

the contrary, Christ owned and received them as part of his church.—Mark x. 13-16. Therefore, the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant—which in substance is the covenant of grace, still remain to them. “God preached the gospel before to Abraham”—all the members of his family received the seal of the covenant. The same gospel is to be extended to all nations; children in these nations, as in the family of Abraham, must have a right to gospel privileges. Therefore it is said, “Then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”—Gal. iii. 7-9. Accordingly we find in the New Testament, as in the Old, that

1. Children are regenerated and sanctified—John the Baptist was “filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.”—Luke i. 15. Of Timothy it is said, “From a child (infant) thou hast known the Holy Scripture.” 2 Tim. iii. 15. So, Timothy, like Samuel, had saving knowledge.

2. Children have promises—“The promise is unto you, and to your children.”—Act ii. 39. “I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people”—“for all shall know me *from the least to the greatest*.”—Heb. viii. 10, 11. “If ye be Christ’s then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”—Gal. iii. 29.

3. Children are addressed in 2d John—“The Elders unto the elect Lady and her children, whom I love in the truth.” Paul, in writing to the Churches of Ephesus and Colosse, specifies *children* among the several classes whom he addressed as “saints and faithful in Christ Jesus.” These titles were never given to any who had not received the seal of the covenant,—circumcision or baptism.

4. Jesus received and acknowledged the praises of children in the temple, and said—“Have ye never read, Out of the mouths of *babes and sucklings* thou hast perfected praise?”—Matt. xxi. 16. They are part of His great army by which he might still the enemy and the avenger.—Ps. viii. 2.

5. Christ spoke of children as members of His Church—“Jesus took a child and set him by him, and said, whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me, &c.”—Luke ix. 47, 48. Again, “Suffer the *little children* to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.” “And he took them in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.”—Mark x. 13-16. He thus fulfilled the prophecy—“He shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom,” (Isa. xl. 11.), and also plainly declared that little children were members of His visible Church.

6. Children are under the special care of the Angels—“And whoso shall receive one *such little child* in my name receiveth me. Take heed that ye despise not one of these *little ones*; for I say unto you, That in heaven *their angels* do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.”—Matt. xviii. 10. “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”—Heb. i. 14. Angels watch over *the heirs of salvation*—“little ones”; have the same guardians; therefore, heirs of salvation—consequently, infants must be members of the church of God.

7. Children in the New Testament received the seal of the covenant—a noted event in the families of the descendants of