

UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 22 – JROC - The Abrahamic Covenant – THE GLUE! Blessings and Curses?

October 25, 2026

The whole earth was populated with all who were scattered from the Tower of Babel, the rebels – all who disobeyed God...and they became the 70 nations from Noah's sons about whom we read in Gen. 10.

GOD begins to narrow His focus on one of the sons of Noah...Shem. In Gen. 9:26 - *Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem.* God chose Shem. Within Shem's lineage we read...Terah, Abram, Nahor and Haran. Sound familiar?

Gen. 11:26-32 - *Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. ²⁷ This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram ("exalted father), Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. ²⁸ And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. ³⁰ But Sarai (my princess) was barren; she had no child. ³¹ And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. ³² So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran. They dwelt in Haran??*

God had not yet spoken His promises to Abram.

And...it's the end!! The end of what? The end of the first part of the OT! The first part of the OT ended at the end of Gen. 11?

After establishing the 70 nations, God concentrated His plan through one man, one family, one nation! WHY? Rather than addressing the nations all at once, God concentrated His purpose through one man, one family, one nation. This man was Abram "exalted father"...from Ur of the Chaldeans.

Ur was a prominent center of ancient pagan religion.

Josh. 24:2 - *Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor; dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.* Terah was associated with idol worship.

WHAT/WHO brought them out of Ur of the Chaldeans...out of a pagan area?

Stephen, the first martyr following Pentecost, was accused of blasphemy by Jewish men who were not believers in Jesus. Stephen spoke of Israel's history and announced, *the God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,*

³ and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' ⁴ Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He/God moved him/Abram to this land in which you now dwell...to the land of Canaan! (Acts 7:2-4) The GLORY OF GOD spoke to Abram!!

I Tim. 6:16 – God dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Cross referencing to Heb. 11 which builds on Gen. 12 – the hall of faith – re: the OT saints/believers in God's promises of the Messiah!!

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Heb. 11:8-10 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he/Abraham waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

At that time God made promises to Abram that advances the ONE STORY of Scripture!

Gen. 12:1-3 - 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. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 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.' God promised Abram a land, physical descendants, personal blessing, a great name, and a role in bringing blessing to all the families of the earth.

CONSIDER: Abraham is not blessed for his own sake. Choosing Israel/creating the nation of Israel (Isa. 43:1), is NOT exclusive...it's INCLUSIVE! Abraham is blessed so that he might become a blessing to the WORLD! The promise in Gen. 12:3 is reaffirmed when God later declares in Gen. 18:18 – ... *all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him*. How very significant is Israel! And yet...Zech. 12:3 – tells us that ... *all nations of the earth are gathered against it* – against Israel.

The very purpose of Israel's existence is worldwide blessing.

Through Israel God revealed His character, entrusted His covenants, sent His prophets, and brought forth the Messiah. Through this same nation He also promises a future restoration that will bring blessing to the nations and renewal to the world!

After Genesis chapters 1-11, which speak of the creation, fall, and growing alienation from God, Genesis 12 begins the process of ultimate restoration for the world through God's promises which bring us to Revelation 22! ONE STORY!

As we study the Abrahamic Covenant, we will understand that the path for redemption moving forward to restoration is recorded in Scripture from Gen. 12 through to Rev. 22...into the new creation...the new heaven and new earth...The New Jerusalem (eternity future). God's promises to Abram in Genesis 12 set in motion God's ultimate plan to restore a broken world! ONE STORY!

Moving into the review of the Abrahamic Covenant, we need to know that it is EVERLASTING, UNILATERAL, and UNCONDITIONAL which means that God alone guarantees its fulfillment FOREVER! (Heb. 6:13).

How does Gen. 12 fit into the Bible's one story?

The OT is divided into two distinct parts:

- God Deals with Mankind: Genesis 1 – 11 – covers approximately 2,000 years and encompasses God's dealings with mankind. There were no Jews or Gentiles; there was just mankind.
- God Deals with the Gentiles Through Israel: Genesis 12 – Malachi 4 – covers approximately 4,000 years...and it continues as Israel continues to impact the world.

The Abrahamic Covenant promises land, seed (descendants), blessing:

- Land – with boundaries noted in Gen. 15:18-21 - *To your descendants I have given this land*, (PERIOD – Rom. 11:29!) *from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— ¹⁹ the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.*
- Seed – to populate the great nation that God promised to make of Abram. Seed means physical descendants; collective seed; and THE Seed (the Messiah [Gal. 3:16]) Who will sit on King David's throne in Jerusalem and reign for 1,000 years in the Millennial Kingdom.
- Blessing – salvation for both Jew and Gentile through the Messiah. Gal. 3:14 - that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith

The three promises of land, seed, and blessing are amplified – given more details for each promise through sub-covenants which expound on the Abrahamic Covenant. The fulfillment of these promises will occur in the future....in the Millennial Kingdom!

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

The Land Covenant

Deut. 30:1-6 - *Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God drives you, ² and you return to the Lord your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, ³ that the Lord your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you. ⁴ If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. ⁵ Then the Lord your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. ⁶ And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*

- Within Israel's history, we read of God driving Israel from the land... among the nations...including Egypt...and to remote locations (exile – Assyria; Babylon).
- In Israel's gradual return to their land, currently Israel is in the land in unbelief – Eze. 36:24-27.
- The return noted in Deut. 30:1-6 is in sync with their return to the Lord – with all their heart and soul...a circumcision of their hearts. Deut. 6:5.... (through the New Covenant). Fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom. ONE STORY!

The Davidic Covenant

- Regarding the seed, the promises to Israel's descendants through Abraham are amplified in the Davidic Covenant.
- God entered into a covenant with King David which promised that through David's physical lineage would come an eternal house, throne, and kingdom forever. II Sam. 7:16 -

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

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- Luke 1:31-33 - *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.'*
- The Davidic Covenant does not refer to the Church or to a reign of God in heaven. It is linked to the earth, to the seed of Israel, and to the land. It will be fulfilled on earth. ONE STORY!

The New Covenant

- Jer. 31:31-34 - *Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ... For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.*
- Eze. 36:24-27 - *For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*
- When the New Covenant is fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom, *the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God (Habakkuk 2:14).*

The blessings and curses spelled out in Scripture across Israel's history drove home the deep choice between life with God and life without Him and displayed God's justice and mercy for the purpose of focusing the one story toward the One Who will "bear the curse of the law" so that the "blessing of Abraham" might come to the nations through faith (Gal. 3:13-14).

To underscore the significance of Israel as we move on and continue to comprehend the one story of Scripture...we need to realize that Israel, past, present, and future, is not optional or peripheral. Scripture ties God's faithfulness to the fulfillment of His promises to Israel. If those promises can be redefined, or absorbed by others, then the meaning of "fulfillment" becomes uncertain – and so do His promises to us. Israel's story matters because it reveals God's patience, His justice, and His unwavering commitment to His word. The destiny of the nations, the hope of the world, and the restoration of creation are bound up with how God fulfills what He has spoken concerning Israel!