

The Covenants

(Part 2)



74) What is the background for the Abrahamic Covenant?

- A. Soon after God established His covenant with him, Noah became drunk on wine. His son Ham, who found Noah in a compromising situation, mocked his father. Nimrod, a warrior from Ham's family, led a rebellion against God that culminated with the confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel. Man was growing evermore godless.
- B. God choose an idol worshiper, Abraham, from the house of Shem to make His next covenant with.

75) What is the Abrahamic covenant?

- A. It is the most comprehensive covenant God made with man. It establishes a natural and spiritual people of God. From this nation, the Messiah would come. The covenant was made with Abraham and confirmed to Isaac, Jacob and all Israel.
- B. Abraham responded to the covenant in faith which greatly pleased God.

"What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

ROM 4:3 NIV

- C. The promise of the covenant was irrevocable.

"When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, [14] saying, 'I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.' [15] And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. [16] Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. [17] Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. [18] God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged."

HEB 6:13-18 NIV

76) What are the words of the Abrahamic covenant?

- A. The words of the covenant are found in Genesis 12:1-3, 22:17-18
1. God promised Abraham personal blessing.
 2. God promised Abraham would be a blessing to others.
 3. God promised others would bless Abraham.
 4. God promised the entire world would be blessed through Abraham.
 - a. This Messianic promise was fulfilled through Abraham's descendent, Jesus.
 5. God promised his descendants would be numerous.
 6. God promised a land to live in.
 7. God promised to bless anyone who blessed Abraham and curse anyone foolish enough to curse Abraham.

"The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. [2] "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

GEN 12:1-3 NIV

"and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, [17] I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, [18] and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

GEN 22:16-18 NIV

77) What is the blood (sacrifice) of the Abrahamic covenant?

- A. When God "cut" covenant with Abram, five animals were sacrificed.
- B. Abraham acted as mediator of this covenant.

"So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." [10] Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half."

GEN 15:9-10 NIV

78) What is the seal of the Abrahamic covenant?

- A. Circumcision was the seal of the covenant. If you weren't circumcised, you weren't entitled to the promises of the covenant.

"This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. [11] You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. [12] For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner - those who are not your offspring. [13] Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting

covenant. [14] Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

GEN 17:10-14 NIV

79) Was the Abrahamic covenant an unconditional covenant?

- A. Yes. Though individuals might be cut off from the covenant, God promised Abraham with an oath, and confirmed it to Isaac and Jacob, that He would bless Abraham and his family.

"and said, 'I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, [17] I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, [18] and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.'"

GEN 22:16-18 NIV

"The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, 'Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. [3] Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. [4] I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, [5] because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws.'"

GEN 26:2-5 NIV

"He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, [9] the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. [10] He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant."

PSA 105:8-10 NIV

80) What is the background for the Mosaic Covenant?

- A. When Israel went to Egypt to escape the famine, they fell back into their old ways and began to worship idols. They became slaves and endured 400 years under bondage. When they cried out to God because of their bondage, God remembered His covenant and sent Moses to deliver them. Although God took Israel out of bondage, bondage remained in their hearts.

81) What is the Mosaic covenant?

- A. God made this covenant with the nation of Israel. The law was given so Israel could see what God expected of them. It set the standard for civil, moral, and ceremonial law.

82) What are the words of the Mosaic covenant?

- A. The words of the law are extensive being found in Exodus 20-40, Leviticus 1-27, most of Numbers and all of Deuteronomy. The best known part of the law is the summary of the moral law known as the Ten Commandments.
1. God promised to bless anyone who kept the law.
 2. God promised to curse anyone who violated the law.

Building Firm Foundations

3. The faith response of the Abrahamic Covenant was replaced with a requirement of strict obedience to clearly defined laws.

"And God spoke all these words: [2] "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. [3] "You shall have no other gods before me. [4] "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. [5] You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, [6] but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. [7] "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. [8] "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. [9] Six days you shall labor and do all your work, [10] but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. [11] For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. [12] "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. [13] "You shall not murder. [14] "You shall not commit adultery. [15] "You shall not steal. [16] "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. [17] "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

EXO 20:1-17 NIV

83) What is the blood (sacrifice) of the Mosaic covenant?

- A. Numerous animal sacrifices were required. The requirement of each were spelled out in detail. (See the books of Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy.)
- B. The mediators of this covenant were Moses, Aaron and the priests from their family tribe of Levi.

84) What is the seal of the Mosaic covenant?

- A. The weekly Sabbath day was the seal of the covenant. Each week Israel was reminded of the requirements of the covenant when the strict requirements of the Sabbath had to be observed.

"Then the LORD said to Moses, [13] "Say to the Israelites, "You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy. [14] "Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death; whoever does any work on that day must be cut off from his people. [15] For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death. [16] The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant. [17] It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested."

EXO 31:12-17 NIV

85) Was the Mosaic covenant an unconditional covenant?

- A. No. Israel broke the covenant but God promised a "new" covenant to take its place.

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD."

JER 31:31-32 NIV

86) What is the background for the Davidic Covenant?

- A. God had always ruled Israel through priests, prophets and men of God. Israel didn't want God to rule them any more so they cried out for a king. King Saul was chosen to rule God's people but his heart was not after God. God rejected Saul and anointed David to take his place.

87) What is the Davidic covenant?

- A. This covenant is an extension of the Abrahamic covenant. It was a promise to David that his reign as king would be blessed and he would always have a descendent on the throne.

88) What are the words of the Davidic covenant?

- A. The words of the covenant are found in II Samuel 7 and I Chronicles 17.
1. God promised a land of safety for Israel.
 2. God promised victory over their enemies.
 3. God promised David that a man from his family would always sit on the throne of the kingdom.
 - a. This was ultimately fulfilled through Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.

"And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning [11] and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: [12] When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. [13] He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. [14] I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. [15] But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. [16] Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

2SAM 7:10-16 NIV

89) What is the blood (sacrifice) of the Davidic covenant?

- A. This covenant uses the same pattern of sacrifices laid down in the law of Moses.

Building Firm Foundations

- B. The mediators of this covenant were the Levitical priesthood of Israel. David also acted as a King-Priest on certain occasions.

90) What is the seal of the Davidic covenant?

- A. The seal of this covenant is the sun, moon and stars. God promised David that His promise would last as long as the sun did. When Israel sees the sun, it knows that God is still keeping His promise.

"I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered. [35] Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness - and I will not lie to David - [36] that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun; [37] it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky." Selah"

PSA 89:34-37 NIV

91) Was the Davidic covenant an unconditional covenant?

- A. Yes. David's kingly line continued to Jesus Christ, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

"Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. [30] But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne."

ACTS 2:29-30 NIV

"On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

REV 19:16 NIV

92) What is the background for the New Covenant?

- A. Since the Mosaic covenant, men had been offering sacrifices for their sin. The blood of the sacrifice covered their sin, but never forgave it. In their own strength, men were not able to keep the covenants.

"But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, [4] because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."

HEB 10:3-4 NIV

93) What is the New Covenant?

- A. The New Covenant is a covenant that transforms man from the inside out instead of imposing change from the outside.
- B. In the New Covenant, God first deals with man's heart. Man has a "heart" problem as we have seen from his repeated failure to keep God's covenants. Following the Law of Moses, or any other set of rules, can't change a man's heart. No good works, no matter how noble, can change a man's heart. Only the Spirit of God can change a man's heart.
- C. This heart change occurs when we are cleansed by the blood of Jesus and accept Him as our Lord and Savior. With our heart so prepared, the Spirit of God takes up residence with our spirit in our inner man.

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"

JER 17:9 NIV

"The Lord says: 'These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.'"

ISA 29:13 NIV

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

EZE 36:26 NIV

94) What are the words of the New Covenant?

- A. The words of the covenant are found throughout the Old and New Testaments.
 - 1. God promises salvation complete with forgiveness of sins and a new life.
 - 2. God promised a blessing on the gentiles who believe.
 - 3. God promised an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon man.
 - 4. God promised healing for our bodies.
 - 5. God promised deliverance from demonic bondage.
 - 6. God promised eternal life.
 - 7. God promised eternal torment for those who did not accept Jesus as savior.
- B. The terms or requirements of the covenant were repentance of our sins, faith toward God and obedience to God's Holy Spirit.

"The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD. [21] "As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever," says the LORD."

ISA 59:20-21 NIV

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. [32] It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. [33] "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. [34] No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

JER 31:31-34 NIV

95) What is the blood (sacrifice) of the New covenant?

- A. The blood Jesus shed on the cross secured the covenant.
- B. Jesus served as our mediator between sinful man and the righteous Father. He fulfilled the role of all previous priests and far exceeded their ministry.

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. [20] He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your

sake."

1PETER 1:18-20 NIV

96) What is the seal of the New Covenant?

- A. The Holy Spirit is our proof that we are the new creature promised in the New Covenant.
- B. The circumcision that was once an outward sign of the covenant is now a work of the Holy Spirit that takes place in the heart.

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of his glory."

EPH 1:13-14 NIV

"In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, [12] having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead."

COL 2:11-12 NIV

97) Was the New Covenant an unconditional covenant?

- A. Yes. An unconditional covenant is one that God promises to keep even if man fails to fulfill his obligation. God set the terms of the New Covenant, offering new life to every man. The offer of salvation does not depend conditionally upon anyone's merit or works, but upon God's grace. You can't earn God's saving grace, you can only receive it.
 - 1. It is up to every man to either accept or reject the terms of the covenant. If one man, or group of men, reject God's offer of grace, that does not change the irrevocable nature of the covenant. God will honor the covenant with those who believe.
- B. Jesus Christ not only fulfilled the Law but He fulfilled all the covenants that have gone before.
 - 1. His death and resurrection make it possible for man to fulfill his original purpose as outlined in the Edenic Covenant.
 - 2. Jesus is the redemptive "seed" of women promised in the Adamic covenant.
 - 3. Jesus kept God's promise to Noah and the earth's final judgement on the day of the Lord will be fire and not flood.
 - 4. Every person that enters into the New Covenant become one of the spiritual children of Israel, fulfilling God's promises to Abraham.
 - 5. Jesus fulfilled all the Mosaic law, becoming the perfect sacrifice for sin.
 - 6. Jesus is the Davidic King whose kingdom will rule forever.

Name: _____ Group Leaders: _____

Date: _____

Homework for Chapter 7

Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.

- 1) List five points of the Abrahamic covenant.

- 2) What is the significance of circumcision in the Abrahamic Covenant?

- 3) Why was the Mosaic Covenant given to Israel?

- 4) Why is the Mosaic Covenant not an unconditional Covenant?

- 5) What did God promise in the Davidic Covenant?
