

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 4

Genesis 15, Deuteronomy 29, 2 Samuel 7, Jeremiah 31

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Kingdom we looked at the 8 promises given to Abram in Genesis 12 and then we looked at the Abrahamic Covenant where God ratified the promises into a covenant. The promises made to Abram were literal promises that **MUST** be fulfilled on this earth. They will **NOT** be fulfilled in the eternal state which will be on the new earth.

Notice Genesis 15:18

God promised to Abram and his seed the land between the river of Egypt (The Nile) and the Euphrates River. These were literal rivers that flowed into seas. Therefore, the land must be literal, and it must be on this earth because the new earth will have no sea.

Revelation 21:1

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Now when God made the Abrahamic Covenant, He made it unconditional. This means that the covenant rests **COMPLETELY** upon the faithfulness of God and not Abraham.

Notice Genesis 15:7-18

Abram was in a deep sleep, and it was God the Father and God the Son who walked between the divided animals. Therefore, Abram's faithfulness had nothing to do with the covenant being fulfilled.

This is how covenants were made. We see this in the book of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 34:8-10, 18-19

⁸ *This is the word that came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, after that the king Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people which were at Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty unto them;*

⁹ *That every man should let his manservant, and every man his maidservant, being an Hebrew or an Hebrewess, go free; that none should serve himself of them, to wit, of a Jew his brother.*

¹⁰ Now when all the princes, and all the people, which had entered into the covenant, heard that every one should let his manservant, and every one his maidservant, go free, that none should serve themselves of them any more, then they obeyed, and let them go.

¹⁸ And I will give the men that have transgressed my covenant, which have not performed the words of the covenant which they had made before me, when they cut the calf in twain, and passed between the parts thereof,

¹⁹ The princes of Judah, and the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, and the priests, and all the people of the land, which passed between the parts of the calf;

When God made the covenant with Abram it was only God who walked between the animals parts. Therefore the Abrahamic Covenant rests completely upon God.

Hebrews 6:13-18

¹³ For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,

¹⁴ Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

¹⁵ And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

¹⁶ For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

¹⁷ Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

¹⁸ That by two immutable things, **in which it was impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Now there are those who teach that the failures of Abraham dissolved this covenant, but the Scriptures teach otherwise.

In Genesis 12:1-7 we looked at 8 promises made to Abram.

1. I will make of thee a great nation.
2. I will bless thee.
3. I will make thy name great.
4. Thou shalt be a blessing.
5. I will bless them that bless thee.

6. I will curse him that curseth thee.
7. In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.
8. Unto thy seed will I give this land.

Then we read further in Genesis 12, and we see one of the failures of Abram.

Genesis 12:9-13, 20

⁹ *And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.*

¹⁰ *And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.*

¹¹ *And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:*

¹² *Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.*

¹³ *Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.*

²⁰ *And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.*

Then what happens in Genesis 13? God reaffirms the promises.

Genesis 13:14-18

¹⁴ *And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:*

¹⁵ *For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*

¹⁶ *And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.*

¹⁷ *Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.*

Then in Genesis 15 God ratifies the promises in a covenant. Then after God gives the New Covenant, He says something that affirms the promises, and the covenants WILL be fulfilled.

Jeremiah 31:35-37

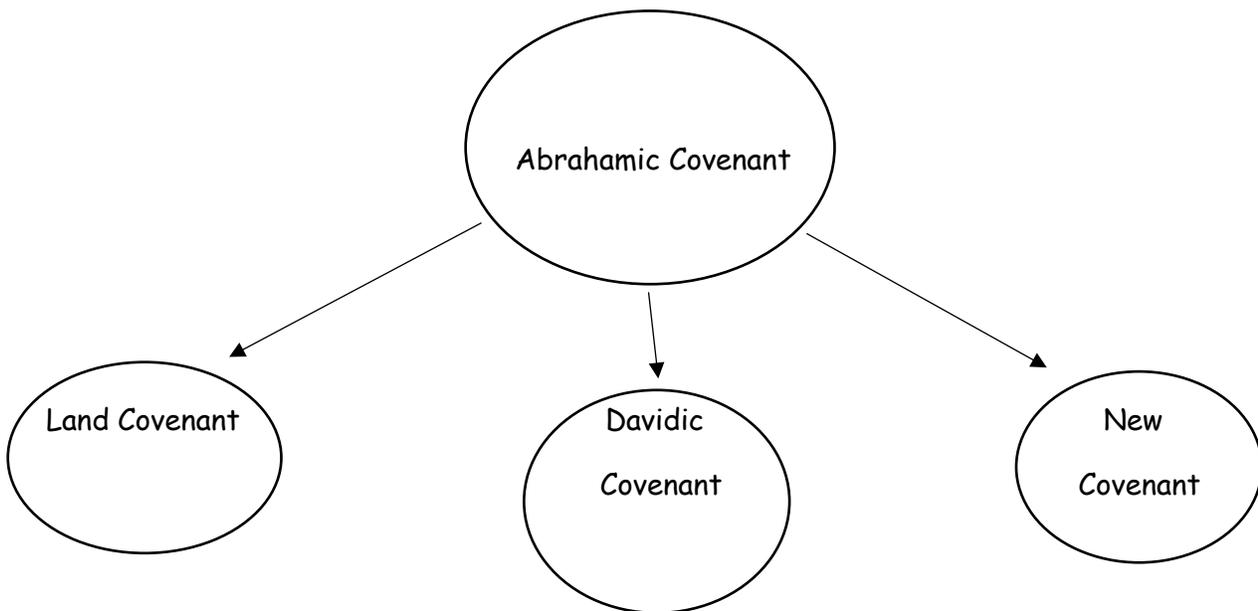
³⁵ Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

³⁶ If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

³⁷ Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

In our study tonight we are going to look at the sub-covenants that flow out of the Abrahamic Covenant. There are 3 main promises in this covenant. The promise of land, seed and blessing. God will later reaffirm each of these with a separate covenant.

I did a little diagram to help us to better understand how the sub-covenants work.



- The Land Covenant is found in Deuteronomy 29-30, and it focuses upon the land.

- The Davidic Covenant is found in 2 Samuel 7, and it focuses upon the seed.
- The New Covenant is found in Jeremiah 31, and it focuses upon the blessings.

I want to take some time to look briefly at each of these covenants.

➤ The Land Covenant

Notice Deuteronomy 29:1

The covenant made in Horeb was the Mosaic Covenant. So this chapter talks about a covenant different than the Mosaic Covenant and it is the Land Covenant. If you read the entire chapter, you will see the provisions for the Land Covenant, then we come to Deuteronomy 30.

Notice Deuteronomy 30:1-5

Here in verse 3 we see that after the nation is scattered throughout the world that there will be a day when God will gather them back into the land that He had promised. Now I show you this because I want you to see that this is a literal gathering in a literal land. But there are many today who will deny that that the regathering of the nation is literal. Let me explain the problem with that theology. They believe the scattering in verse 3 is literal and then when they come to the gathering or restoration in verse 3, they will tell you it is non literal. That is changing the method of interpretation in the middle of the verse. We must be consistent in our interpretation.

➤ The Davidic Covenant

Notice 2 Samuel 7:1-16

This is the Davidic Covenant that focuses upon the seed of Abram and in this we see that David is promised that his seed will sit upon his throne and his throne will last forever.

Notice 2 Samuel 7:16 again.

Now we know that Solomon would sit upon the throne after David, but the ultimate fulfillment will be when Jesus Christ sits upon His throne in the Kingdom. Let us notice the words of Paul in Galatians.

Galatians 3:16

¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Here Paul tells us the SEED of Abraham is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the SEED who will sit upon the throne of David. God promised that the seed/offspring of Abraham would be

innumerable but there would be One SEED who would be special, and His name is Jesus. Now someone could say that the word "covenant" is not mentioned in 2 Samuel 7 so is this really a covenant? The answer is "YES!"

Psalm 89:1-4

I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

² *For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens.*

³ **I have made a covenant with my chosen**, I have sworn unto David my servant,

⁴ *Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.*

Now we must understand that these are all earthly promises. By that I mean they will be fulfilled on the earth and not in heaven. The Davidic Covenant is also repeated in 1 Chronicles 17, and it is worded the same. It is given in 1 Chronicles to the generation that returned from the captivity as an encouragement to them.

➤ **The New Covenant**

Notice Jeremiah 31:31-38

This covenant focuses upon the blessings that God promised to Abraham. What are the blessings?

1. God's Law written in the heart and not on tablets of stone which means they will never again be broken.
2. They will all walk in an inseparable relationship with the Lord.
3. Their sins and iniquities will be removed and never brought to remembrance again.

Conclusion:

In all of this we can see that the Land, Seed, and New Covenant are given to reaffirm the Abrahamic Covenant which rests completely upon God's faithfulness. If the Abrahamic Covenant is unconditional, then so are the sub-covenants also. Next time we will bring in the Mosaic Covenant.