

## Covenant Theology: Abraham 1

Reading: COTC 8, Covenants 5

### A. Progressive Development- Old Testament links

Adam: Separation, Hostility, Seed

**Pre-Noah** (Gen 4,5); **Post Noah**: Abraham/Israel

But Universal - Melchizedek.

### B. The Sovereign Nature of the Covenant

Gen 3:15, Gen 12:1

### C. The Covenant- In Multiple Stages

1. Initial (Gen 12) – Land, Seed, Blessing
2. Formal Arrangement (Gen 15)
3. Conformation, Sustaining
4. Climax- Mt Moriah (2 Chron. 3)

### D. Seed/Sacrifice

#### Formal Inauguration

The covenant: A commitment unto death, Delay in performance -400 years, God future promise of death. Only God passes between the covenant (Gen 15:6).

Editorial Note: What did Abraham understand?

#### Jeremiah 34 - Links To Abraham

To Moses (Ex 20-24; 21:1-3; 24:8)

Commitment, Cleansing, Blood.

Deut 28:26- Curses (1 Kings 14:11; 16:4; 21:24; Ps 79:23)

Hebrew 9:15-22

Moses Mediator Blood, sacrifices, contrasted with Christ's death

#### NT Fulfillment

Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20

Poured Out, Passover, covering

Matthew: Blood of the Covenant, Luke 22:20, New Covenant

Old is fulfilled, the new is established

Pattern of Curse and Blessing: **Adam**, Noah, Abraham, Seed and Land, Moses, Blessing and curses.

#### Conditional or Unconditional nature of the covenant

Parts stress what God will do (Gen 12, Gen 15) parts stress Abraham's response  
Leave- walk- Seal –sacrifice - Faith/Works

## The Aspects of the Abraham Covenant

### 1. The Initial Promises Gen 12

**Seed:** Gen 11:30, 12:2,7; Canaan (Gen 15:1-5). False start with Ishmael; Isaac, Sacrifice of Isaac

**Land:** Gen 12:1,2,7; 15:13,14,

**Blessing:** Source of blessing (12:3; 22:16-18) – Egypt, Lot

**Two-Fold Fulfillment:** Now and the future: Hebrews 8:11-16,39,40

### 2. The Covenant Bond- Gen 15 (see above)

### 3. The Covenant Sign – Gen 17

### 4. The Covenant Test/Climax- Gen 22:1-22,Hebrew 11:17-22.

Book Ends of Abraham's life: (12:1-3, 22:16-18), the initial promises are further confirmed by a divine Oath.

A progressive congealing of promise, faith and obligations, with the final seal occurring at the end.

**Faith, Seed, Land, Blessing–(The Spirit)** Gal 3:1-16

Promises made to Abraham, are all realized in his seed, Christ. The Seed brings the blessing with him, diagram Abraham—(promises) Christ – (Realization)

**Seed** - the seed of Abraham is one (3:16,19), the promises are made to Abraham to be fulfilled in the seed. He brings many to sonship (3: 26).

**Spirit** – Promised (3:14). Poured out in Christ (Gal 3:1-5, Gal 4:4-6)

**Promised land-** New creation (Gal 6:15)

Abraham received the promises to him by faith, faith in what would come afterwards.

### **Faith:**

Faith contrasted to Law (3:28), but also Faith is works (Romans 1:5)

Romans 4: Faith of the uncircumcised, faith of the circumcised, the true Father of the faithful.