

Covenantal and National Identity

In the last few hundred years, national identity has been a significant issue in Europe. How should we understand national identity in light of the biblical story? What is the role of Abraham in shaping our Christian identity and how does it relate to our national stories? The purpose of the workshop is to give a salvation-historical paradigm for Christian identity in relation to powerful national historical paradigms.

Ádám Szabados has been the Pastor at Evangelical Christian Church, Veszprém, since 1999. He is married to Dóra, and has two boys. He studied English literature and linguistics at the University of Veszprém (MA equivalent, with honours), and theology at Schloss Mittersill Study Center (Diploma in Biblical Studies and Culture) and at Covenant Theological Seminary (ThM in Exegetical Theology). He helped start the Hungarian Evangelical Forum and is the leader of its Steering Committee. He often lectures at MEKDSZ (Hungarian IFES) conferences. He is also involved in the work of the Hungarian Evangelical (Free) Church. He has published many articles in various magazines and journals in the area of culture, theology, and spirituality. His study on the Reformational understanding of sin has been published by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and by ProPhilosophia. He wrote a book on Eros (*Erosz nyomában*, Harmat Publishing House, 2008), which aims to address both Christians and non-Christians in their search for the good, the true, and the beautiful. Ádám also has a popular theological-apologetic website (divinity.szabadosadam.hu).

I. Introduction

II. Salvation-History and the Nations

- A. The New Covenant is promised to Israel

- B. The New Covenant is continuous with the Abrahamic Covenant

- C. The Abrahamic Covenant is a promise to the nations

- D. Israel in the New Covenant is multi-ethnic

- E. The multi-ethnic New Covenant Israel lives in diaspora

III. New Covenant Israel and National Identity

- A. The New Covenant Israel is continuous with the spiritual Israel
- B. The new identity for all nations is Christ
- C. Christ as Israel
- D. Christ as Mankind (Adam)

IV. Christ and National Identity

- A. Christ and the principle of inclusion
- B. Christ and the principle of separation
- C. Christ and the principle of incarnation

Suggested Readings:

Christopher J. Wright, *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative* (IVP, 2006)
Christopher J. Wright, *Salvation Belongs to Our God: Celebrating the Bible's Central Story* (IVP, 2008)
Michael D. Williams, *Far as the Curse is Found: The Covenant Story of Redemption* (P&R, 2005)
John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions* (Baker, 1993)
E.A.J.G. Van der Borght, D. van Keulen, M. E. Brinkman (eds), *Faith and Ethnicity*, 2 vols (Meinema, 2002).
Dewi Hughes, *Castrating Culture: A Christian Perspective on Ethnic Identity from the Margins* (Paternoster, 2001)
Ádám Szabados, "New Covenant Israel As a Multi-Ethnic Diaspora" (<http://szabadosadam.hu/divinity/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/New-Covenant-Israel-As-a-Multi-Ethnic-Diaspora.pdf>)