

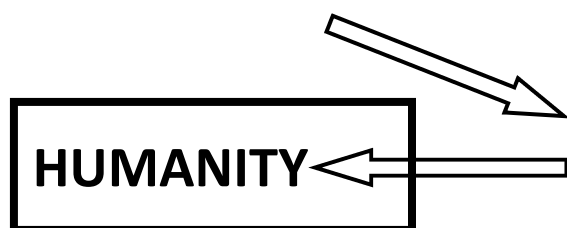
The Biblical Metanarrative:

"Knowing the story we are all a part of."

PART 4: GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM

Introduction:

From Genesis 1-11, God chose to relate to mankind both generally through His creation and specially through His interactions with individuals (Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Enoch, Noah...etc.).



- All people had a general knowledge of God both through creation as well as through their conscience.
- God revealed to people the necessity of sacrifice and this was passed down by the faithful from generation to generation.

The Tower of Babel.

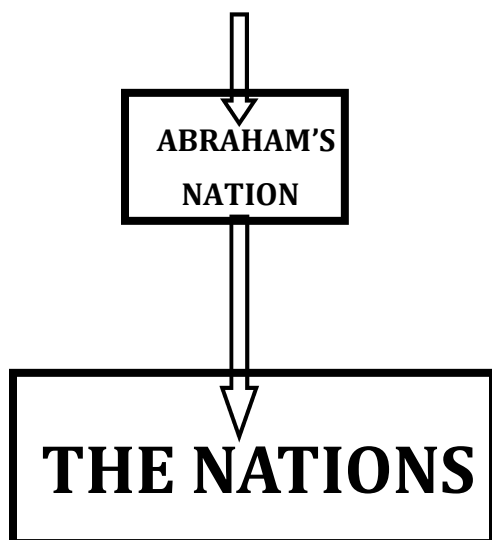
- After Noah, people again disobeyed the commands of the Lord, refusing to spread out and fill the earth. (Genesis 11:1-9)
- Rather than prospering under established human government, they sought to make a name for themselves (11:4)

GOD'S JUDGMENT (11:7-8) ➡ They were _____ and their language _____!

GOD AND THE NATIONS

After these groups of people were scattered across the earth, they developed unique cultural practices and prospered in their various ethnic and linguistic groups. Because man was by nature in rebellion against God, the nations did not worship Him (though some individuals continued to serve Him).

- God decided to choose for himself a man through whom He would make a _____.
- This nation would be a _____ for God to all of the other nations.



ABRAM BEFORE GOD'S CALL Genesis 11:27-30

- These verses give us the background details of the man Abram.

"[Abram] was a typical Bedouin Arab, manifesting their characteristics, and following their customs. He was a dweller in tents...and a slave owner (12:5; 14:14); he was easily cowed in the presence of danger (12:11-20; 20:1-18), and was a polygamist (26:1-35)."

— Graham Scroggie, *The Unfolding Drama of Redemption*

"It is important to notice that Abraham comes from a family that is not monotheistic...They would have shared the polytheistic beliefs of the ancient world at that time. In this type of system the gods were connected to the forces of nature and showed themselves through natural phenomena."

— Walton & Matthews, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*

THE CALL OF ABRAM

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. —Genesis 12:1

- Along with this being a command, it was also an _____.
- God was calling Abram to give up his future _____ as well as for him to separate from his _____.

"By making a break with his land, his family and his inheritance, Abraham is also breaking all of his religious ties, because deities would be associated with geographical, political, and ethnic divisions. In his new land Abraham would have no territorial gods; as the head of a new people he would have brought no family gods; having left his country he would have no national or city gods; and it was Yahweh who filled this void, becoming the 'God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.'" — Walton & Matthews, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*

- Within the invitation, God made several promises: Genesis 12:1-3

Abram's Response to these promises: _____ & _____! (12:4,7)

ABRAM AND LOT

Abram and his nephew, Lot, were both wealthy men with large amounts of livestock. Their two groups could not dwell together. After Lot chose to take land to the east, the Lord again came to Abram. (Genesis 13:14-18)

- Abram has also taken part in a battle to rescue Lot from captivity.
- He had interactions with two very different kings as well.

"The Powerful king of Elam had been vanquished, but he had escaped, and might rally his army and fight again. The King of Sodom may have been offended by Abram's independence and seeming discourtesy, so that, in the event of an attack from the North, it was not likely that he would render the Patriarch assistance. And further, Abram was now eighty-five years of age, and he had no family. Were he attacked and slain, there was no son to succeed him, and his property would fall into the hands of others. The outlook was dark, and, it may be that Abram had doubts as to whether it had paid him to be true to God and his conscience."

—Graham Scroggie, *The Unfolding Drama of Redemption*

THE COVENANT

Genesis 15:1-8

- 10 years had passed since God had originally made promises to Abram.
- It was into this time of doubt that the Lord decided to confirm his promises to Abram with a covenant.
- When God again told Abram of His promise, Abram responded in faith. This simple trust was credited to Abram as righteousness.

Genesis 15:9-21

- This event would have cemented in Abram's mind that God was making a specific covenant agreement with him as this was similar to the customs of the ancient world at this time.

"The proceeding, corresponding rather to the custom prevalent in many ancient nations, of slaughtering animals when concluding a covenant, and after dividing them into pieces, of laying the pieces opposite of one another, that the persons making the covenant might pass between them. Thus...God condescended to follow the custom of the Chaldeans, that He might in the most solemn manner confirm His oath to Abram the Chaldean..."

—Keil & Delitzsch, quoted by Pentecost in *Things to Come*

IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE HERE THAT THIS COVENANT IS _____!!!

- Only _____ moves between the cut up animals.
- This symbolizes that the _____ to keep the promises is on Him.

WAITING FOR THE PROMISE


- **Despite God confirming His Covenant, Abram failed to wait on God's promise and sinned by listening to Sarai and fathering a child with her servant. (Gen. 16:1-6)**
- **God again came to Abram 9 years after the Covenant was made and changed his name to Abraham (Gen. 17:1-8). God also gave circumcision as the sign of His covenant. (Gen. 17:1-14)**
- **He also changes Sarai's name to Sarah and again told Abraham that he would have a child with her. (Gen. 17:15-19)**

THE BIRTH OF ISAAC **Genesis 21:1-7**

- **God kept His promise to give Abraham an _____ with Sarah.**
- **God kept His promise in His _____.**
- **The couple's response included both _____ and _____. (21:4,6-7)**

THE OBJECT LESSON **Genesis 22:1-14**

THE TEST: 22:1-10

- The Lord then came to Abraham and asked him to make the greatest of all sacrifices...the boy, who symbolized all of God's promises to him.
- Abraham _____ God and obeyed Him.  "God will _____!" (22:8)

"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back." -Hebrews 11:17-19

GOD'S INTERVENTION: 22:11-14

- The angel of the Lord called to him and stopped him.
- This is the Preincarnate _____!
- God did provide a ram. This illustrates what is known as _____.
- The reminder here is that despite God's promises to Mankind, sin still had to be dealt with. Either _____ die for our sin or someone else dies in our _____.

THE RESCUER PICTURED: 22:15-19

- This is _____ talking to Abraham about how he would come to rescue all nations!
- The rescue had been pictured through the substitutionary atonement and now it is specifically promised.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

I. HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE COVENANT WILL AFFECT HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE UNFOLDING OF THE METANARRATIVE.

- If this covenant is not _____, there is no need for God to _____ fulfill the promises he made to Abraham.
- If it is unconditional, God still has a plan and a purpose for the nation of _____.

II. GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM FALL INTO THREE CATEGORIES

1. _____ Promises:

"[God] would bless him, make his name great, give him many physical descendants, make him the father of a multitude of nations, give him the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession, and bless those who blessed him and curse those who cursed him." —Renald Showers

⇒ _____ of these promises were kept during his lifetime.

⇒ However, the descendants of Abraham, the Jewish people, have never fully possessed all of the _____ promised to Abraham.

2. _____ Promises:

"[God] would bring Israel into existence as a nation and make it great, give Israel the land of Canaan forever, and establish the Abrahamic Covenant with the nation as an everlasting covenant." —Renald Showers

⇒ Some of God's promises regarding the nation have been fulfilled.

⇒ While the people have at various times _____ occupied the land, they have never fully possessed all that the Lord promised to Abraham's descendants.

"The fact that the promises were made to both Abraham and his seed [Collective Singular] shows that that these blessings have not yet received a complete fulfillment, but await the Messianic Kingdom."

—Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Israelology*

⇒ The Key promise of a Nation involves three elements to which all of the other covenants of scripture will relate:

1. A _____

2. A _____

3. A _____

3. _____ Promises:

"[God] would give a blessing to all families of the earth through Abraham's line of descent (the Redeemer {Gen. 3:15} would come through Israel). —Renald Showers

⇒ God's promises to Abraham are not exclusively Jewish in nature.

"Promises made to the Gentiles included: (1) Blessings for blessing Israel; (2) curses for cursing Israel; and (3) the Gentiles also were to receive spiritual blessings, but ultimately these were to come through one specific Seed of Abraham—the Messiah. When the term seed was used as an absolute singular, it was a reference to the Messiah. It should be noted at this point that the Abrahamic Covenant contained both physical and spiritual promises. While the physical promises were limited to Israel, the spiritual promises or blessings were extended to the Gentiles. The promise of Gentile blessing was stated early in the Abrahamic Covenant (12:3)."

—Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Israelology*

⇒ The fact that the spiritual portion of the Abrahamic Covenant extends to the gentiles also argues for the _____ nature of the covenant.

"The fulfillment of this promise involved the coming of the Redeemer and the provision of salvation for all peoples of the world. If the Abrahamic Covenant was conditional, then the coming of the Redeemer and the provision of salvation were dependent on the obedience of [the Patriarchs] and the people of Israel."

—Renald Showers

WHAT A BLESSING FOR US, RIVERWOOD. WE GET TO PUT OUR FAITH AND TRUST IN JESUS, THE SEED PROMISED TO ABRAHAM. HE IS BOTH THE JEWISH MESSIAH AND THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH!

Galatians 3:5-18