

**Topic: ADOPTION INTO GOD'S FAMILY
(Part 2)**

Text: Galatians 4:4-7

Theme: "The results of adoption into God's family"

Introduction

- Part 1 differentiates salvation and adoption. The first connotes "son-making" (becoming a child of God); the latter equates "son-placing" (designating a believer into a mature, responsible position).
- It also compares the Old Testament adoption of the Israelites with that of the New Testament believers.
- Part 2 reiterates that through the redemptive work of Jesus, adoption gives each believer full right as a son. It also transforms our bodies from mortality to immortality.
- In the Last Days, the Lord will remember again the house of Israel.

I. THE NT ADOPTION GRANTS CHRISTIANS WITH BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES

Galatians 4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,

V5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

V6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

V7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. (NIV)

- Adoption is seen as the ACME (highest point) of blessing and privilege enjoyed by God's people.
- It does not refer to the experience of transformation of a sinner.
- It is a legal term describing the RIGHT or POWER granted to a transformed believer to become God's child.

A. Adoption grants us full right of a son. (Galatians 4:5b, Romans 8:15)

- It releases us from slavery status to sonship status.

B. Adoption grants us a Father-Son relationship and not a Master-Slave relationship. (Galatians 4:6,7)

1. The word "Abba" is an Aramaic word for Father and is found only in Galatians 4:6; Mark 14:35-36; and Romans 8:15
2. Slaves were forbidden to address their Master with "Abba" or their Mistress as "Imma."
3. The word "Father" expresses an intellectual acceptance of the relationship (addressing with your head), while the word "Abba" becomes a personal acknowledgment framed by the lips of an infant, like "Da, da, da" (addressing with your heart).
4. Therefore, the two words (Abba, Father) joined together, express the love and intelligence confidence of the child.

C. Adoption grants us inheritance from the Father. (Romans 8:17a)

1. The Father is the richest Being. He owns the Universe, the Heaven, etc. and all of His is ours.
2. Whatever Jesus has, we have, in power, authority, glory, honour, and riches. (Colossians 1:12, Galatians 3:29, Ephesians 3:6)

II. THE NT ADOPTION TRANSFORMS OUR BODIES FROM MORTALITY TO IMMORTALITY

Romans 8:23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as son, the redemption of our bodies. (NIV)

- Adoption takes place at the moment we are born again, but haven't enjoyed yet its benefit until we attain the resurrection of our bodies.

A. Believers will be adopted into the family of immortal beings. (Philippians 3:21)

1. Adoption takes place at the moment we are born again, but haven't enjoyed yet its benefit until we attain the resurrection of our bodies.
2. The word "transform" or "fashion" in KJV does not refer to exact outward features, but to substance of the body, which will be changed from mortality to immortality, from natural body to spiritual body; from corruption to incorruption; from weakness and humiliation to glory and power. It will be flesh and bone like Christ's body.

B. Living believers will be raptured together with dead believers. (1 Corinthians 15:51-54)

1. Not everybody will die physically, but some will be changed into the likeness of those who died. The body of living believers will be changed into glorified body.
2. This change will happen in a "twinkling of an eye" or in an atom of time. At the first trumpet, the dead will be raised to immortality. At the second trumpet, the living will be changed to immortality and be caught up with the dead to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

III. THE ORIGINAL ADOPTED CHILDREN OF GOD (ISRAELITES) WILL BE "RE-ADOPTED" INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

Romans 9:4 "... the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. (NIV)

A. At the beginning, the Israelites possessed God's full benefits.

DIVINE GLORY (Divine Presence):

1. The physical Divine Presence of God called the Shekinah Glory of God. The pillar of Cloud and Fire that guided the Hebrews during the Exodus from Egypt.
2. The Divine Glory also included the power and authority over life and death exercised by the OT heroes, such as:
 - **Noah** and his family survived the global flood;
 - **Joseph** became the Prime Minister of Egypt;
 - **Moses** divided the Red Sea;
 - **Joshua** divided Jordan River and prayed to God to stop the Sun and Moon to move (about a full day) until they won over their enemies;
 - **David** killed the giant Goliath;
 - **Solomon** was the richest man in the OT;
 - **Elijah** was miraculously fed three times: by the raven, by the widow, and by an angel. He divided Jordan River, he was also mighty in prayer as he prayed that it would not rain and it did not rain for 3.5 years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain. Second to Enoch who was taken up to heaven in physical body; and
 - **Elisha** also divided Jordan River, widow's oil multiplied, children mocking him were attacked by bears, a child was raised to life, iron caused to float, and a man's dead body came to life after touching Elisha's bones (2 Kings 13:21).

COVENANTS:

1. A covenant is the arrangement between two parties involving mutual obligations as in the arrangement that established the relationship between God and His people.
2. A covenant is more than an acquaintance but a commitment to responsibility and action:
 - **Adamic or Edenic Covenant** – Multiply and increase human kind; to replenish, subdue, rule the earth.

- **Noahic Covenant** – Rainbow to remind God that He will not destroy the people with water.
- **Abrahamic Covenant** – Making him a great nation; God will bless those who bless Abraham, and curse those who curse Abraham.
- **Mosaic Covenant or Old Covenant** – Giving of the 10 commandments.
- **Davidic Covenant** – Was made between David and his house. His home, throne, kingdom will endure forever through Jesus who came from his bloodline.

THE RECEIVING OF THE LAW:

- The 10 Commandments through Moses.

THE TEMPLE WORSHIP:

- Solomon built the Temple.

THE PROMISES:

- They were the recipients of the promises.

B. *At the end, God will restore the Israelites. (Hebrews 8:8-12)*