

“COVENANT AND CONTROVERSY; THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT/THE GLUE OF THE BIBLE

5/30/17

Has the Abrahamic Covenant been fulfilled?

HOW? WHY?

What is the Feast of Weeks?

Lev. 23:15-21

God told the Jewish people to count seven Sabbaths/seven weeks from the Feast of First Fruits – AND – on the 50<sup>th</sup> day from that Feast of First Fruits – they were to offer a new grain offering in the form of two loaves of leavened bread.

Deut. 16:16-17 - *“Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. <sup>17</sup> Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.*

Jewish males were to travel to Jerusalem three times a year – this was OBLIGATORY. They were to travel to Jerusalem on Passover, on the Feast of Weeks, and on the Feast of Tabernacles.

AND, many wives and children accompanied the husbands/fathers (Luke 2:41-42)

Acts 2:1-5

When Jewish people celebrate Shavuot/the Feast of Weeks, they celebrate the giving of the law.

We need to know that each feast commemorates either an event in Israel’s history and/or a harvest. AND, we need to know that each feast points to Jesus. AND, we need to know that each feast has a “rest of the story” – a fulfillment – which OCCURS ON THE DAY OF THE FEAST. Passover – deliverance from bondage to slavery in Egypt through the blood of the Passover Lamb. FULFILLMENT: Jesus’ crucifixion – providing for us deliverance/redemption from bondage to sin – through the blood of the PERFECT PASSOVER LAMB! Jesus was crucified ON the day of Passover!

The Feast of Weeks:

It was/and is today celebrated because of the giving of the law. It’s fulfillment – the giving of the Holy Spirit!!! II Cor. 3:7 – the law is called the “ministry of death.” Yet, the law is called glorious - because the law, which is perfect (reflecting Who God is [Psa. 119] and restoring the soul [Psa. 19:7]) cannot save – because man is sinful – we can never obey 613 commandments. Rom. 8:3 - *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, Rom. 3:20 - Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.* The law restores our soul because it shows us our SIN - it shows us our NEED for a Savior!

II Cor. 3:8-9 – the “ministry of the Spirit” is more glorious. <sup>9</sup> *For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.*

Turn to Ex. 32:25-28; Acts 2:41

How do we understand the fulfillment of all the Jewish feasts – that they are all fulfilled in Jesus? Because God promised the blessing – salvation – in the Abrahamic Covenant!

Why would an Evangelical Christian believe that the Jews have no right to the land?

Why would an Evangelical Christian believe that the promise in Gen. 12:3 is not in effect today?

How do we understand that the Abrahamic Covenant is in effect today...that the promise of God in Gen. 12:3 - *I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed* – is in effect today?

Because the Abrahamic Covenant is a UNILATERAL (one-sided – on God’s side), UNCONDITIONAL covenant...and the fulfillment of the LAND, SEED, AND BLESSING is dependent upon God and God alone. We do NOT look toward the obedience of Israel in fulfilling these promises from God. If we did – no one would be saved!!

If someone tells you that Gen. 12:3 is not for today...how are you going to answer?

Ask them:

“When was it good ‘til?’!!!!!!

“What Scriptures are you using to support your view?”

“What about your salvation? Are you saved? How then did that occur if the Abrahamic Covenant is not for today?”

“Can you explain the Abrahamic Covenant?”

“What did God promise through the Abrahamic Covenant?”

Gen. 15:12-17 – Abram was in a deep sleep; God walked in the ditch alone.

Heb. 6:13 – God swore by Himself - *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,*<sup>14</sup> *saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”*<sup>15</sup> *And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.*<sup>16</sup> *For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.*<sup>17</sup> *Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,*<sup>18</sup> *that by two immutable things, in*

which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

<sup>19</sup> This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, <sup>20</sup> where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

What are you going to do with this subject? These comments will continue!

Gen. 17:7-8 – everlasting covenant (Jer. 7:7; Jer. 25:5).

II Sam. 7:12-16 – confirmed by the Davidic Covenant way into the future – when God’s Kingdom (promised in Dan. 2 and throughout the OT) will be established on earth!  
Psa. 105:8-11 - King David spoke of the covenant still being in effect (circa 1,000 BC).

Luke 1 – the covenant continues to be in effect (Gabriel’s message to Mary [Lk 1:30-33, 54-55] and Zacharias’ benediction Lk 1:68-79)].

Rom. 11:15 – the restoration/acceptance of the Jews based on the Abrahamic Covenant is life from the dead for the world. This restoration will take place at the end of the Tribulation as noted in Zech. 12:10.

Rom. 15:7-11 – Jew and Gentile together based on the Abrahamic Covenant; cross reference – Isa. 49:6 - *Indeed He says,*

*‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’*

Gal. 3:15-16 – nothing can annul or add to God’s promise; as “the” Seed, Christ confirmed the promises God made to Abraham.

AND – (you can tell this person) not all prophecy re: the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant has been fulfilled.

Do the Jews have all the land God promised?

Is Jesus ruling and reigning from the throne of David in Jerusalem?

Will people yet be saved? The book of Revelation speaks of countless multitudes coming to faith in Jesus during the Tribulation. How is that going to happen if the Abrahamic Covenant is...kaput!

“What about your salvation? Are you saved? How then did that occur if the Abrahamic Covenant is no longer effective?”

How can we say that God’s plan of redemption for the world revolves around Israel?  
Dan. 9:24

BIBLICALLY we can state that the Abrahamic Covenant is still in effect even after the patriarchs of Israel had sinned several times.

- Gen. 12 – Abram goes down to Egypt after God promises him the land.
  - Tells Sarai to lie
  - Pharaoh is punished.
- Gen. 20 – Abimelech; déjà vu; Abimelech was punished.
- God later confirmed the covenant w/ his son, Isaac (Gen. 26:1-4)
- In spite of Isaac’s sin after that confirmation (Gen. 26:6-11), God later confirmed the covenant with his son, Jacob (Gen. 28:13-15; 35:9-12; 48:3-4).
- Even though Jacob and his sons were guilty of various sins (Gen. 37:18-36; 38:12-26), Joseph regarded the covenant to be in effect at the end of his life and was convinced that it would continue to be so into the future (Gen. 50:24-26).
- Several generations after Joseph, when the people of Israel were enslaved in Egypt, God made it clear to Moses that the Abrahamic Covenant was still in effect (Ex. 2:24 - *God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.*; 6:2-8 (READ))

These two accounts certainly revolved around God’s promise to Israel!

#### CONSIDER:

I Sam. 17:45-46 - *Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel”*

This is also found in Josh. 4:24; I Kings 8:43, 60; II Kings 19:19; Psa. 67; Psa. 126:2, Eze. 36:20-23, Mal. 1:11, 14....

#### WHY?

What is God’s desire? Hab. 2:14 – that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God (Gen. 12:3)!

God chose Israel to be His witness to the nations – to fulfill “all the families of the earth would be blessed” through the Promised One/the Messiah coming through Israel. God’s will is NEVER thwarted!

Rev. 7:1-8 – 144,000; great multitude from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues

Zech. 8:23 - *ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you’*

ISAIAH 62:1-7 – ask believers what they think of this passage?

Gen. 12:3 – those who bless Israel – what does that mean? Recognizing that God has a plan for Israel.

Num. 22 – Balaak/Balaam – curse Israel.  
 Num. 24:1-9; Num. 24:17 – Messianic prophecy  
 Num. 25:1-3. Israel is NOT restored. Yet, Balaam realized it pleased God to bless Israel.

If the Abrahamic Covenant is conditional, based on Israel's obedience, how did Jesus come the first time?

CONSIDER: Between Malachi and Matthew there's a period of time that we call the Intertestamental time – between the Testaments – OT/NT. During that time which equates to 430 years (Malachi prophesied circa 430 BC), God sent no prophetic warning to the Jewish people. That period of time has been called "400 years of silence". WHY? Because of the sins of the people.

*Malachi 4:5-6 - Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet  
 Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*

*<sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*

Following the 430 years – the time between the testaments – we continue to read of an unrepentant NATION of Israel (**God told them to turn to Him as a nation: Deut. 30:1-6; Psa. 33:12 – Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; Jer. 31:31-34; Eze. 36:24-27; Eze. 37;....**)

How do we know the nation of Israel is unrepentant after the 430 years? Matt. 3:1-2 - *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,<sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"*

So, Israel was not yet restored – not totally obedient – and **JESUS THE MESSIAH, IMMANUEL...entered the world!**

If the Abrahamic Covenant is a conditional covenant, based on Israel's obedience, what about...

God's promise of the blessing through the Messiah – salvation – offered to all the families of the earth? Under a conditional covenant, salvation be dependent upon the obedience of Israel?!!! AND, we would all be TOAST!

Do you see what is at stake if we state that the Abrahamic Covenant is conditional?