

THE LORD'S - COVENANTS OF PROMISE

By Kevin E. Hughes

What have we learned so far about Covenants ?

An Overall Recap of the Covenant with Adam, Covenant of Marriage, and Covenant of Noah. We have defined a Covenant and discussed different Theological and scholars' views on them.

Our Approach to the Study of Covenants

We are studying the Covenants for ourselves. [Not adopting an existing Theology on Covenants]

We are starting in Genesis and working forward through the Old Testament to understand how they are Chronologically and Progressively Revealed and how each Covenant builds on or does not build on each previous Covenant.

We will look at different locations in scripture that are considered Covenants by scholars and see if each location is an actual a Covenant based on certain criteria, such as the Definition of a Covenant hereon.

The COVENANT Definition – Update One

COVENANT Definition: Update One

COVENANT of GOD. A Promise of God, always initiated and established by God, Gen 6:18, 9:9, 11, 17 between God and a Person, a People Group, or all Living things, Gen 9:10, Gen 9:17, according to His Plan, Purpose and Will.

COVENANT of GOD. as “Promises”, often with “I will” or “I shall” statements, that “will come to pass”. IF the Covenant specified certain binding conditions for God to fulfill both parties' obligations then it was considered a Unilateral or Un-Conditional Covenant.

IF the Covenant specified certain binding conditions for God to fulfill, God's Part, and separate conditions for Man to fulfill, Man's Part, then it was considered a Bi-lateral or Conditional Covenant.

COVENANT of GOD, often has offered burnt (killed) offerings, Gen 8:20, Gen 22:2, Rom 8:3

COVENANT of GOD, often has “a sign” to “remember” or to identify with, that Covenant, Gen 9:12

COVENANT of GOD, is often identified as an “everlasting covenant”, Gen 9:16, Gen 17:7, Jer 32:40

Historical Background – to establish Context

Between: Covenant of Noah (2302BC) and the Covenant of Abraham (1876BC), 426 years

Read Genesis 9:18–27 Noah's Drinking, Ham's Sin, and Canaan's Curse

18 Now the sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem and Ham and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan. (WHY Canaan added ?, 9:22, 25, 26, 27)

19 These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

20 Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard.

21 He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself (his shame) inside his tent.

22 Ham, the father of Canaan (9:18), saw (his shame) the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.

23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father;

and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness. (Not See)

24 When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son (Ham) had done to him. (Saw)

25 So he said, “Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants he shall be to his brothers.” (WHY Canaan ?)

26 He also said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant. (WHY Canaan ?)

27 “May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant.”

Read Genesis 9:28–29

28 **Noah** lived three hundred and fifty years after **the flood**.

29 So all the days of **Noah** were nine hundred and fifty years, and **he died**.

Read Genesis 10:1

1 Now these are **the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth**, **the sons of Noah**; and **sons** were born to **them** after **the flood**.

Read Genesis 10:2

2 The sons of **Japheth** were.....

Read Genesis 10:6

6 The sons of **Ham** were Cush and Mizraim and Put and **Canaan**.

Read Genesis 10:19–20

19 **The territory of the Canaanite** extended from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; as you go toward **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** and Admah and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

20 These are the sons of **Ham**, according to **their families**, according to **their languages**, by **their lands**, by **their nations**.

Genesis 10:21

21 Also to **Shem**, the father of all the children of Eber, and the older brother of **Japheth**, children were born.

Read Genesis 10:31

31 These are **the sons of Shem**, according to their **families**, according to their **languages**, by **their lands**, according to **their nations**.

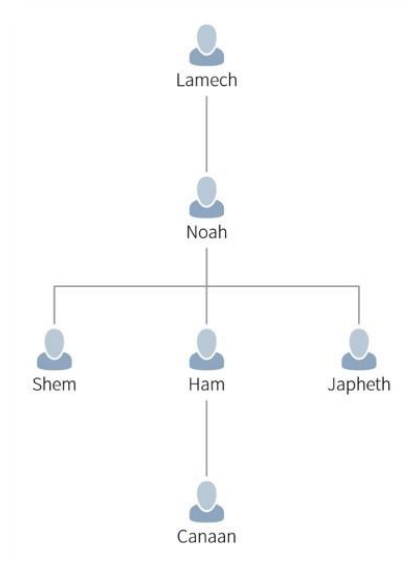
Read Genesis 10:32

32 These are **the families of the sons of Noah**, according to **their genealogies**, by **their nations**; and out of **these** the **nations** were separated on the **earth** after **the flood**.

Genesis Chapter 11 Events are before Genesis Chapter 10 Events

Genesis 10 includes the **Genealogies** that extend **after** the **Tower of Babel** and the confusing of **man's languages**.

Genesis 10 says, **Noah's Son's** or descendants each had **their languages** (plural, confused), **Gen 10:20, 10:31**



Read Genesis 11:1

1 Now the whole **earth** used **the same language** (before **Gen 10**) and **the same words**.

Read Genesis 11:2–9

2 It came about as **they** journeyed east, that **they** found a plain in **the land of Shinar** (Babylon, **Dan 1:1-2**) and settled **there**.

3 **They** said to one another, “Come, let **us** make bricks and burn them thoroughly.” And **they** used brick for stone, and **they** used tar for mortar.

4 **They** said, “Come, let **us** build for **ourselves** a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let **us** make for **ourselves** a name, otherwise **we** will be scattered abroad over the face of **the whole earth**.”

5 **The Lord** came down to see **the city** and **the tower** which **the sons of men** had **built**.

6 **The Lord** said, “Behold, **they** are **one people**, and **they** all have the same **language**.”

And this is what **they** began to do, and now nothing which **they** purpose to do will be impossible for **them**.

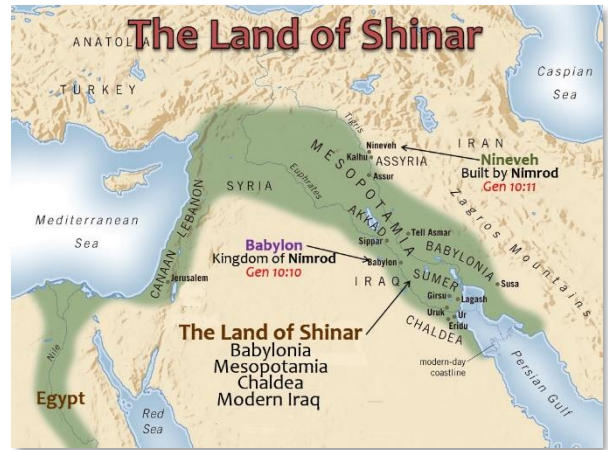
7 “Come, let **US** (Trinity, **Gen 1:26, 3:22**) go down and there **confuse their language**, so that (Reason) **they** will not understand one another’s **speech**.”

8 So **the Lord** scattered **them** abroad from there over the face of **the whole earth**; (**Gen 11:4**) and **they** stopped building **the city**.

9 Therefore **its name** was called **Babel** (Babylon), because there **the Lord** confused the language of **the whole earth**; and from **there the Lord** scattered **them** abroad over the face of **the whole earth**.

Q: What well known Person in the Bible came from **the Land of Shinar**, **11:2**, as depicted on the **Map** here ?

A: **Abraham**



Read **Genesis 11:10**

10 These are **the records of the generations of Shem**. (**Gen 10:21-31**)

Shem was one hundred years old, and became the father of **Arpachshad** two years after **the flood**;

Read **Genesis 11:26**

26 **Terah** lived seventy years, and became the father of **Abram**, **Nahor** and **Haran**.

Read **Genesis 11:27-32**

27 Now these are the records of **the generations of Terah**.

Terah became the father of **Abram**, **Nahor** and **Haran**; and **Haran** became the father of **Lot**.

28 **Haran** died in the presence of **his father Terah** in the land of **his birth**, in **Ur of the Chaldeans**.

29 **Abram** and **Nahor** took **wives** for themselves.

The name of **Abram's wife** was **Sarai**;

and the name of **Nahor's wife** was **Milcah**, the **daughter** of **Haran**, the father of **Milcah** and **Iscah**.

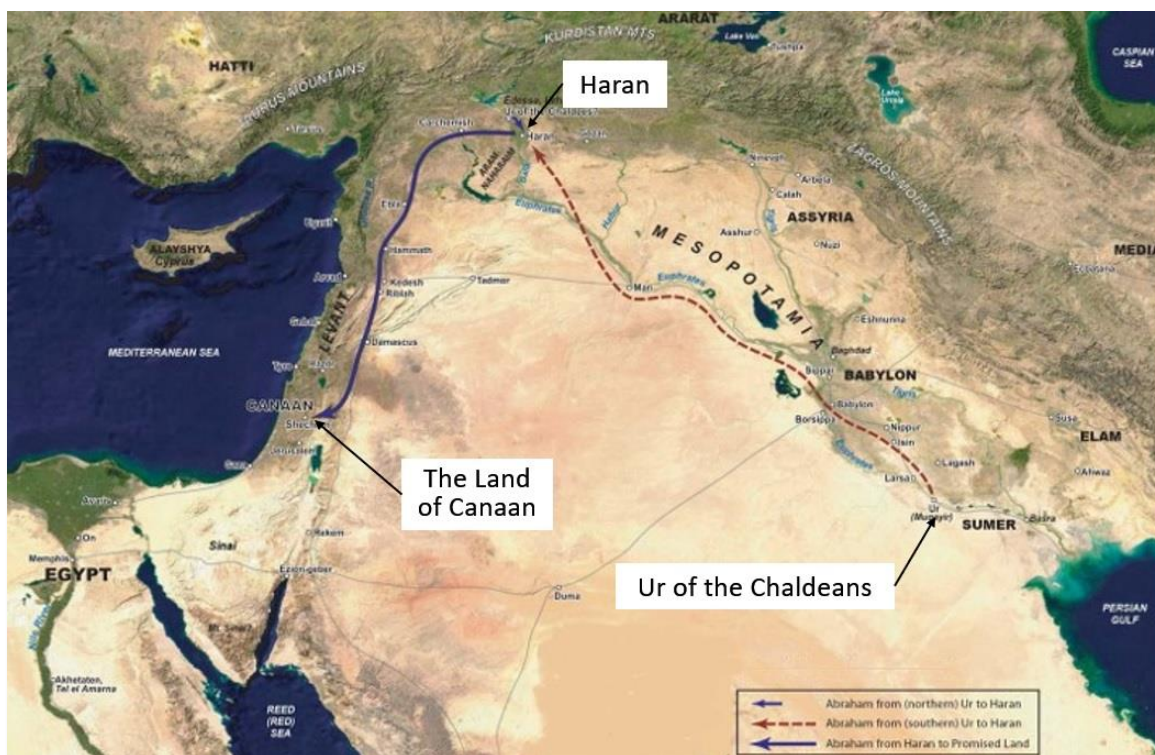
30 **Sarai** was barren; **she** had no child.

31 **Terah** took **Abram** his son, and **Lot** the son of **Haran**,

his grandson, and **Sarai** his **daughter-in-law**, **his son Abram's wife**; (Not take Nahor, Haran Died ?)

and they went out together from **Ur of the Chaldeans** in order to enter **the land of Canaan**; (Reason) and **they** went as far as **Haran**, and settled there. (**Jos 24:2, Gen 24:7, Acts 7:1-4**)

32 The days of **Terah** were two hundred and five years; and **Terah** died in **Haran**.



GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS – PART 1

Working Outline > **Genesis 12:1-3** (a portion of a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Read **Genesis 12:1-3**

- I. 1 Now **the Lord** said to **Abram**, “Go forth (the Lord appeared to **Abram**, 15:1, Acts 7:2-3)
- A. (Go) from **your country** (**Ur** of the Chaldeans),
 - B. And (Go) from **your relatives**
 - C. And (Go) from **your father’s house** (**Terah’s house**),
 - 1. (Go) to **the land** (**Gen 10:19, 12:5**) which **I will show you**;
 - D. 2 And **I will make you a great nation** (singular), (**18:18a, 46:3,**)
 - E. And **I will bless you**,
 - F. And (**I will**) **make your name great**;
 - G. And so **you shall be a blessing**;
 - H. 3 And **I will bless** those who **bless you**,
 - I. And the one who **curses you I will curse**.
 - J. And in **you all the families** (plural) of **the earth will be blessed.**”

(17:4-6, 18:18b, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14, Acts 3:25, Gal 3:8)

The **Calling** of **Abram** – in **Ur of the Chaldeans** (**Gen 12:1-3** Calling is before **Gen 11:31** Leaving Ur)
This is the **Calling** of **Abram**, by **the Lord**, when **he** was still in **Ur of the Chaldeans**, **Gen 12:1, Acts 7:2-3**
The **Calling** of **the Lord**, was for **Abram**, to **Go from his** “country”, “relatives”, and “father’s house”.

The **Sending** of **Abram** – in **Ur of the Chaldeans** to **Go to the Land of Canaan**

Abram was to (Go) to “**the Land**”, which is “**the Land of Canaan**” (**Gen 11:31, 12:5**).

Abram was to (Go) from **Ur of the Chaldeans**, (**Gen 12:1, Acts 7:2-3**), “**the Land of Shinar**” (**Gen 10:10, 11:2**),
Kingdom of **Babel** (**Gen 10:10**), **Babylon** (**Dan 1:1-2**), and “**Mesopotamia**” (**Acts 7:2**).

The **Promise** of **Making** of **Abram**, into a **great nation** with a **great name**

the Lord “**will make Abram a great nation** and will **bless Abram** and make **his name great**.”

the Lord “**will bless** those who **bless him** and **curse** those who **curse him**.”

The **Promise** of **Blessing** of **Abram**

I will bless you, you shall be a blessing, “**will bless** those who **bless him** and **curse** those who **curse him**.”

The **Promise** of **Blessing** of **all the families** of **the earth**, will be in **Abram**

“in **Abram** all the families (plural) of **the earth will be blessed.**”

First > **the Lord** will **Make Abram**, into a **great nation**, (**12:2, 18:18a**)

Second > through that **great nation**, **all the families** of **the earth**, will be **Blessed**.

(17:4-6, 18:18b, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14, Acts 3:25, Gal 3:8)

Q: WHY did **the Lord** Call (**Isa 51:2**) **Abram** when **he** was in **Ur of the Chaldeans** ?

Was **Abram’s Call** because of > **his Faith** or **his Works** or **his Righteous** ? **Read 2 Tim 1:9** below

A: **the Lord** Called/Chose certain **People** in the **Old Testament**, “according to **His own purpose** and **grace**”

Similar to how **we** are **Called** or **Chosen** for **salvation**. (**Eph 1:4**)

the Lord Called **Noah**, **Gen 6:8-9, 14**, to Build an **Ark**. **the Lord** Called **Jonah**, **Jonah 1:1-2**, and others.

2 Timothy 1:9

9 who has **saved us** and **called us** with a **holy calling**, **not according to our works**,

but **according to His own purpose** and **grace** which was granted **us** in **Christ Jesus** from **all eternity**,

The Lord gives “**I will**” statements as **His Declared Promises**

The Lord gives (5) “**I will**”, (1) “**shall be**”, and (1) “**will be**” statements, as **Declared Promises**, **Gen 12:1-3 Promise** > a **declaration** (act of **declaring**) or **assurance** that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.

“**will**” (Secular) > “the faculty by which a **person** decides on and initiates action”

“**will**” (Divine) *asah*, **Hebrew** > “the faculty by which **the Lord** decides on and initiates action”

“**I will**” > not in the **Hebrew**

Hebrew reads from right to left, as seen on the first line in **English** below, read backwards.

Example: **Gen 12:2** “**I will**” added because of “**the Lord** said”, in **12:1**

וַאֲבָרָקָהּ וְ בָרַךְ אֶתָּהּ and · bless · you and · I will bless · you C · Vbw1-S · RS2MS	גָּדוֹל גָּדוֹל great great J-SA	לְגוֹי לְ גוֹי into · nation (into) · a nation P · NC-SA	וַאֲעֲשֶׂה וְ עֲשֶׂה אֶתָּהּ and · make · you and · I will make · you C · Vaw1-S · RS2MS
בְּרָכָה בְּרָכָה blessing a blessing NCFSA	וְהָיָה וְ הִיָּה and · be and · be ¹² C · VaM2MS	שֵׁם שֵׁם אֶתָּהּ name · you name · your NC-SC · RS2MS	וַאֲגַדְלָהּ וְ גַדֵּל and · make great and · I will make great C · Vbw1-S-C

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Abrahamic Covenant

Abrahamic Covenant is progressively revealed in the following passages.

Gen 12:1-3, 7

Gen 13:14-17

Gen 15:4-18

Gen 17:1-14

Gen 18:18-19

Gen 22:9-19

Calling of **Abram**, from **your** country (Ur of the Chaldeans), **12:1**
 Sending of **Abram**, to the **Land of Canaan**, **12:1**
 Promise of: Making **Abram**, into a **great nation** (Physical Descendants), **12:2**
 Promise of: **Blessing Abram** and **his** name, (personally), **12:2**
 Promise of: **Blessing** in **Abram**, of **all families** (nations) (Non-Physical Descendants), **12:2**
 Promise of: **The Lord** giving the **Land** to **Abram**, and **his** Physical Descendants, **12:7**

Abram's - Covenant Promises for 2 People Groups

The Lord will make **his** Physical Descendants a **Great Nation**, **12:2**
 Also separately, in **Abram**, **all the families** (nations) of the earth, will be **blessed**, **12:3**

Land of Canaan

+

a Great Nation

+

all Families (Nations)

Reformed Theology (**Covenant Theology**), emphasizes “**all the families of the earth**” and *de-emphasizes* “**a great nation**”, in OT.

Dispensational Theology, First emphasizes progressively, “**a great nation**”, in OT & Gospels and then emphasizes “**all the families of the earth**”, in Acts and Paul’s epistles.

! Van der Merwe, C. (2004). *The Lexham Hebrew-English Interlinear Bible* (Ge 12:2). Lexham Press.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS — PART 1

Working Outline > **Genesis 12:4–9** (a portion of a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Read **Genesis 12:4–9**

- I. 4 So **Abram** went forth as **the Lord** had spoken to **him**; (to **land**, 11:31, 12:1)
 - A. and **Lot** (nephew) went with **him**.
 - B. Now **Abram** was seventy-five years old (1876 BC) when **he** departed from **Haran**.
- II. 5 **Abram** took
 - A. **Sarai his wife** and **Lot his** nephew,
 - B. and all **their** possessions which **they** had accumulated,
 - C. and **the persons** which **they** had acquired in **Haran**, (added persons)
 1. and **they** set out for **the land of Canaan**;
 2. thus **they** came to **the land of Canaan**. (~600 miles, Map, p. 3)
- III. 6 **Abram** passed through **the land** as far as the site of **Shechem**, to **the oak of Moreh**. (Per Map, p. 3)
 - A. Now the **Canaanite** was then in **the land**. 13:7
- IV. 7 **The Lord** appeared (12:1) to **Abram** and said, “To **your descendants** (offspring) **I will** give this **land**.”
 - A. So **he** built an **altar** (No. 1) there (Shechem) to **the Lord** who had appeared to **him**.
 - B. 8 Then **he** proceeded from there to **the mountain on the east of Bethel**,
 1. and pitched **his** tent, with **Bethel** on the west and **Ai** on the east;
 2. and there **he** built an **altar** (No. 2) to **the Lord** and **called** upon the name of **the Lord**.
- V. 9 **Abram** **journeyed** on, continuing toward the **Negev** (desert, of **Canaan**).

Q1: In **verses 4** and **5**, **Abram** leaves **Haran** for **Canaan**, WHO was with **him** ?

A1: “**Sarai his wife** and **Lot his** nephew” and “**the persons** which **they** had acquired in **Haran**”

Q2: In **verse 6**, **Abram** is now in **Canaan**, at **Shechem**, WHO are the **Canaanites'** there ?

A2: the **Canaanites'** are the descendants of **Canaan**, the son of **Ham**, that was **Cursed** by **Noah**, 9:25

Notice in **verse 7** it says “**The Lord** appeared to **Abram**” and we learned, from **Gen 12:1** and **Acts 7:2-3**, that **the Lord** appeared to **Abram**, probably in a **Vision**, like **Gen 15:1**. **Abram** was a **Prophet**, **Gen 20:7**.

Q3: In **verse 7**, WHO will **the Lord** give **Canaan** to, (1) a great nation OR (2) all the families of the earth ?

A3: **the Lord** will give **Canaan** to, (1) a great nation, **Abram's** (physical descendants, offspring, seed)

This was confirming what **the Lord** said in **Gen 12:1**, “**the Land**” and later **Gen 13:15-16**.

Q4: In **verse 7**, WHY didn't **the Lord** immediately give **Land of Canaan** to **Abram**, **he** was standing in **it** ?

A4: **the Lord** didn't give **Canaan** to **Abram**, because that was Not in **His Eternal Plan**.

Read **Isa 46:10-11** **God** established **His purpose**, **His good pleasure** (Will), **His Plan**.

God's Eternal Plan, “declares the end from the beginning”, **Isa 46:10**

God will give **Canaan** to **Abram's** descendants to fulfill **His promise**, exactly in **His** Timing.

Abram was 75 years old (1876 BC) **his** descendants will be **given Canaan** in (1406 BC, 470 yrs later), **Jos 1:3-6**

Notice: **the Lord** gives **the land** to **Abram's** (physical descendants, offspring, seed)

and Not to **all the families of the earth**.

Abram dies without ever receiving **the Land**, **Acts 7:5**, but **he** was buried in **Promised Land**, **Gen 23:17-20**.

Abram builds **Altars** to Call on **the Lord**

In **verse 7** and **8**, **Abram** builds an **altar** at **Shechem** and an **altar** at **the mountain on the east of Bethel**.

Abram built **altars** to worship or “call on **the name of the Lord**”, **Gen 12:8**, and later **13:4**, **13:8**,

also later **Isaac** and **Jacob** would build **altars**, **Gen 26:24-25** and **Gen 33:18-20**.

Abram would return to this same **altar** in **Gen 13:2**, to again “call on **the name of the Lord**”.