

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Series: the End Times – Bible prophecy about future events and periods

Teaching Summary for Week 7

The Kingdom and the Covenants

Part 2. The Abrahamic Covenant

The Abrahamic Covenant is an unconditional, eternal, literal covenant made by the Lord to Abraham. It consists of promises concerning **his seed** (innumerable descendants, nations, kings, one seed), a **land grant** deeded to the nation that would come from his loins, and the **blessings** that would ultimately extend to all the nations of the world.

Scriptures (read together): **Genesis 12:2-7; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-21; 22:15-18; 26:1-5; 28:1-4, 10-15.**

As we read, let's note the basic **promises**, how they are **enlarged**, and to whom they are **confirmed**. We will answer the following questions:

1. Which **category(ies)** of the promises are included in this passage : **personal, seed (kingly line or nation), land, and/or universal blessings?**
2. Have these promises been **fulfilled yet** ? Partially, completely, or not at all.
3. Does this passage **enlarge** what had earlier been promised?
4. Does this passage **confirm** the covenant made to Abraham? If so, to whom?
5. Are the promises **literal**?
6. Are the promises **unconditional** for the person or people to whom the covenant has been made?
7. Are the promises **eternal (forever)**, or can they end?

Next let's put this all together.

In the Abrahamic Covenant, the LORD promises Abraham the following rights and privileges:

Original: Genesis 12:2-3

1. **PERSONAL:** "I will make your name great" (Gen 12:2).
2. **SEED:**
 - a. Descendants
 - b. **Nation(s):** "I will make you a great nation" (Gen 12:2).
 - c. King(s)
 - d. **Preservation:** "The one who curses you I will curse". (Gen 12:3)
 - e. Line
 - f. Seed singular
3. **LAND:**
4. **BLESSING:**
 - a. **National:** "I will bless those who bless you" (Gen 12:3).
 - b. **Universal:** "In you all the families of the earth will be blessed." (Gen 12:3).

Enlarged

1. **PERSONAL:**
2. **SEED:**
 - a. **Descendants :** innumerable natural descendants (Gen 13:16; 15:3-5; 17:1-2; 22:16-17), "as the dust of the earth"; "the stars of the sky"; "I will multiply you exceedingly"; "sand on the seashore".
 - b. **Nation(s):** "You will be the father of a multitude of nations." (Gen 17:3-5)
 - c. **King(s):** "Kings will come forth from you" (Gen 17:6)

- d. **Preservation:** “ I will establish My covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.” (Gen 17:7)
 - e. **Line:** “My covenant I will establish with Isaac”. (Gen 17:19-21; 21:12)
 - f. **Identification:** The sign of the covenant people would be circumcision. (Gen 17:9-14)
 - g. **Seed singular:** the promises will be fulfilled to Abraham’s seed, our Lord Jesus Christ . All the nations of the earth shall be blessed in Him. (Gen 22:17-18; Gal 3:16-19).
3. **LAND:** an everlasting and irrevocable title to a definite land area on earth (Gen 12:5-7; 13:14-17; 15:18-21; 17:7-8)
4. **BLESSING:**
- a. **National:** The Lord would be his God and his descendants would be God’s people. (Gen 17:7-9)
 - b. **and Universal:** Final world supremacy through which great divine blessings would flow to all mankind (Gen 22:17-18)

Confirmed

- 1. **To Abraham:** Gen 22:15-18.
- 2. **To Isaac:** Gen 26:1-5.
- 3. **To Jacob:** Gen 28:1-4, 10-15.
- 4. **To the nation of Israel:** Eze 2:24; Lev 26:40-45; 2Ki 13:22-23; Psa 105:6-15; Jer 31:31-40; Mic 7:18-20; Rom 11:25-29.
- 5. **To the Church (spiritual blessings):** Gal 3:14-18,29; Heb 6:13-20; 11:8-21, 39-40.

What can we conclude about the nature of the Abrahamic Covenant from the passages that confirm the covenant to the nation of Israel?

The significance of the Abrahamic covenant for Eschatology (end times)

The Abrahamic Covenant is the basis for the **entire covenant program** between God and His people.

Five aspects of the Abrahamic Covenant make it central to the **future events** of the end times.

The Abrahamic Covenant is **unconditional**: the promises are certain to occur.

The promises in the Abrahamic Covenant are **literal**.

The promises have not yet been fulfilled in their entirety. The fulfillment is in the **future**.

The Abrahamic Covenant is **eternal** in character.

The Abrahamic Covenant was made with a defined covenant people: **Israel**.

Eternal aspects of the Abrahamic Covenant include:

1. Israel is guaranteed a permanent **national existence**.
2. Israel is granted a perpetual title to the **promised land**.
3. Israel is certain to receive **material and spiritual blessing forever** through Christ.
4. **Gentile nations** will share in these permanent blessings.

The essential parts of the Abrahamic covenant: **the seed, the land, and the blessing**, are enlarged in subsequent covenants made with Israel. We will study each of these.

They include the **Palestinian Covenant** (land – final permanent restoration in the land of promise), the **Davidic Covenant** (seed – promises of a dynasty, nation, and throne), and the **New Covenant** (blessing – particularly Israel’s spiritual blessing and redemption) .

What are the implications of these facts?

The Abrahamic Covenant is an **unconditional** covenant made with **Israel**. It cannot be annulled, and it cannot be fulfilled by people other than the nation of Israel.

The seed promises and the land promises are made only to the nation of Israel: the **physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**.

Gen 17:6-8, 19; Psa 105:6-11

Ps 105:6-11

*6 O seed of Abraham, His servant,
O sons of Jacob, His chosen ones!*

*7 He is the Lord our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.*

*8 He has remembered His **covenant forever**,
The word which He commanded to a thousand generations,*

*9 **The covenant** which He made with **Abraham**,
And His oath to **Isaac**.*

*10 Then He confirmed it to **Jacob** for a statute,
To Israel as an everlasting covenant,*

*11 Saying, " To you I will give **the land of Canaan**
As the portion of your inheritance,"*

So the Abrahamic Covenant promises Israel a permanent existence as a nation. The Abrahamic Covenant promises Israel permanent possession of the promised land.

But never in her history has she fully possessed all the land promised in the covenant. She certainly has not possessed the complete land grant uninterrupted until now.

So Israel as a nation has a **future** when the seed and land promises will be fulfilled.

Note that it is "spiritual Israel" who will possess the land in the future millennium. Spiritual Israel is **NOT the church**.

Spiritual Israel consists of the **physical descendants of Jacob** who also share in **the faith** of Abraham.

At that time when Israel will possess the land permanently, believing Gentiles (all the families of the earth) will receive a share of the blessings given to Israel.

In **Galatians 3:6-9**, the children of Abraham by faith who are Gentiles fulfill the universal promised blessings, but not the national promises, which are only given to the nation of Israel.

Finally, therefore, **the Church is NOT Israel**. Thus, the Church is NOT fulfilling Israel's seed and land promises.

Let's read **Romans 11** together.

Romans 11 says that God has taken Israel out of the place of blessing temporarily (until the fullness of Gentiles comes in), but will restore Israel to that place of blessing after His program for the Church is completed.

And all the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant - seed, land, and blessing – will ultimately be fulfilled and inherited by a single Person – the pre-eminent Seed, **our Lord Jesus Christ**.

Gal 3:16

16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

The church is receiving the spiritual blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant by virtue of **our union with Christ**.

Gal 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.