

## The New Covenant: Lesson 6

We have well documented the New Covenant from Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36 and we read Zephaniah 3.

We are about ready to look at the New Covenant in the New Testament. But, there is one more issue we have to look at before we get to the New Testament.

### I.

#### **Abrahamic Covenant**

The Abrahamic Covenant is an Unconditional covenant, just as the New Covenant is an unconditional Covenant.

Timing of the Giving of the Abrahamic Covenant is very important. If the giving of this Covenant was dependent upon Abrahams Faith, then the Abrahamic Covenant is a conditional covenant, conditioned on Abraham's Faith. But if Abraham was already a believer in God, trusting God in all respects then God responded to his Faith by making Abraham a recipient of this vitally important Covenant. The Abrahamic Covenant is originally given in Genesis 12.

As to Abrahams saving Faith in the promise of the coming Messiah: we have no profound statement of the act of his Faith. We have seen this over and over – that throughout the Scriptures we have long stories of life of believers but no statement of their Faith in the Messiah. But we know that Abraham believed and was imputed perfect righteousness

because of his Faith, just as we are imputed with God's perfect righteousness, the moment we believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.

Galatians 3:6

6 Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 4:3

3 For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

**Where is this recorded in the Old Testament Scripture?**

Genesis 15:6

6 Then he Abraham believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

But the question arises, is this when Abraham became a believer...saved by grace? No, not at all, Abraham became a believer in the Ur of Chaldeans before he left Ur. We must remember that the imputation of righteousness occurs at the point of saving Faith, but there is also a Righteousness in the life of the believer and this also by Faith.

Galatians 5:5

5 For we—through or by the Spirit —by faith Filling of the Holy Spirit by Faith, but this also describes the next phrase...by faith are waiting for the hope of righteousness referring to righteousness in life.

The Abrahamic Covenant is originally recorded in Genesis  
Genesis 12:1-4

- 1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;
- 2 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;
- 3 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 will be blessed."
- 4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

This covenant is reaffirmed:

#### Genesis 13:14-17

- 14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;
- 15 for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.
- 16 "I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.
- 17 "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."

#### Genesis 15:1-7

- 1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."
- 2 Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"
- 3 And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir."
- 4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir."
- 5 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."
- 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.
- 7 And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it."

## Genesis 17:1-8

- 1 Now 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."

2 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly."

3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.

5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.

7 "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 to your descendants after you.

8 "I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojourning, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Now let us take a look at the parts of the Abrahamic Covenant. And remember this is unconditional. Only God walked through the 'cut' sacrifices of the covenant.

## Genesis 15:7-18

7 And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it."

- 8 He said, "O Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?"
- 9 So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, and a three-year-old female goat, and a three-year-old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon."
- 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds
- 11 The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.
- 12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror *and* great darkness fell upon him.
- 13 God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.
- 14 "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.
- 15 "As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. and behold, *there appeared* a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.
- 16 "Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."

17 It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, *there appeared* a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.

18 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:

As we now go through the Abrahamic Covenant, remember this is unconditional. Only God walked through the 'cut' pieces making this Covenant dependent on God alone. And very important to our study on the New Covenant note that the Abrahamic Covenant is for the nation of Israel.

## **I will make you a great nation**

This will be fulfilled:

- a **In a natural prosperity** "as the dust of the earth" –race of the Hebrew people: The Jews Genesis 13:16
- b But it will be in a **spiritual progeny**; not recorded in the Old Testament Abrahamic Covenant but in Romans 4:16 **For this reason *it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise*** Abrahamic Covenant **will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, not just to the Jews but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,** that is to all who believe in the Messiah, identified as Jesus the Christ.

Galatians 3:6-7

6 **Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

7 **Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.**

Galatians 3:29

29 **And if you belong to Christ,** if you have believed in JESUS CHRIST as your Savior you are in Christ **then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.** So, the descendants of Abraham are all those who are of Faith in JESUS CHRIST whether Jew or Gentile.

**II.**

*all people will be blessed by or through you,  
all nations would be blessed through your nation.*

**Promise of the coming Messiah.**

God promised that the Messiah would be a member of the human race in Genesis 3:15. But now God promises that the Messiah would be a Hebrew from the line of Abraham.

**III.**

**I will bless them that bless you and curse them that curse you**

**IV.**

**In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed**

This of course is fulfilled in Abrahams descendant: Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:16

16 **Now the promises were spoken to Abraham** Abrahamic Covenant **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.**

This verse demands that we correctly read Genesis 12:7

**7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.** The King James correctly translates this **to your seed** singular; In the margin of NASV it correctly points out that this is singular seed.

And from Galatians 3:16 we know this is a refer to JESUS CHRIST. A correct reading of another passage is important.

Genesis 26:4

**4 "I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;** Again... this is a reference to the coming of JESUS CHRIST and by JESUS CHRIST all nations will be blessed.

And in speaking of JESUS CHRIST, Peter, in his second sermon after Pentecost...

Acts 3:22-25

**22 "Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET JESUS CHRIST LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; A Jew TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you.**

**23 'And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'**

24 **"And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and *his* successors onward, also announced these days.** The incarnation of JESUS CHRIST

25 **"It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, in the Abrahamic Covenant 'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.'**

Again, note the singular 'seed' referring to JESUS CHRIST.

**So, the Abrahamic Covenant is not for the Church, but for Israel.**

But, the Church is included in the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant by the seed of Abraham promised in the Covenant. The Abrahamic Covenant while different from the New Covenant will reach its ultimate fulfillment with the enactment of the New Covenant, at the beginning of the Millennium. But they are two distinct Covenants. But they will contain some of the same blessings when related to JESUS CHRIST and how He will be a blessing to all nations. Just because these two Unconditional Covenants contain overlapping blessings does not mean they are the same covenants.

Isaiah 55:1-3

1 **"Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.** Grace, Salvation is free for the taking of it by Faith.

2 **"Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Trying to work and earn salvation Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance.**

3 **"Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, According to the faithful mercies shown to David.**

In this discussion of the New Covenant he speaks of the blessings promised to David in the Davidic Covenant, which is also unconditional and will be fulfilled with the enactment of the New Covenant at the beginning of the Millennium by the return of Jesus the Messiah.

This is recorded in Luke 1:33

33 **and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."**

So, and this is very important.

All these Covenants –

– **The Abrahamic Covenant** –

– **The New Covenant** –

and

– **The Davidic Covenant** –

are all associated with the reign of JESUS CHRIST over Israel and also associated with the work of JESUS CHRIST on the cross, but they are distinct covenants.

Isaiah 55:4-13

4 **"Behold, I have made him a witness to the peoples, A leader and commander for the peoples.**

5 **"Behold, you will call a nation you do not know, And a nation which knows you not will run to you, Because of the LORD your God, even the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you."** Fulfillment –Enactment of the New Covenant in the Millennium.

6 **Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.**

7 **Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He** The Lord **will have compassion on him,** the one who comes to the Lord by Faith **And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.**

8 **"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.** But in the enactment of the New Covenant His ways will be written on their hearts.

9 **"For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.**

10 **"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;**

- 11 **So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.**
- 12 **"For you will go out with joy** beginning of the Millennium with the enactment of the New Covenant – **And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, And all the trees of the field will clap *their* hands.**
- 13 **"Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up, And instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, And it will be a memorial to the LORD, For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off."**

## **Fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant.**

For another picture of the conditions of the New Covenant.  
Joel 2:18-28

- 18 **Then** after He returns and after the battle of Armageddon **the LORD will be zealous for His land And will have pity on His people.**
- 19 **The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied *in full* with them; And I will never again make you a reproach among the nations.**
- 20 **"But I will remove the northern *army* far from you, And I will drive it into a parched and desolate land, And its vanguard into the eastern sea, And its rear guard into the western sea.**

**And its stench will arise and its foul smell will come up,  
For it has done great things.”**

21 **Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, For the LORD has  
done great things**

22 **Do not fear, beasts of the field, For the pastures of the  
wilderness have turned green, For the tree has borne its  
fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full.**

23 **So rejoice, O sons of Zion, And be glad in the LORD your  
God; For He has given you the early rain for *your*  
vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, The  
early and latter rain as before.**

24 **The threshing floors will be full of grain, And the vats will  
overflow with the new wine and oil.**

25 **"Then I will make up to you for the years That the  
swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the  
stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army  
which I sent among you. throughout the Church Age**

26 **"You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied And praise the  
name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously  
with you; Then My people will never be put to shame.**

27 **"Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And  
that I am the LORD your God, And there is no other; And My  
people will never be put to shame.**

28 **"It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit  
on all mankind;**

As on the day of Pentecost, so on this day at the beginning of the Millennium there will be universal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

**And your sons and daughters will prophesy,**

**Your old men will dream dreams,  
Your young men will see visions.**

So, we have the

**Abrahamic Covenant—Unconditional**

**Mosaic Covenant—Conditional**

**Davidic Covenant—Unconditional**

**New Covenant—Unconditional**

And the important point of our study today before we move into the New Covenant and the New Testament is that while the Abrahamic Covenant is for Israel, we, in the Church Age are blessed by it when we believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.

The Abrahamic Covenant contains the gospel but is not the Gospel. It contains the gospel by the blessing of the seed of Abraham, but that seed is coming unconditionally, but Salvation is conditioned on faith in JESUS CHRIST as Savior. It is Grace but you have to believe otherwise we would be teaching Universalism.

**For by Grace you have been saved by means of Faith**

# **No Faith—No Salvation**

As little faith as the size of a mustard seed...  
...and you are saved for all eternity

**Thank you Lord!!**