

THE LORD'S - COVENANTS OF PROMISE

By Kevin E. Hughes

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**.

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**

What we learned so far about the Abrahamic Covenant Promises

The **Calling** of **Abram** – in **Ur of the Chaldeans**, **Gen 12:1, Acts 7:2-3**

The **Sending** of **Abram** – in **Ur of the Chaldeans to Go to the Land of Canaan**, **Gen 11:31, 12:5**

The **Promise** of **Making** of **Abram**, into a **great nation** with a **great name**, **Gen 12:2**

The **Promise** of **Blessing** of **Abram**, **Gen 12:2**

The **Promise** of **Blessing** of **all the families** of **the earth**, will be in **Abram**, **Gen 12:3**

The **Promise** of: **The Lord** giving the **Land** to **Abram**, and **his Physical Descendants**, **Gen 12:7**

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)

Historical Background – to establish Context

From initial **Covenant of Abram**, **Gen 12:1-9**, to separation of **Lot** from **Abram**, **Gen 12:1-9**

Read **Genesis 12:10–20** **Abram's Bad Idea**

- 10 Now there was a **famine** in **the land** (Canaan); so **Abram** went down to **Egypt** to sojourn there, for the **famine** was severe in **the land** (Canaan). (**Severe famine in the land** (Canaan) **Gen 26:1, 43:1**)
- 11 It came about when **he** came near to **Egypt**, that **he** said to **Sarai his wife**,
“See now, **I** know that **you** are a beautiful **woman**;
12 and when the **Egyptians** see **you**, they will say,
‘This is **his wife**’; and **they** will kill **me**, but **they** will let **you** live. **Gen 20:11, 26:7**
- 13 “Please say that **you** are **my sister**
so that it may go well with **me** because of **you**, and that **I** may live on account of **you**.”
- 14 It came about when **Abram** came into **Egypt**, the **Egyptians** saw that the **woman** was very beautiful.
15 **Pharaoh's officials** saw **her** and praised **her** to **Pharaoh**;
and the **woman** was taken into **Pharaoh's house**.
- 16 Therefore **he** treated **Abram** well for **her** sake;
and gave **him** sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels.
17 But **the Lord** struck **Pharaoh** and **his** house with **great plagues** because of **Sarai, Abram's wife**.
- 18 Then **Pharaoh** called **Abram** and said, “What is this **you** have done to **me**? **Gen 26:10**
Why did **you** not tell **me** that **she** was **your wife**?
19 “Why did **you** say, ‘**She is my sister**,’ so that **I** took **her** for my **wife**?
Now then, here is **your wife**, take **her** and go.”
- 20 **Pharaoh** commanded **his** men concerning **him**; and they escorted **him** away,
with **his wife** and all that belonged to **him**.

Abram's Bad Idea, to give away his wife

Notice: There was a **Famine** in **Canaan**, **Gen 12:10**

later there was a **Famine** in **Canaan** for **Isaac**, **Gen 26:1**

later there was a **Famine** in **Canaan** for **Jacob**, **Gen 43:1**

Notice: **Abram** goes down to **Egypt** to sojourn there (temporarily live), **Gen 12:10**

later **Jacob** or **sons of Israel** go down to **Egypt** to sojourn (temporarily live), **Gen 43:1**

Notice: **Abram** tells **his** beautiful **wife Sarai** to say **she** is **his sister**, **Gen 12:13**

later **Abram** says **Sarai** is **his sister** a second time, to **Abimelech** King of Philistines, **Gen 20:2, 20:12**

later **Isaac** says **his** beautiful **wife Rebekah**, is **his sister**, **Gen 26:7**

Notice: **Pharaoh** takes **Sarai, Abram's wife**, and gives **him** much livestock and servants as gifts, **Gen 12:16**

Abram was very rich, in livestock, in silver, in gold, **Gen 13:2**

later **Isaac** reaped a hundred-fold, became rich, with flocks and great household, **Gen 26:12-14**

later **Moses** or **Israel**, left **Egypt** with much plunder, livestock, and mixed multitude, **Ex 12:35-36, 38**

But **the Lord** struck **Pharaoh** and **his** house with **great plagues**, because of **Sarai**, **Gen 12:17**

later for **Isaac**, **God** told **Abimelech**, because of **Rebekah**, **he** was a dead man, **Gen 20:3**

later for **Moses** or **Israel**, **the Lord** struck **Pharaoh** and **his** house with **great plagues**, **Ex 7:14-12:36**
because **Pharaoh** had **the Lord's wife**, **the sons of Israel**, **Jer 31:32**

Notice:

Abram has **Sarai** lie about **her** being **his wife**, **Gen 20:12**, but **she** was **his** half-sister, **Gen 20:12-13**

The Lord's plan for **Sarai** (barren, **Gen 11:30**) to have a son by **Abram** and not by **Hagar**, **Gen 17:15-21**

But **the Lord** intervenes and strikes **Pharaoh** and **his** house with **great plagues**, because of **Sarai**.

The **great plagues** here mirror **Moses's** later **great plagues** in **Egypt**, **Ex 7:14-12:36**

Also **Abram** comes away from **Pharaoh** rich as **Moses** and **Israel** did when **they** left **Egypt**, **Ex 12:35-36, 38**

Historical Background – to establish Context

Read Genesis 13:1–13

- 1 So **Abram** went up from **Egypt** to **the Negev** (desert, S. Israel),
 he and **his wife** and all that belonged to **him**, and **Lot** with **him**.
- 2 Now **Abram** was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. **Gen 12:16**
- 3 **He** went on **his** journeys from **the Negev** as far as **Bethel**,
 to the place where **his** tent had been at the beginning, between **Bethel** and **Ai**, **Gen 12:8**
- 4 to the place of **the altar** which **he** had made there formerly; **Gen 12:8**
 and there **Abram** called on **the name of the Lord**. **Gen 12:8**
- 5 Now **Lot**, who went with **Abram**, also had flocks and herds and tents.
- 6 And **the land** could not sustain **them** while dwelling together,
 for **their** possessions were so great that **they** were not able to remain together. (rich, **Gen 13:2**)
- 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of **Abram's** livestock and the herdsmen of **Lot's** livestock.
 Now the **Canaanite** and the **Perizzite** were dwelling then in **the land**. **Gen 12:6**
- 8 So **Abram** said to **Lot**, “Please let there be no strife between **you** and **me**,
 nor between **my** herdsmen and **your** herdsmen, for **we** are brothers.
- 9 “Is not the whole **land** before **you**? Please separate from **me**;
 if to the left, then **I** will go to the right; or if to the right, then **I** will go to the left.”
- 10 **Lot** lifted up **his** eyes and saw all **the valley of the Jordan**, that it was well **watered** everywhere—
 this was **before** **the Lord** destroyed **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**— **Gen 19:24**
 like **the garden** of **the Lord**, like **the land of Egypt** as you go to **Zoar**. (Zoar, **Gen 19:22**)
- 11 So **Lot** chose for **himself** all **the valley of the Jordan**, and **Lot** journeyed eastward.
 Thus **they** separated from each other.
- 12 **Abram** settled in **the land of Canaan**,
 while **Lot** settled in **the cities of the valley**, and moved **his** tents as far as **Sodom**.
- 13 Now the **men** of **Sodom** were **wicked** exceedingly and sinners against **the Lord**. **Gen 18:20**

Abram's separation from Lot, Abram in Canaan, and Lot in Sodom

Notice: **Abram** returns to **Bethel** the area **he** was before and **the altar** there, **Gen 13:3**

Notice: **Abram** and **Lot** decide to quit living in the same part of the **Land of Canaan**, **Gen 13:5-9**

Notice: **Lot** decides to move “eastward” to the “well **watered**” “**valley of the Jordan**”

Which valley was “like **the garden** of **the Lord**”

Q1: Is “all **the valley of the Jordan**, well **watered** everywhere” today ?

A1: No, near **Dead Sea** it is hot and barren with pillars of salt or sulfur everywhere today.

Notice: “the **men** of **Sodom** were **wicked** exceedingly and sinners against **the Lord**”, **Gen 13:13**

Sodom and **Gomorrah**, as part of **Canaan**, were first mentioned back in **Gen 10:19**.

Their wickedness is described in detail in **Gen 18:20**, **Ezk 16:49-50**, **Lk 17:28**, **2 Peter 2:7-8**, **Jude 7**

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS – PART 2

Working Outline > **Genesis 13:14–18** (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Read **Genesis 13:14–18**

- I. 14 **The Lord** said to **Abram**, after **Lot** had separated from **him**,
 - A. “Now lift up **your** eyes and look from the place where **you** are,
 1. northward and southward and eastward and westward;
 - B. 15 for **all the land** which **you** see, (Moses, **Deut 34:1-4**)
 1. **I will** give **it** (the land) to **you** and to **your descendants forever**. **Gen 17:8, 2 Chron 20:7**
 - C. 16 “**I will** make **your descendants** as the dust of **the earth**, **22:17, 28:14**
 1. so that (Reason) if anyone can number the dust of **the earth**,
 - a. then **your descendants** can also be numbered.
- II. 17 “Arise, walk about **the land** through **its** length and breadth;
 - A. for **I will** give **it** (the land) to **you**.” **Gen 17:8, 2 Chron 20:7**
- III. 18 Then **Abram** moved **his** tent and came and dwelt by the **oaks of Mamre**, **Gen 12:6**
 - A. which (Oaks) are in **Hebron**,
 - B. and **there** (at Oaks) **he** built an altar to **the Lord**.

Abram was shown by **the Lord**, the **Land of Canaan** as far as **he** could see.

The Lord said to **Abram**, “Now lift up **your** eyes and look from the place where **you** are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, **Gen 13:14**

The **Promise** of giving **Abram** and **his descendants** all the **Land of Canaan forever**

I will give **it** (the land) to **you** and to **your descendants forever**, **Gen 13:15**

I will give **it** (the land) to **you**, **Gen 13:17**

The **Promise** of **Abram descendants** being innumerable, as dust of **the Earth**

I will make **your descendants** as the dust of **the earth**, **22:17, 28:14**

so that (Reason) if anyone can number the dust of **the earth**, then **your descendants** can also be numbered.

Q1: In **verse 15**, How Long will **Abram's** (physical) **descendants** inherit **the Land of Canaan** for ?

A1:

Read **Gen 17:8**

Q2: How Long will **Abram's** (physical) **descendants** inherit **the Land of Canaan** for, in **Gen 17:8** ?

A2:

Read **2 Chron 20:7** and **Isa 60:21**

Q3: How Long will **Abram's** (physical) **descendants** inherit **the Land of Canaan** for, in **2 Chron 20:7** ?

A3:

Q4: If **Israel** is **scattered** and not fully in **the Land** now, how will **they** inherit **the Land forever** ?

Read **Jer 32:37-42**

A4a:

“Behold, **I will** gather **them** out of **all the lands** to which **I** have driven **them** in **My** anger, in **My** wrath and in great indignation; and **I will** bring **them** back to **this place** and make **them** dwell in safety. **32:37**

Read **Ezek 37:21-28**

A4b:

“Say to **them**, ‘Thus says **the Lord GOD**, “Behold, **I will** take **the sons of Israel** from among **the nations** where **they** have gone, and **I will** gather **them** from every side and bring **them** into **their own land**; **37:21**

Notice:

the Lord gives **the land** to **Abram's** (physical descendants, offspring, seed) Gen 13:15, 13:17
and Not to **all the families (Nations) of the earth.**

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

Abram moved **his** tent and came and dwelt by the **oaks of Mamre**, as **he** did before, Gen 12:6
which (Oaks) are in **Hebron**, and **there** (at Oaks) **he** built an altar to **the Lord**, as **he** did before, Gen 12:7

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)

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



Promise to: **Give Land of Canaan**, to **Abram** and **his** (Physical) Descendants, 13:15

All the **Land you** see, to the North, South, East, and West.

"**I will** give it (the Land) to **you** (Abram)", 13:17

Promise to: **Give Land of Canaan**, to **them**, **forever**, 13:15

Promise of: **Abram descendants** being innumerable, as dust of **the Earth**, 13:16

The **Land Promise** to **Abram**, and **his** Physical Descendants, 12:7

Physical Descendants **Promise Number**: as dust of **the earth** (innumerable), 13:16

The **Land Promise** Longevity: **Land** will be given **forever**, 12:2

The **Land Promise** Boundaries: as far as **Abram** could see,

[Also no mention of, **all the families** (nations) of **the earth**, as in 12:3]

Land of Canaan

+

Abram's Descendants

What we learned about the Abrahamic Covenant Promises, in Gen 12:1-3, 7

The **Calling** of **Abram** – in **Ur of the Chaldeans**, **Gen 12:1, Acts 7:2-3**

The **Sending** of **Abram** – in **Ur of the Chaldeans to Go to the Land of Canaan**, **Gen 11:31, 12:5**

The **Promise** of **Making** of **Abram**, into a **great nation** with a **great name**, **Gen 12:2**

The **Promise** of **Blessing** of **Abram**, **Gen 12:2**

The **Promise** of **Blessing** of **all the families** of **the earth**, will be in **Abram**, **Gen 12:3**

The **Promise** of: **The Lord** giving the **Land** to **Abram**, and **his Physical Descendants**, **Gen 12:7**

What we learned about the Abrahamic Covenant Promises, in Gen 13:14-17

The **Promise** of giving **Abram** and **his descendants** all the **Land of Canaan forever**, **Gen 13:15, 13:17**

The **Promise** of **Abram descendants** being innumerable, as dust of **the Earth**, **Gen 13:16**