

# Hope In Our Covenant Keeping God

Genesis 15:1-20

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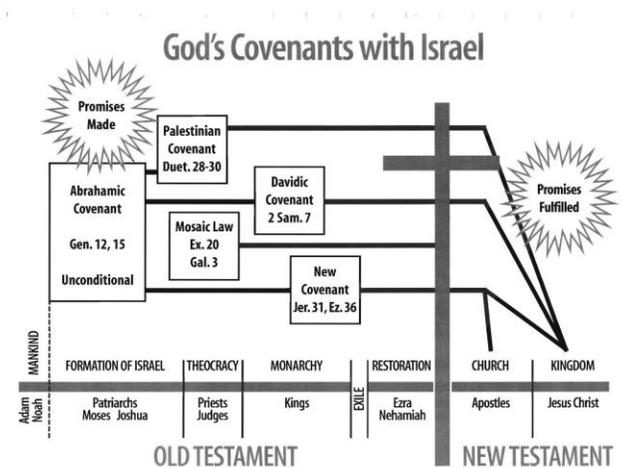
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### Conclusion:

1. The Abrahamic Covenant includes the blessing of a Savior for us!  
<https://shihongzu.wordpress.com/2017/03/24/a-reason-why-i-love-the-old-testament/>
2. God is in control of our future, our family and our finances. Don't fear!



# Hope In Our Covenant Keeping God

## Genesis 15:1-20

**Genesis 15:1-20** <sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue<sup>1</sup> childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son<sup>2</sup> shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup> And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, <sup>21</sup> the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

### I. Our Struggle With Fear (1-3)

- I've struggled with fear
  - First day of school
  - Rejection
  - Pastoring the church I grew up in
- F.D. Roosevelt: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."
- So many of us fear "fear." Even the Bible understands.

**Proverbs 3:25** "Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes"

- "Our groundless fears are our chief tormentors." (Charles Spurgeon, "Our Needless Fears", June 11, 1874)

## A. **God Protects Us With His Word To Overcome Our Fear (1)**

<sup>1</sup> *After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."*

- "after these things" – after Abraham's rescue of Lot, God speaks to Abraham through a vision
- The tone is of a King commending an officer for his victorious military expedition – "your reward shall be very great"
- "Fear not" – because Abraham could face some revenge from the kings and tribes he just defeated
  - Abram just took down several powerful tribes with a surgical strike with his elite Seal Team
- 366 times in the Bible, we read the words "Fear Not"
- "I am your shield" – assuring a post-war Abraham that God will protect Him
- God uses "**I Am**" twice – v. 1, 7
- This is a reminder to Moses and Israel that God is the "I Am" God who sent Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt

## B. **Fear Persists When We Seek Other Solutions Outside Of God's Promise (2)**

<sup>2</sup> *But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"*

- Abram does use the title "Lord God" acknowledging that God is sovereign
- But he has deep questions and was complaining to God
- To be childless was considered by the culture to be a sign of God's judgment
- So Abraham thought Eliezer would be the heir of God's promise to Abram
- He thought that his servant would be the one to inherit Abram's estate
  - Bruce Waltke: "The Nuzi tablets (mid-second millennium B.C.) give some evidence that in Abraham's culture a childless man could adopt someone to be the guardian and heir of his estate as compensation for the person's performing the duties of a son." (*Genesis: A Commentary*, p. 241)
- Abram was looking at his own solution in Eliezer and not trust God to fulfill His promise completely

## C. **Fear Persists When We Are Too Impatient For God's Provision (3)**

<sup>3</sup> *And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."*

- **It's OK to complain to God**
- It's worse to complain to others about God
- It's a good relationship with God that we can tell Him everything on our heart
- You have given me no offspring

- Abram was **impatient** with God's fulfillment of promise
- We need to be patient

#### **D. Fear Subsides When We Rest In God's Provision And Promise (4-6)**

<sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."<sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."<sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

- God gives Abraham assurance by pointing to the multitude of stars and guaranteeing him that his descendants would be plentiful
- Abraham believed
- He was convinced in what God told him and rested in faith
- His faith is what gave Him righteousness accounted to His account

## **II. God's Promise Of Provision (7-21)**

### **A. Remembering The Covenant Keeping God (7)**

<sup>7</sup> And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."

- "I am" = God is the eternal covenant keeping God
- Again, the "I Am" is enforcing God's call to Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt
- Parallel:
  - God led Abraham out of Ur to the land
  - God led Moses and Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land
- As God is reminding Abraham of His leading, God is reminding Moses' Israel of His leading
- It's so easy to forget the times God led us in our past when we're so fearful of the future

### **B. Ratifying The Covenant With God (8-11)**

<sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"<sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."<sup>10</sup> And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.<sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

- "How am I to know...?" – God is asking for assurance
- God responds by ratifying His covenant
- 3 year old heifer, goat, ram – cut in half
- turtle dove and young pigeon not cut in half – probably too small

### **C. Reassuring With Prophecies And Promises (12-16)**

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.<sup>14</sup> But I will bring judgment on

*the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup> And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."*

- The end of the day was unusually dark and dreadful and Abram fell into a deep sleep
- God would speak to Abram in his sleep
- The darkness and dread would fit the prophecy about Israel's 400 year affliction under Israel
- "Sojourners in a land that is not theirs" – Egypt
- "afflicted" – slavery
- "judgment" – 10 plagues on Egypt
- The 400 years is a round number – Israel was under Egypt's captivity for 430 years
- Abraham was also promised to live to a long age with gray hair
- "old age" = lit. gray headed
- "4<sup>th</sup> generation" is usually the cycle of one's life assuming the average age is 100 years and every generation is 25 years
- Waltke: "In Egypt at the time of the patriarchs, 110 was the ideal life span (see Gen 50:22)" (p. 244)

#### **D. Reaffirming The Covenant (17-20)**

*<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, <sup>21</sup> the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."*

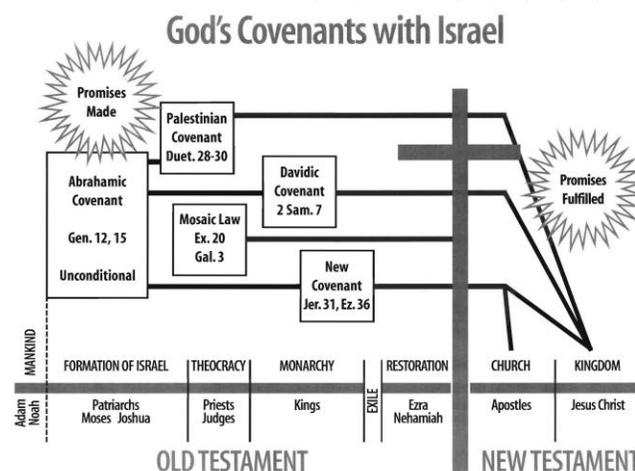
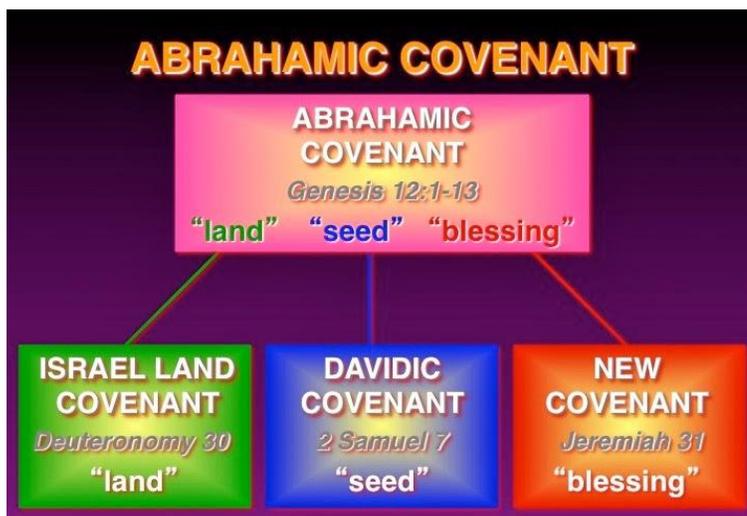
- The smoking fire pot and flaming torch were symbols of God's presence
- The flame passed through the pieces – picturing God as walking between the animals to ratify the covenant
- This promise would form the basis of **the Abrahamic Covenant**

**Genesis 17:1-4** <sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup> that I may make my **covenant** between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup> "Behold, my **covenant** is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

- Hebrew: בְּרִית = *b'rit* = *berit*
- "the standing contract between two partners" (F. C. Fensham, "Covenant," *New Bible Dictionary*)
- OT covenants were contracts that governed a relationship between two parties

**Genesis 26:28** But they said, "We have certainly seen that the Lord is with you. So we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a **covenant** with you'"

- "An eternal, unconditional covenant made between God and Abraham in which God committed Himself to bless Abraham and to give his descendants a land, a posterity, and spiritual blessings." (Paul Benware, *Understanding End Times Prophecy: A Comprehensive Approach*, Moody Press, Chicago, IL, 1995, p. 321)



**Genesis 15:8** And he said, "Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"

1. **God Will Give Israel A Promised Land** (Gen 12:1,7; 13:14-17; 15:17-21; 17:8; Ezek 47:13-23)

**Genesis 12:1** Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, **To a land that I will show you.**

**Genesis 12:7** Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "**To your descendants I will give this land.**"

**Genesis 13:14-15**<sup>14</sup>And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are— northward, southward, eastward, and westward; <sup>15</sup>for all the **land** which you see **I give to you and your descendants forever.**

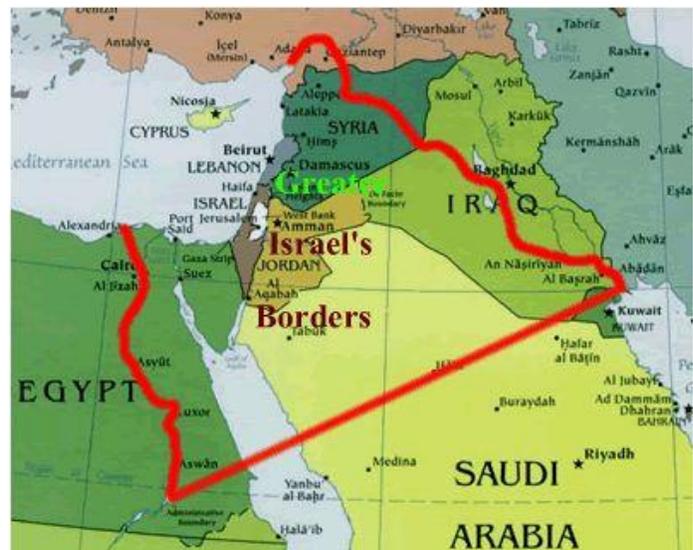
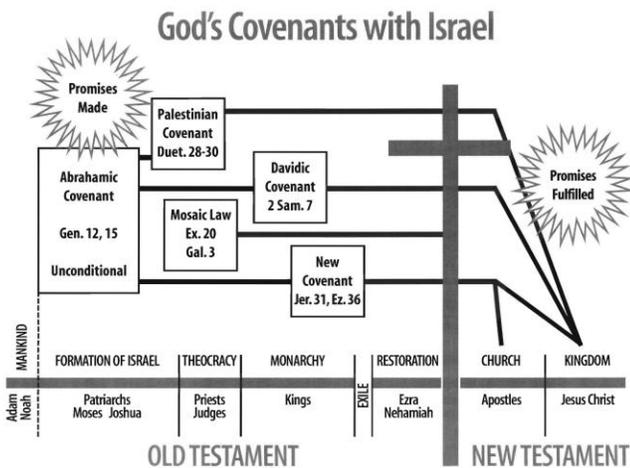
**Genesis 13:17**<sup>17</sup>Arise, walk in the **land** through its length and its width, for **I give it to you.**"

**Genesis 15:17-21**<sup>17</sup>And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. <sup>18</sup>On the same day the Lord made a **covenant** with Abram, saying: "**To your descendants I have given this land**, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— <sup>19</sup>the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup>the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, <sup>21</sup>the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

**Genesis 17:8** Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

- The border is greater than the current Israel
- What is the "River of Egypt"
  - Waltke thinks it's the most easterly branch of the Nile
  - Walter Kaiser thinks it's the modern Nahr el-Kebir (which means Great River)
- The other border is the Euphrates River

**Exodus 23:31** "And I will set your bounds from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River."



**Ezekiel 47:13-23** <sup>13</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: "These *are* the borders by which you shall divide the land as an inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph *shall have two* portions... <sup>15</sup>This *shall be* the border of the land on the north: from the, *by* the road to Hethlon, as one goes to Zedad, <sup>16</sup>Hamath, Berothah, Sibram (which *is* between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath), to Hazar Hatticon (which *is* on the border of Hauran). <sup>17</sup>Thus the boundary shall be from the Sea to Hazar Enan, the border of Damascus; and as for the north, northward, it is the border of Hamath. *This is* the north side. <sup>18</sup>On the east side you shall mark out the border from between Hauran and Damascus, and between Gilead and the land of Israel, along the Jordan, and along the eastern side of the sea. *This is* the east side. <sup>19</sup>The south side, toward the South, *shall be* from Tamar to the waters of Meribah by Kadesh, along the brook to the Great Sea. *This is* the south side, toward the South. <sup>20</sup>The west side *shall be* the Great Sea, from the *southern* boundary until one comes to a point opposite Hamath. *This is* the west side. <sup>21</sup>Thus you shall divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel.

The millennial Promised Land in Ezek 47:

- 1) North Border (vv. 15–17)
- 2) East Border (v. 18)
- 3) South (v. 19)
- 4) West (v. 20)

### **It's all about the land!**

- rich in minerals, fertile agricultural land, beautiful, water access
- Palestinians, Iranians, Arabians, Iraqis, Syria – all don't want Israel there
- Muslims believe Israel belongs to them since the Crusades
- 250 million Arabs surrounding 5 million Jews in Israel – most of them wanting them out of the land
- Israel believes that they should have more of the land – but they will have to wait until the Lord comes back before they get all that was promised to them

## **2. God Will Bless Abraham Personally (Gen 12:2; 17:5-21; 22:15-17)**

### **a. Abraham Will Be A Father Of Many Nations (Gen 12:2; 17:4)**

**Genesis 12:2a** I will make you a **great nation**

**Genesis 17:4c** And you shall be a father of many **nations**.

### **b. Abraham Will Be Blessed (Gen 12:2; 22:15-17)**

**Genesis 12:2b** I will **bless** you

**Genesis 22:15-17** <sup>15</sup>Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, <sup>16</sup>and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—  
<sup>17</sup>**blessing** I will **bless** you

### **c. Abraham Will Be Materially Fruitful (Gen 17:6)**

**Genesis 17:6a** I will make you exceedingly **fruitful**

- Abraham became extremely wealthy (13:2; 24:34-35)
- Abraham was blessed with land (13:14-15,17)
- Abraham had several servants (15:7)
- Abraham was spiritually blessed (13:18; 21:22)

### **d. Abraham's Name Will Be Great (Gen 12:2)**

**Genesis 12:2c** And make your **name** great

- Abraham's name became famous internationally
- Abraham's name was associated with his good reputation and God's blessing

### **e. "Abraham" Will Replace His Original Name "Abram" (Gen 17:5)**

**Genesis 17:5** No longer shall your name be called **Abram**, but your name shall be Abraham

**f. "Sarah" Will Replace Her Original Name "Sarai" (Gen 17:15)**

**Genesis 17:15** Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name."

**g. Abraham Will Have A Son (Isaac) Through Sarah Who Will Be The Possessor Of God's Covenant (Gen 15:1-4; 17:19-21)**

**Genesis 15:1-4** <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" <sup>4</sup>And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."

**Genesis 17:19-21** <sup>19</sup>Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. <sup>20</sup>And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. <sup>21</sup>But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."

**3. God Will Make Abraham's Descendants A Great Nation (Gen 17:4-14; 22:17)**

**a. Abraham Will Have Multiple Descendants (Gen 22:17)**

**Genesis 22:17a** Blessing I will bless you, and **multiplying** I will **multiply** your **descendants** as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

**b. Abraham's Descendants Will Form Several Nations (Gen 17:4-6)**

**Genesis 17:4-6** <sup>4</sup>As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many **nations**. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many **nations**. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make **nations** of you, and kings shall come from you.

- Israel and the several Arab nations have come from Abraham

**c. Abraham's Descendants Will Be Royal (Gen 17:6)**

**Genesis 17:6c** And **kings** shall come from you.

- This is the basis for the Davidic Covenant where God guarantees the Messiah will continue the Kingly line of David

**d. Abraham's Descendants Are Included In This Covenant (Gen 17:7)**

**Genesis 17:7** And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your **descendants** after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your **descendants** after you

**e. Abraham's Descendants Will Be Recipients Of The Promised Land As An Everlasting Possession**

**Genesis 17:8a** Also I give to you and your descendants after you the **land** in which you are a stranger, all the **land** of Canaan, as an **everlasting possession**

**Genesis 22:17b** And your descendants shall **possess the gate** of their enemies.

**f. Abraham's Descendants Will Have An Eternal Relationship With God**

**Genesis 17:8b** And I will be their God."

**g. Abraham's Descendants Will Undergo Egyptian Bondage And Be Delivered Victoriously**

**Genesis 15:13-14** <sup>13</sup>Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be **strangers in a land that is not theirs**, and will **serve** them, and they will **afflict** them **four hundred years**. <sup>14</sup>And also the nation whom they serve I will **judge**; afterward they shall **come out** with great possessions."

**4. God Will Bless The World Through Abraham (Gen 12:3; 22:18; Gal 3:16)**

**a. Nations That Bless Israel Will Be Blessed**

**Genesis 12:3a** I will **bless** those who **bless** you,

**b. Nations That Curse Israel Will Be Cursed**

**Genesis 12:3** And I will **curse** him who **curses** you

**c. All Families Worldwide Will Be Blessed Through Abraham Ultimately Through Christ (the Seed)**

**Genesis 12:3c** And **in you all the families of the earth** shall be **blessed**.

**Genesis 22:18** **In your seed** all the **nations of the earth** shall be **blessed**, because you have obeyed My voice."

**Galatians 3:16** Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your **Seed**," **who is Christ**.

**Galatians 3:19** What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, **till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made**; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

**Galatians 3:29** And if you are **Christ's**, then you are **Abraham's seed**, and **heirs** according to the **promise**.

## 5. **God Reaffirmed And Repeated This Covenant At Least Eight Times**

- Gen 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-21; 22:15-18; 26:2-5,24; 28:13-17; 35:10-12
- Will God fulfill this covenant literally or figuratively with the church (as Amillennials teach)?

## 6. **The Abrahamic Covenant Will Be Fulfilled**

### a. **The Abrahamic Covenant Is An Everlasting Covenant (Gen 17:7-8)**

**Genesis 13:15** for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants **forever**.

**Genesis 17:7-8** <sup>7</sup>And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an **everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and your descendants after you. <sup>8</sup>Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an **everlasting** possession; and I will be their God."

**Genesis 17:13** He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an **everlasting covenant**.

**Genesis 17:19** Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an **everlasting covenant**, and with his descendants after him.

- If God concluded His covenant with Abraham by removing the blessing literally from Israel and fulfilling it spiritually through the Church, then the Covenant is not everlasting.
- The Millennial Kingdom culminating with a New Jerusalem for Israel fulfills the eternal aspect of the covenant.

### b. **The Abrahamic Covenant Was Partially Fulfilled In Christ Being The Source Of Universal Blessing (Lk 1:54-55; Acts 3:25; Gal 3)**

**Luke 1:54-55** <sup>54</sup>He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, <sup>55</sup>As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his **seed** forever." (cf. vv. 68-75)

- "Seed" refers to Israel, the descendant of Abraham.
- Premillennialists affirm the "Seed" as Israel.
- Amillennialists believe there "Seed" are those who benefit from the Abrahamic Covenant
- Confusion can be averted when we realize there are 3 Seeds in Scripture:
  - "There are , then, three different senses in which one can be a child of Abraham. First, there is the natural lineage, or natural seed. This is limited largely to the descendants of Jacob in the twelve tribes. To them God promises to be their God. To them was given the law. To them was given the land of Israel in the Old Testament. With them God dealt in a special way. Second, there is the spiritual lineage within the natural. These are the Israelites who believed in God, who kept the law, and who met the conditions for present enjoyment of the blessings of the covenant. Those who ultimately possess the land in the future millennium will also be of spiritual Israel. Third, there is the spiritual seed of Abraham who are not natural Israelites. Here is where the promise to 'all the families of the earth' comes in. This is the express application of this phrase in Galatians 3:6-9." (John Walvoord, cited by Pentecost, *Things To Come*, pp. 87-88)

**Galatians 3:6-9** <sup>6</sup>just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." <sup>7</sup>Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup>And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you **all the nations shall be blessed.**" <sup>9</sup>So then **those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.**

- Salvation is based on faith in Christ, the Seed of the Abrahamic Covenant

**Galatians 3:15-18** <sup>15</sup>Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. <sup>16</sup>Now to **Abraham** and his **Seed** were the **promises** made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your **Seed,**" **who is Christ.** <sup>17</sup>And this I say, that the **law**, which was four hundred and thirty years later, **cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ**, that it should make the promise of no effect. <sup>18</sup>For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

- Paul was countering the legalist who advocated the necessity of obeying law for salvation. Paul confirmed that salvation is through Christ alone, Who is the promised Seed of Abraham that would bless the world with salvation.

**Galatians 3:28-29** <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are **Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise.

**Acts 3:25** You are sons of the prophets, and of the **covenant** which God made with our fathers, saying to **Abraham**, 'And in your **seed all the families** of the earth shall be blessed.'

- The only way the Church can be considered Abraham's Seed is to be in Jesus Christ.
- This relates to "all the families of the earth."
- There is a difference between universal blessings of the Covenant which every family of the earth in Christ receives and the national blessings which apply to Israel and the land.
- These passages never say the universal seed will receive the land.
- The land promise is only made to the seed of Israel.

**c. The Abrahamic Covenant Will Be Completely Fulfilled When Israel Possesses The Promised Land Forever (Rom 11)**

**Romans 11** <sup>1</sup>I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup>God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,... <sup>7</sup>What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded... <sup>13</sup>For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, <sup>14</sup>if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them.... <sup>25</sup>For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup>And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; <sup>27</sup>For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

- Amillennialists believe the Abrahamic Covenant has already been fulfilled and that Abraham and his descendants have already received the promised land and is buried there today. But this does not account for the "eternality" of the covenant. Israel does not have the full extent of the borders today.
- "Although the Hebrew people have not, as yet, ever possessed that territory, this in no way invalidates the promise. Abraham never possessed more than a gravesite, and neither did Isaac or Jacob. The literal fulfillment of God's promises, therefore, necessitates a coming time when God will keep His pledged word. That time is referred to as the 'Millennium.'" (John Phillips, "Contracts Signed By God, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 5 parts," Moody Monthly, June, 1982, p. 46)

**Conclusion:**

**1. The Abrahamic Covenant includes the blessing of a Savior for us!**

- Shihong's conversation with a Jewish man while in Israel

Shihong: Meidad, I got a question for you!

Meidad: What?

S: Do you know Abraham?

M:?

S: You guys (pointing to his family and his friends family, for there were two families there.) know Abraham right! He is your father!

Meidad + Families: Oh yes! Yes! Of course, we love Abraham!

S: Ahh, me too! Me too! What did God promise Abraham!

M+F (especially the wives xD): The LAND! (Israeli Jews are especially patriotic. Decades of modern history of fighting for this land shaped how they view the land and God's covenant promise)

S: That's right! God promised Abraham the land and what else? That Abraham would have many sons, as many as the stars! You are his son! \*point. You are his son! \*point. You are his son! \*point. You are his son! \*point etc.

M+F: YAAASS!

S: What was the last thing He promised? That God would use the sons of Abraham, the nation of Israel to be a blessing to all the other nations! Here's a question: How am I \*pointing to myself. blessed because of you? \*points.

M+F (one of the wives.): I don't know. Why??

S: How am I, a random Chinese foreigner blessed by you. Two families that I have never met? God promised Abraham that you guys would be a blessing to me? Am I a Jew? No! I am a Gentile. How am I blessed by you?

M+F: Umm, maybe the land? You're here traveling.

S: That may be true. But more importantly, I am blessed because of one of Abraham's sons. Who is that man?

M+F: (You can see the tension building in their faces.)

S: That man is Jesus! Because Jesus is the Messiah. He is the one who took away the sins of the world. Jesus Christ saved me from my sin and he does so for you and you and you and you. That is why since you guys are sons of Abraham I am blessed! That is why, I love Abraham. That is why, I love the Jews! That is why, I love you guys!

M+F: Ohhh, wow... I didn't know that.

S: Yeah! It's awesome isn't it!? (I was now yelled at to get to the bus, if I had more time the conversation definitely would have continued.) I got to go, but think of Jesus and how He saved you from your sins and believe in Him! Bye! Shabbat Shalom!

M+F: Bye! We love you! (Wow.)

## **2. God is in control of our future, our family and our finances. Don't fear!**