THE LORD'S - COVENANTS OF PROMISE

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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 <u>Chronologically</u> and <u>Progressively</u> <u>Revealed</u> and how each <u>Covenant</u> builds on or does not build on each previous <u>Covenant</u>.

The COVENANT Definition – Update One

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COVENANT of GOD. A Promise of God, always <u>initiated</u> and <u>established</u> by God, Gen 6:18, 9:9, 11, 17 <u>between</u> 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 <u>conditions</u> 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 "<u>remember</u>" or to <u>identify with</u>, that Covenant, Gen 9:12 COVENANT of GOD, is often identified as an "everlasting covenant", Gen 9:16, Gen 17:7, Jer 32:40

The Lord appeared as a Man (theophany) and 2 Angels appeared as Men (angelophany), to Abraham, and Ate. Genesis 18:1-8

The Lord appeared as a **Man** > Genesis 18:1, 13, 14, 17, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 30,31, 33 and 18:22-33 **2 Angels** as **Men** > Genesis 18:2, 22, 19:1, 19:15 and 19:1-22

The Lord as a Man and 2 Angels as Men and Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 18:20

And the Lord said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.

Abraham asks The Lord; Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked ?

Genesis 18:23

23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Genesis 18:25

25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth, deal justly ?" Genesis 18:26

26 So the LORD said, "If I find in **Sodom** (anyone) righteous within **the city**, then I will spare **the whole place** on their account."

The 2 Angels as Men, came to Sodom to visit Lot at his house and Ate Read Genesis 19:1

1 Now the two **angels** came to **Sodom** in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of **Sodom**. When Lot saw **them**, he rose to meet **them** and bowed down with his face to the ground.

Things the Angels and the Lord did, in Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:9–29)

First, the angels rescued Lot from the men of Sodom (19:9–11).

Second, the angels warned Lot of impending judgment (19:12–14).

Third, the angels led Lot's family out of Sodom (19:15–16).

Fourth, the angels gave Lot directions regarding a place of safety (19:17–24).

Fifth, the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and the 4 Jordan Valley cities. (19:24–29).

the LORD overthrew in His anger and in His wrath, 4 cities: Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim. "the Lord rained fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah." Gen 19:24, Deut 29:23

"the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD", Gen 13:10 The Valley became a land of brimstone (sulfur) and salt, a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows in it, Deut 29:23

This brought the waters down over that land of salt which once was like a well-watered Garden, that became the Sea of Salt, Gen 14:3, or became the Dead Sea today.

Lot Flees to Cave in Mountain with 2 Daughters (Gen 19:30-38)

Read Genesis 19:30

30 Lot went up from Zoar, and stayed in the mountains, and his two daughters with him;

for he was afraid to stay in Zoar; and he stayed in a cave, he and his two daughters.

Fearing that **Zoar** too would be destroyed, **Lot** and **his** two **daughters** chose to live in a **cave** in the mountains.

The **daughters** feared that **their** family would Not be preserved.

The **daughters** contrived a plan to get **their father** drunk, lie with **him**, and raise up seed by **him**. **Read** Genesis 19:36–38

36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. Genesis 19:36

37 The firstborn bore a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.

38 As for the younger, she also bore a son, and called his name Ben-ammi;

he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day. (the Ammonites)

the Moabites and the Ammonites are mostly seen in a negative way,

as children of incest from here on.

The daughters and Lot were removed from Sodom,

but Sodom had not been removed from them.

Some similarities to Noah, Ham, and Canaan story, back in Gen 9:20-23.

Abraham's Bad Idea, to give away His Wife a 2nd Time, (Gen 20:1–18)

Read Genesis 20:1–3

1 Now Abraham journeyed from there toward **the land of the Negev**, ...

- 2 Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.
- 3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream, and said, "Behold, you are a dead man

because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married."

Abimelech pleads to the Lord his innocence in the matter, 20:4-5

Read Genesis 20:7

7 "Now **therefore**, restore the **man's wife**, for **he** is a prophet, and **he** will pray for **you** and **you** will live. But if **you** do not restore **her**, know that <u>you shall surely die</u>, **you** and all who are **yours**." (like Adam)

Abraham's Bad Idea (continued)

Read Genesis 20:14–18

- 14 **Abimelech** then took sheep and oxen and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and restored his wife Sarah to him. (like Pharaoh, Gen 12:16)
- 15 Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you; settle wherever you please."
- 16 To Sarah he (Abimelech) said, ".. I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; (like Pharaoh) behold, it is your <u>vindication</u> before all who are with you, and before all men you are cleared."
- 17 Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his maids,

so that (Reason) they bore children.

18 For **the LORD** had <u>closed fast all the wombs</u> of the household of **Abimelech** (like Pharaoh, Gen 12:17) **because** of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Sarah Conceived and Bore a Son to Abraham, in his old age, (Gen 21:1–7)

Read Genesis 21:1–7

1 Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said,

and **the LORD** did for Sarah as He had promised. (Fulfilled Promise, Gen 17:19, 18:10) 2 So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age,

- at the appointed time (Fulfilled, Gen 18:14) of which God had spoken to him. (KEY)
- 3 Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac. (Gen 17:19)
- 4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, (Gen 17:10)

as **God** had commanded him. (Gen 17:10)

- 5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
- 6 Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." (Gen 18:12)
- 7 And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children ?

Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Isaac's Weaning, Ishmael's Mocking Isaac, and Abraham sending out Hagar, (Gen 21:8-16) Read Genesis 21:8–16

8 The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. [Isaac was probably about 5 years old, then Abraham was 105 years, then Ishmael was 19 years.]

9 Now Sarah saw the son (Ishmael) of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking. 10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Drive out this maid and her son, (2nd Time, like 16:6)

- for the son (Ishmael) of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac."
- 11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son (Ishmael).
- 12 **But God** said to **Abraham**, "Do not be distressed **because** of **the lad (Ishmael)** and **your maid (Hagar)**; whatever **Sarah** tells **you**, listen to her, for through **Isaac your descendants** shall be named. (KEY)
- 13 "And of the son (Ishmael) of the maid I will make a nation also,

because (Reason) he is your descendant." (KEY) (Hagar's Covenant, Gen 16:10-12)

- 14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave them to **Hagar**, putting them on **her** shoulder, and gave **her the boy** (**Ishmael**), and sent **her** away. (like, Gen 16:6) And **she** (**Hagar**) departed and wandered about in **the wilderness of Beersheba**. (like, Gen 16:7)
- 15 When the water in the skin was used up, **she** left the boy (Ishmael, 19 yrs) under one of the bushes.
- 16 Then she went and sat down opposite him, about a bowshot away, for she said,

"Do not let **me** see **the boy** (Ishmael) die." And she sat opposite him, and lifted up her voice and wept.

The angel of God's Call to Hagar and Ishmael's Covenant Promise (Gen 21:17-21) Read Genesis 21:7–21

17 God heard <u>the lad crying</u>; and the angel of God (the angel of the Lord, 16:7, 16:10, 22:11, 22:15) called to Hagar from heaven and said to her,

"What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear,

for God has heard the voice of the lad (Ishmael) where he is.

18 "Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him." (Gen 16:10-12)

[Angels don't Promise to make people "a great nation", only the Lord does that.] (KEY)

[the angel of God (the angel of the Lord) here is most probably Jesus, 16:7, 16:10, 22:11, 22:15] 19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water;

and **she** went and filled the skin with **water** and gave **the lad** a drink.

20 God was with the lad (Ishmael), and he grew; and he lived in the wilderness and became an archer. 21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

[the angel of God (the angel of the Lord, 21:17, 16:7, 16:10, 22:11, 22:15) spoke to Hagar in Chapter 16 and here in Chapter 21, as in a Covenant Promise with her, 16:10, 17:19, 21:18.] (KEY)

[Also the angel of the Lord speaks to Abraham in 22:10, 22:15-16, and to Moses in Ex 3:2]

Abraham and Abimelech make a Covenant and an Oath at Beersheba (Gen 21:22-34) Read Genesis 21:22-34

- 22 Now it came about at that time that **Abimelech** and **Phicol**, the commander of **his** army, spoke to **Abraham**, saying, **"God** is with you in all that you do;
- 23 now therefore, <u>swear</u> to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my offspring or with my posterity, but according to the kindness that I have shown to you, you shall show to me and to the land in which you have <u>sojourned</u>."
- 24 Abraham said, "I swear it."
- 25 But Abraham complained to Abimelech because of the well of water which the servants of Abimelech had seized.
- 26 And **Abimelech** said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor did I hear of it until today."
- 27 Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and <u>the two of them made a covenant</u>. (KEY)
- 28 Then Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves.
- 29 **Abimelech** said to **Abraham**, "What do these seven ewe lambs mean, which **you** have set by themselves?"
- 30 He said, "You shall take these seven ewe lambs from my hand so that it may be a witness to me, that I dug this well."

31 **Therefore he** called that place **Beersheba**, because there <u>the two of them took an oath</u>. (KEY) 32 So <u>they made a covenant</u> at **Beersheba**; (KEY)

and **Abimelech** and **Phicol**, the commander of his army, arose and returned to **the land of the Philistines**. 33 **Abraham** planted a tamarisk tree at **Beersheba**, and there he called on **the name of the LORD**, **the Everlasting God**.

34 And Abraham sojourned in the land of the Philistines for many days.

[Notice: Abraham and Abimelech, the two of them made a Covenant, 21:27, 21:32 Abraham and Abimelech, the two of them took an Oath, 21:31.

This is a **Covenant Promise** by **Oath** between 2 **Men** and Not with **the Lord**.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS - PART 6A

Working Outline > Genesis 22:1–8 (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

God Tests Abraham – the Test Initiated

Read Genesis 22:1–8

- I. 1 Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham,
 - A. and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
 - B. 2 He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac,
 - C. and go to the land of Moriah,
 - D. and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains (Test Criteria)
 1. of which I will tell you."

II. 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, (the Journey by Donkey)

- A. and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son;
- B. and he split wood for the burnt offering,
- C. and arose and went to **the place** of which **God** had told **him**.
- III. 4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. (Land of Moriah)
 - A. **5 Abraham** said to his young men, "<u>Stay</u> here with the donkey, (young men stay)
 - 1. and I and the lad will go over there (to land of Moriah, mountain);
 - 2. and we will worship and return to you."
- IV. 6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, (the Journey by Walk)A. and he took in his hand the fire and the knife.
 - 1. So the **two** of **them** walked on together. (walk to land of Moriah, mountain)
- V. 7 Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father !" (Where is the Lamb Offering)
 - A. And he said, "Here I am, my son."
 - B. And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood,
 - 1. but where is **the lamb** for the **burnt offering**?"
- VI. 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."
 - A. So the **two** of **them** walked on together. (walk to land of Moriah, mountain)

Notice: God Tested Abraham

- Q1: What was the Test God gave Abraham, in verse 2 ?
- A1: "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah,
 - and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains

Notice: God Tests His People

- Q2: What are the Reasons given for God Testing His People, in Ex 20:20 ? Read
- A2: "in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin."
- Q3: What are the Reasons given for God Testing His People, in Deut 8:2 and Deut 8:16 ? Read
- A3: 8:2 "testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments...." 8:16 "test you, to do good for you in the end"
- Q4: What is the Reason given for God Testing His People, in Heb 11:17? Read
- A4: To Test Abraham's faith in God "By faith Abraham, when he was Tested, offered up Isaac"
- Q5: What are the Reasons given for God Testing His People, in Jam 1:2-4? Read
- **A5:** "knowing that the **testing** of your faith > produces **endurance**.

And let endurance have its perfect result,

so that (Reason) you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Notice: Abraham was going to Worship, 22:5, with fire and Wood for a burnt offering, 22:3 Abraham had the fire and the wood for a burnt offering, but No Lamb to offer, 22:7 Abraham Believed "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, 22:8 Abraham was told by God to "offer him (Isaac) there as a burnt offering", 22:2

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS - PART 6B Working Outline > Genesis 22:9–19 (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible) God Tests Abraham – the Test Carried Out Read Genesis 22:9-19 I. 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; (at Mtn in Land of Moriah) (Test Location) A. and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, (Altar Built) B. and <u>bound</u> his son Isaac and <u>laid</u> him on the altar, on top of the wood. (Offering Prepared) C. 10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slav his son. (Offering initiated) **II. 11** But the angel of the LORD called to him (1st Time) from heaven and said, (the angel of the LORD) A. "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." B. 12 He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad (Isaac), (Offering stopped) 1. and do nothing to him; C. for (Reason) now <u>I know that you fear God</u>, (Test Passed) 1. since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." III. 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, A. and behold, behind him <u>a ram</u> caught in the thicket by his horns; 1. and Abraham went and took the ram (Lev 1:3-7) and offered him up (Killed, Lev 1:5) a. for a burnt offering (burnt, Lev 1:7) in the place of his son. (Offering changed) IV. 14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, A. as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided." V. 15 Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, (the angel of the LORD) A. 16 and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, (Sworn Promises of Lord) B. **because** (Reason) you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 1. 17 indeed I will greatly bless you, 12:2, 2. and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens 12:2, 13:16, 15:5, 17:5 3. and as the sand which is on the seashore; 12:2, 13:16, 15:5, 17:5 4. and your seed (descendants) shall possess the gate of their enemies. 24:60 5. 18 "In your seed (descendants) all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, 12:2, 17:4, 17:5 a. **because** (Reason) you have <u>obeyed</u> My voice." (Reason for Promises) VI. 19 So Abraham returned to his young men, 22:5 (the Journey Back) A. and they arose and went together to Beersheba; 1. and Abraham lived at Beersheba.

God Tests Abraham – the Burnt Offering Test Procedure

Q1: What 5 Things did Abraham do, in verses 9 and 10 ?

A1: (1) Abraham built the altar there (2) arranged the wood, (3) bound his son Isaac

(4) <u>laid him</u> on the **altar**, on the **wood**. (5) stretched out <u>his</u> hand and <u>took the knife to slay his son</u>. **Abraham** <u>Worshipped</u> **God** at **altars** previously, in 12:7, 12:8, 13:18, as well as **Noah**, in **Gen 8:20 Animal Offering** is first mentioned concerning **Abel** bringing <u>the first born of his flock</u>, Gen 4:4, Heb 11:4

Burnt Offering is "a <u>soothing aroma</u> to the Lord" in Lev 1:13. Jesus was a <u>pleasing aroma</u> to God, in Eph 5:2.

- An **Offering** > a **personal Offering**, as a **Sacrifice**, done in <u>Obedience</u> and <u>Worship</u> to **God**. **Q2:** What does **the angel of the LORD** tell **Abraham** to NOT to Do, in verse 12a ?
- A2: "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him"

Q3: What is the **Reason** given by the angel of the LORD for stopping Abraham, in verse 12b ? A3: "for (Reason) now <u>I know that you fear God</u>,

since (Because) you have not withheld your only son, from Me." [obedience]

Not Withheld (Not refused to give what was due God) your only son"

Q4: In verse 14, Why did Abraham call the name of that place (the mount) The LORD Will Provide ? A4: Because the Lord Provided a substitutionary Offering of a ram instead of Abraham's son. Notice: There are <u>many parallels</u> between Abraham's sacrifice and Jesus's sacrifice Not Discussed.

In verse 16, the Lord declares By Myself I have sworn, to do the listed things, in verses 17 and 18 Q5: What is the Reason for the Lord swearing to do, all of these things, in verse 18b ? A5: "because (Reason) you (Abraham) have <u>obeyed</u> My voice." 18b

<mark>Q6:</mark> In verses 17 and 18, What **4 things** does **the Lord swear He** will do ? A6:

- (1) indeed I will greatly bless you, 22:17, 12:2
- (2) I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens 22:17, 12:2, 13:16, 15:5, 17:5, 26:4 and as the sand which is on the seashore; 22:17, 12:2, 13:16, 15:5, 17:5
- (3) your seed (descendants) shall possess the gate of their enemies. 22:17, 24:60
- (4) "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, 22:18, 12:2, 17:4, 17:5, 18:18, Gal 3:8

Notice: Most of these Covenant Promises are reaffirming past Promises of God

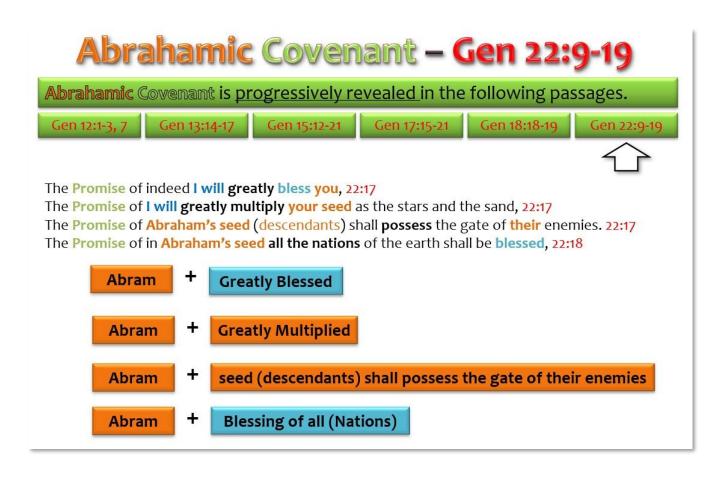
What we learned about the Abrahamic Covenant Promises, in Genesis 22:9–19

The Promise of indeed I will greatly bless you, 22:17

The **Promise** of I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars and the sand, 22:17

The Promise of Abraham's seed (descendants) shall possess the gate of their enemies. 22:17,

The Promise of in Abraham's seed (descendants) all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, 22:18



Abrahamic Covenant – Gen 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 22

Calling and Sending of Abram from Ur
Calling of Abram, from your country (Ur of the Chaldeans), 12:1, 15:7, 20:13, Acts 7:3, Heb 11:8
Sending of Abram, to Go the Land of Canaan, 12:1
Promises Concerning: Giving the Land of Canaan
Sending of Abram, to the Land of Canaan, 12:1
Promise to: Give Land of Canaan, to Abram and his (Physical) Descendants, 12:7, 13:15, 13:17, 15:18, 17:8
Promise to: Give Land of Canaan, to them, forever, as and everlasting possession, 13:15, 17:8
Covenant of: Giving this land (Canaan) from river of Egypt to river Euphrates, 15:18
Promises Concerning: Making Abram, into a great nation and exceedingly fruitful
Promise of: Making Abram, into a great nation (Physical Descendants), 12:2, 17:6, 18:18
Promise of: Abram descendants being innumerable, as dust, stars, and sand, 13:16, 22:17
Promises Concerning: God Personally Blessing Abram
Promise of: Blessing Abram and his name, (personally), 12:2, 22:17
Promise of: "you shall go to your fathers in peace; buried at a good old age", 15:15
Promises Concerning: Abram Blessing and Father, of all families (all nations) and Kings
Promise of: Blessing in Abram, of all families (nations) (Non-Physical Descendants), 12:2, 17:4-6, 18:18, 22:18
Promises Concerning: Abram descendants being strangers in a land not theirs
Promise of: descendants will be strangers in a land enslaved and oppressed, 15:13
Promise of: the Lord will judge the nation (Egypt) whom descendants will serve, 15:14
Promise of: descendants will come out with many possessions, in 4 th generation, to Land, 15:14, 15:16
Promises Concerning: establishing God's Covenant with Abraham and his Descendants
Promise of: establishing My covenant between Me and you, 17:2, 17:7, 15:18
Promise of: establishing My covenant throughout Descendants generations as everlasting covenant, 17:7
Promise <u>of</u> : establishing My covenant with Isaac, 17:19
Promises Concerning: being God to Abraham and to his descendants after him
Promise of establishing being God to you and to your descendants after you. 17:7, 17:8
Promises Concerning: Abraham's descendants possessing the gates of their enemies
Promise of Abraham's seed (descendants) shall possess the gate of their enemies, 22:17