

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

3 major aspects:

- Land - Israel's permanent ownership of the promised land – fulfilled in the Palestinian (Land) Covenant – Deut. 30:3-5; Eze.20:33-37, 42-44
- Seed – promise of descendants that would form a great nation – fulfilled ultimately in the Davidic Covenant - II Samuel 7:11, 13, 16; Jeremiah 33:20, 21; 31:35-37
- Blessing – salvation offered to the world – fulfilled in the New Covenant – Jeremiah 31:31-40; Hebrews 8:6-13..

If the Abrahamic Covenant is unconditional:

- then every promise of that covenant must be fulfilled.
- What are those promises?
 - Land - Israel would be given – forever – the land described in Gen. 15:18.
 - Seed - God would give Abraham descendants and ultimately through the seed line of David – a kingdom and throne.
 - Blessing - the Abrahamic Covenant would be an everlasting covenant for Israel and for the world. Salvation would be offered through the Jewish Messiah, Jesus, to the world – to both Jew and Gentile.

If the Abrahamic Covenant is conditional (dependent upon the obedience of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the children of Israel for the fulfillment of those promises) – then not every promise of that covenant has to be fulfilled.

- In light of disobedience, Israel would not have to be given the land forever.
- In light of disobedience, there would be no eternal King (Jesus the Messiah) sitting on David's throne during the Millennium.
- In light of disobedience, God's promise that the Abrahamic Covenant would be an everlasting covenant would be a lie!!
- In light of the disobedience of Israel, salvation would not be provided for all the families of the earth!!!

Only God passed through the halves of the animals. The Abrahamic Covenant is an unconditional covenant – based on God and His faithfulness alone!

Gen. 15:8 – Abram asked, “God whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it (the land)?”

- God gave Abram proof – and established the covenant.

The purpose of the formal establishment of the Abrahmic Covenant was that of assuring Abram that God would keep His word. The total focus of the covenant was the faithfulness of God to His commitment.

The Abrahamic Covenant is timeless – because it is solely dependent upon God. The Abrahamic Covenant was 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
 - Tells Sarai to lie
 - Abimelech and his people are 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; 6:2-8)

Even after the nation of Israel had sinned in numerous ways over the course of several centuries, David regarded the Abrahamic Covenant to be in effect with Israel in his day. I Chron. 16:15-18.

Moses promised that even though Israel would become idolatrous and evil and would be scattered and suffer because of its sin, in the latter days it would have opportunity to return to God and be obedient because God would not fail Israel, nor destroy it, nor forget the Abrahamic Covenant which He swore to their fathers (Deut. 4:25-31).

It is the same people – literal Israel (the descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob) who would depart from God and be scattered from the land – who would also have the opportunity to return to Him and be obedient in the latter days. This implies that the literal nation of Israel will still exist in the latter days – in spite of its idolatry, evil, and traumatic history.

Even after Israel had sinned throughout the “OT” history – the Holy Spirit through Zacharias indicated that the Abrahamic Covenant was still in effect (Luke 1:67-75).

Even though Israel committed its ultimate sin of rejecting the Son of God, Jesus, as its Messiah, the Apostle Peter still regarded the Jews (even the very Jews who had rejected Jesus) as the children of the Abrahamic Covenant (Acts 3:12-15; 25-26).

Hebrews 6:13-18 tells us that God’s oath to Abraham is based on His immutability – the fact that God does not change!

The Abrahamic Covenant included a universal promise of blessing to all families of the earth through Abraham’s seed. The fulfillment of this promise involved the coming of the Redeemer and the provision of salvation for all peoples of the world. If the Abrahamic Covenant was conditional, then the coming of the Redeemer and the provision of salvation would be dependent upon the obedience of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the people of Israel!!!

Abrahamic Covenant - Permanent

Gen 12:2-3

“And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” *(remember the land, the seed, and the blessing)*

Gen 13:15

“...for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.” *(the promise is permanent)*

Gen 15:18-21

“On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite.’” *(better definition of the territory)*

Gen 21:12

“But God said to Abraham, ‘Do not be distressed because of the lad [Ishmael] and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.’” *(clarification of the descendants, through the line of Isaac, Jacob, and the 12 sons, or tribes, of Israel)*

Gen 22:18

“And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” *(clarification of the ‘seed’ through whom the blessing would come)*

Gal 3:16

“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 seed is Jesus)*

Gal 3:17

“What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.” *(reaffirmation that the promise is unconditional, and cannot be broken)*

Mosaic Covenant – Conditional, upon keeping the Law

Ex 19:5

“Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;” *(conditional, note “if...then”)*

Ex 15:26

“And He said, ‘If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer.’” (*again, “if”*)

Lev 26:3, 9

“‘If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to carry them out...so I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will confirm My covenant with you.’” (*again, “if”*)

Lev. 26:14-15, 25, 30

“‘But if you do not obey Me and do not carry out all these commandments, if, instead, you reject My statutes, and if your soul abhors My ordinances so as not to carry out all My commandments, and so break My covenant...I will also bring upon you a sword which will execute vengeance for the covenant...for My soul shall abhor you.’” (*It’s worth reading all of Lev. 26 to get the full flavor of God’s vengeance on those who break his covenant*)

The New Covenant (relative to the Old Covenant, or Law)

Jer 31:30-33

“‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,’ declares the LORD. ‘But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’” (*the people broke the covenant*)

Matt. 5:17

“‘Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.’”

Luke 24:44

“Now He said to them, ‘These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’”

- Christ answers the objection that he was flouting the Old Testament by denying any effort to annul the Law. Christ fulfilled the OT by obeying the Law perfectly, by fulfilling its types and prophecies, and by paying the full penalty of the Law as the Substitute for sinners. (Wycliffe Bible Commentary)

- Rom 10:4 – “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”
- Gal 3:24 – “Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.”
- Gal 3:19 – “Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made.”