

The Abrahamic Covenant

Sermon 5 in the Covenants Series

I. The Promise to Abraham Gen. 12:1-3

We need to examine this as it relates to the Covenant of Grace.

This promise moves the history of redemption forward by leaps and bounds.

In many ways, the Abrahamic Covenant and God's dealings with Abraham explain so much that had been hidden up until this time.

Gen. 3:15 – deals with the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.

The promise is – one will come from the seed of the woman who will crush Satan's head (the seed of the serpent) and bring about deliverance.

Abraham is a giant step in redemptive history.

God deals individually with Abraham.

God tells Abraham that all nations will be blessed through "his seed."

A three-fold meaning.

1. He will be the father of the nation of Israel.

In covenantal language – once God meets with Jacob it is:
I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

2. We learn that Abraham is the father of all those who come to God by faith.

3. As part of the line and lineage of Messiah, who would come through the line of Abraham, specifically through the promised son of Abraham and Sarah -- Isaac.

Galatians 3:16 -- ¹⁶Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

The Abrahamic Covenant is comprised of two covenants.

1. It is the physical posterity that becomes the nation of Israel.

2. It is also the promise of the Covenant of Grace He might not have fully understood how it would come about – but he looked ahead – by faith -- to what we now enjoy.

Hebrews 11:8-11

Remember – in progressive revelation.

We are not called to have faith in what God HAS NOT revealed.

But we are called upon to have faith in God in what He HAS revealed.

What Makes a Nation? Gen. 13:11-18

We can see similarities between the Physical promises given to Abraham and the greater spiritual promises that would come as he becomes the father of all the faithful.

1. Offspring

A physical nation has physical offspring.

He became the father of many nations, but Israel would be the blessed nation.

A spiritual nation is comprised of spiritual offspring.

Gal. 3:29 -- And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The Jews of Jesus day were proud to be Abraham's children. John the Baptist dared to tell the rulers that physically descending from Abraham didn't profit them anything without repentance. God can raise up stones to be Abraham's offspring!

Christ went so far as to tell these unbelieving Jews – they were of their father the Devil. John 8:39-47, 56-59

The New Testament fully reveals something that was always true – only those who come to God by faith are the real children of Abraham.

2. Land

Physically this means Canaan for Old Testament Israel.

In a Spiritual sense – we, like Abraham, by faith, look for a city without human foundations, whose maker and builder is God. The New Heavens and the New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

3. Government -- Laws

Moses would bring Israel the moral, civil, and ceremonial laws.

We have the completed canon of Scripture as our only rule of faith and practice.

4. Leaders

Israel had many leaders until King David and his royal line.

Jesus Christ (the Son of David) is King of Kings and Lord of Lords forever and ever.