

LESSON 4 – THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT



Reading Assignment:

Bible Reading: Genesis 11:27 - Genesis 17:27; 21:1-26:5
Text Reading: Chapter 6 & 7

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

The differences between Covenant Theology and Dispensational Theology lead to contrasting views concerning the _____ or future Kingdom of God foretold in the Scriptures and regarding the permanent _____ of Israel as a nation and its permanent _____ of the promised land.

MAJOR ISSUES RELATED TO THE COVENANT

There are three major issues [write them out]:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PARTIES OF THE COVENANT

It is important to understand that the covenant, established by God, applies to specific physical descendants of Abraham in Genesis 15:18. These descendents are:

1. _____ – Genesis 17:19,21; 28:13-17; 35:9-12; 48:3-4
2. _____ - Genesis 28:13-17; 35:9-12; 48:3-4
3. The _____ of Israel – Genesis 50:24-25

THE HISTORIC ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COVENANT

Preliminary promises of the covenant were given in Genesis 12:2-3 and 13:14-17.

List the six promises given in Genesis 12:2-3

1. make thee a great nation
2. will bless thee
3. make thy name great
4. you shall be a blessing
5. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you
6. all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you.

Notice the extent of the Promised Land given to Abraham in Genesis 13. Is God very specific in the description of it in this passage? _____ See Genesis 15:18

INTERESTING FACTS: According to *The Telegraph* [London, July 23, 2003] the current scientific estimate by astronomers is that there are 10 times more stars than grains of sand in the world's deserts and beaches. The scientists of the Australian National University, the Royal Observatory [Edinburgh], Johns Hopkins University, St. Andrews University, and the University of New South Wales counted the galaxies in one region and extrapolated that for the entire sky. They estimate that there are 70 thousand million million million stars.

STOP AND READ: Compare Genesis 15:12-18 and Jeremiah 34:18

Did Abraham walk between the animals? _____

What was Abraham doing? _____ What verses support this? _____

THE SPECIFIC PROMISES OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

PERSONAL PROMISES- EXCLUSIVELY TO ABRAHAM:

- A. Bless Abraham – Genesis 12:2
- B. Make him a blessing to others – Genesis 12:2
- C. Make his name great – Genesis 12:2
- D. Many physical descendents – Genesis 13:16; 15:4-5; 17:6
- E. Father of a multitude of nations – Genesis 17:4-5
- F. Land of Canaan for an everlasting possession – Genesis 13:14-15, 17; 15:7; 17:8
- G. Bless those who blessed Abraham, curse those who cursed him – Genesis 12:3

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NATIONAL PROMISES

- A. A great _____ of Abraham's physical descendents – Genesis 12:2
- B. The land of Canaan for his descendents _____ forever – Genesis 12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-21; 17:8
- C. The Abrahamic Covenant applies to his _____ descendants forever – Genesis 17:7, 19

UNIVERSAL PROMISES

Applies to all the peoples of the world

- A. All the families of the earth would be blessed through Abraham's physical line – Genesis 12:3; 22:18; 28:14
- B. The Messiah would come through his line to bless the peoples of the earth – Galatians 3:7
- C. All could be blessed who bless Abraham's descendents and be cursed who cursed his descendents – Matthew 25:31-46

HISTORIC FULFILMENT

Can you think of some ways that this covenant has already been fulfilled?

Personally:

Nationally:

Universally:

It should be noted that those parts of the Abrahamic Covenant which have been fulfilled thus far have been fulfilled _____.

CONDITIONAL VERSUS UNCONDITIONAL

Unconditional means that the covenant does not depend upon Abraham's obedience, nor that of his descendents. **If it is unconditional** it means that the covenant and the promises are _____ and _____.

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Conditional means that the covenant depends upon Abraham's obedience and that of his descendents. Disobedience nullifies the covenant. **If it is conditional** it means Abraham's descendents would not have the land forever and the covenant is not everlasting for the nation of Israel.

Dispensational Theologians contend the covenant is _____

Covenant Theologians disagree with each other over conditional or unconditional.

Covenant – conditional view – Genesis 17:1-2; 22:16-18; 26:3-5

But ...

1. Passages occur years after God formally established the covenant in Genesis 15

When initiated no conditions were given – based on Galatians 3:15 cannot change conditions of covenant.

2. Only God passed between the halves of the animals – Genesis 15:7, 17.

The fire? _____

The fire signified the unique _____ of God
- root of Shekinah is the idea of _____

3. The total focus of the covenant is on God's _____ to His commitment. Genesis 15:8.

4. The Abrahamic Covenant was still in effect even after the patriarchs of Israel sinned several times.

_____ - Genesis 26:1-4 cv. 26:6-11;

_____ - Genesis 28:13-15; 35:9-12; 48:3-4 cv. 37:18-36; 28:12-26.

_____ - Genesis 50:24-26

_____ - Exodus 2:24; 6:2-8

5. The Abrahamic Covenant was still in effect even when the nation sinned –
1 Chronicles 16:15-18

6. Anticipating the nations idolatry and evil, God would eventually return
them to Him – Deuteronomy 4:25-31

7. The Holy Spirit confirms its ongoing nature in Luke 1:67-75

8. Peter confirms its ongoing nature in Acts 3:12-26. Note the tense of the
verbs in this passage [vv. 25, 26].

9. The Epistle of Hebrews confirms its unchangeable purpose in Hebrews
6:13-18.
 - a.
 - b. The Covenant was still a source of _____ to Jews living
when Hebrews was written in 60's AD.

10. The coming Redeemer for mankind could not be dependent upon the
obedience of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the nation of Israel. The _____
program of redemption depended upon the coming of the Messiah.

THE EFFECTS OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT UPON ISRAEL

1. It guarantees Israel's _____ existence as a nation.

Genesis 17:7

1 Chronicles 16:15-17

Psalms 105:8-10

READ AND ANSWER: Turn to Deuteronomy 4:25-31

Where would Israel be scattered one day? _____

Will they be true to the True God?

When will tribulation come upon them? _____

Will God forsake them? Why or Why not?

How are we to understand the word, “destroy” in Deuteronomy 4:26?

Either means “to put out of existence” or “overthrow or remove from land” The context of this passage indicates it means to _____

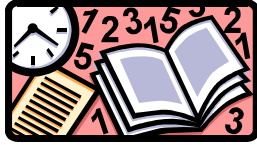
- Some would have the covenant be unconditional but now apply to the Church of the New Testament rather than the nation of Israel, Abraham’s descendents. How would you answer this in light of Jeremiah 30:11; 46:27-28; Amos 9:8; and Romans 11:28, 29?

2. It guarantees Israel’s permanent _____ of the Promised Land. Never confuse occupation with ownership. You can own land and be absent from it.

- How do you understand the use of the word, “forever” in Genesis 12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-21; 17:8; 1 Chronicles 16:15-18; Psalms 105:8-11?
- Why would God keep an everlasting peace covenant with Israel, in spite of Israel’s evil, corrupt ways, and in spite of the fact that the nation does not deserve it?

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

Can you give Biblical references to support your answer.



Homework

Using your lecture tapes, syllabus, textbook, and Bible, briefly answer the following.

1. Briefly discuss the difference between a conditional covenant and an unconditional covenant. [25 points]

2. How would you respond to someone claiming that the Abrahamic Covenant is a conditional covenant with Israel? Your answer should include 6 of the 10 reasons offered by the Dr. Showers. After outlining the arguments against a conditional covenant explain why you feel Dr. Showers arguments are correct or in error. [25 points]

3. Briefly discuss the two possible meanings of the word *destroy* in Deuteronomy 4:25-31. Using Scripture, explain why the nation of Israel, consisting of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, must exist in the “latter days.” [25 points]

4. Why is there “an inseparable link between the Abrahamic Covenant and the prophetic passages which promise Israel’s total, permanent restoration to its homeland and future blessing?” [25 points]

I have read _____ % of the textbook. I have read _____ % of the Scripture Reading

Signed: _____ Date: _____