians 4:4-7**
Theme: **“The results of adoption into God's family”**

Introduction

- Although Paul mentioned the doctrine of adoption five times (Galatians 4:5, Romans 8:15, 23, 9:4, and Ephesians 1:5 KJV), only a handful preaches on this. Hence, the congregation has a vague idea of what it is all about.
- This sermon compares the Old Testament adoption with that of the New Testament. Part 1 traces back the original adoption of the Israelites in the Old Testament that flows through in favour of the Christians.
- Also, it enumerates the responsibilities involved in being adopted.

I. THE OT ADOPTION BELONGS TO ISRAEL

Exodus 4:22 ... Israel is my firstborn son. (NIV)

Deuteronomy 14:2 for you are a people holy to the Lord your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the Lord has chosen you to be his treasured possession. (NIV)

Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. (NIV)

A. It all begun with God's call and promise to Abraham. (Genesis 12:1-3)

1. While living with his father in Haran, Abraham received a message from the Lord to separate himself from his old folks and go to a new country.
2. He was promised divine favour, great posterity (to future generations/descendants), and would become a blessing to all families on earth.

3. God made an agreement with him called the "Abrahamic Covenant." (Genesis 17)
4. He was promised a son (Isaac) to be his heir; one of Isaac's sons' names, Jacob, was changed to Israel. Jacob's 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel.

B. The nation Israel is God's adopted "firstborn" son. (Exodus 4:22)

1. In those days, the firstborn son possessed the birthright that included the family headship and a double portion of his father's possessions. The other sons shared the remainder equally. *(If there were five sons in the family inheriting \$100,000, the money would be divided into five (\$20,000). The first son got double (\$40,000) and the remaining \$60,000 would be divided among the four sons (\$15,000 each). If there were no sons, the daughters become heirs.)*
2. Israel is God's son because of the adoptive, redeeming love of God.

II. THE NT ADOPTION SWINGS IN FAVOUR OF CHRISTIANS

A. Believers now become the "spiritual" Israelites as Abraham's seeds.

Galatians 3:7-9; 14, 26, 29 (NIV)

V7 Understand, then that those who believe (in Jesus) are children of Abraham.

V8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel (good news) in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."

V9 So those who have faith (in Jesus) are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

V14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

V26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,

V29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

B. Now considered as Abraham's seeds, Jesus "paid all the fees and charges" incurred in "processing" the legality of the adoption.

1. Jesus secured the adoption through His death and resurrection. He destroyed sin and its death penalty, restoring righteousness and life required for the status of Adoption/Sonship.
2. New birth is necessary for adoption.
3. We do not become God's children by virtue of creation or through God's promise to Abraham, BUT by virtue of crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. (Galatians 3:14)

III. THE NT ADOPTION ADVANCES CHRISTIANS TO MATURITY POSITION

- Human adoption means an outsider becomes an insider, a new member of the family.
- The husband and the wife become the adoptive parents of a child who is not their natural offspring.
- Biblical adoption goes beyond legality to establish an intimate, personal relationship with God as Father.

A. Adoption is not "son-making" but "son-placing."

1. Adoption literally means, "placing a son." It places you and I into a position.
2. "Son-making" occurs when we become born again (new birth).
3. "Son-placing" signifies place and condition of a son given to one to whom it does not naturally belong. (Doesn't need to have qualifications to be in that position.)

B. Adoption places us to maturity position called Christian responsibility.

1. Adoption is the act of God by which believers become members of God's family with all the privileges and OBLIGATIONS of family membership.
2. There is no childhood stage in Christian responsibility. Normally, the youngest gets the best favour in a family set-up.
3. There is no probationary period. At work, you are tested for three months whether you are able to cope with the duties and responsibilities of the job.
4. This is the reason why God address the same appeal to holiness and service to every Christian, regardless of the length of time he may have been saved.
5. God gives answers both to new and old believers.
6. With God, every person is ADOPTED at the moment he is born again, THEN, he is placed before God as a mature, responsible child of God.
7. God does not say to new believers to read ONLY the NT, and to old believers to read BOTH the NT and OT.
8. In giving, God does not say to new ones to give just a little and to old ones to give more.
9. In praying, God does not say to new Christians to pray to whoever name it is, and to old believers to always pray in the Name of Jesus.