

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Introduction to Biblical Covenants: Noahic Covenant Abrahamic Covenant

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Introduction to Biblical Covenants

- Definition: Legally binding obligation
- Covenants are the vehicle for God's kingdom program:
 - Gen 1 -2: Kingdom Created
 - Gen 3 - Rev 19: Fall and Cross
 - Rev 20 - 22: Kingdom Restored

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Introduction to Biblical Covenants

- Covenant mentioned in 27 OT and 11 NT books
 - Noahic
 - Abrahamic
 - Mosaic
- Premillennials recognized 5 or 6 covenants:
 - Priestly
 - Davidic
 - New

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Introduction to Biblical Covenants

- Varieties of Covenants:
 - Between two equal parties--negotiated
 - Imposed by a superior on subordinates--NOT negotiated
- Grant Covenant (unconditional)--Noahic, Abrahamic, Priestly, Davidic, New
- Treaty Covenant (conditional)--Mosaic
 - Deut 18:18; Jer 31:31 = endpoint

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Grant	Treaty
The giver of the covenant makes a commitment to the vassal (subordinate)	The giver of the covenant imposes an obligation on the vassal
Represents an obligation of the master to his vassal	Represents an obligation of the vassal to the master
Primarily protects the rights of the vassal	Primarily protects the rights of the master
No demands are made by the superior party	The master promises to reward or punish the vassal for obeying or disobeying the imposed obligations

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Elements of a Biblical Covenant

- Pledge/oath—e.g. Deut 29:12
- Sign (usually a repeatable memorial)
 - Noahic = Rainbow
 - Abrahamic = Circumcision
 - Mosaic = Sabbath
 - Davidic = disputed (but see Psalm 89)
 - New Covenant = most likely Lord's Table
- Witnesses
- Consequences

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Noahic Covenant

- Context: Great Flood—Gen 6:5
- Recipients:
 - First covenant referenced—Gen 6:18
 - Largest in scope—Gen 9:9-11
- Sign: Rainbow -Gen 9:13
- Promise
 - Essence = never again earth flooded
 - Extent = everlasting (Gen 9:16; 8:22)

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Noahic Covenant

- Impact on other Covenants:
 - Jer 33:20 - 21 -Guarantees Davidic Covenant
 - Isaiah 54:9-10 -Proof of God's faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant

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Abrahamic Covenant

- Importance–
 - Promises to Abraham are foundation in embryonic form for the rest of redemptive history
 - Referred to multiple times in OT/NT
 - Basic for the whole covenant program

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Provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant

- Gen 12:1-3–nation, blessings, great name, God will bless who bless and curse who curse, all families of earth blessed
- Gen 12:6 - 7 -Land
- Gen 13:14 - 17 Land is forever
- Gen 15:1 - 21 -Protection, reward, innumerable descendants, land dimensions

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Provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant

- Gen 17:1-14–Multiply descendants, father of nations, kings from Abraham, everlasting covenant, land of Canaan promised, circumcision sign of covenant
- Gen 22:15 - 18–Descendants innumerable, nations of the earth blessed through Abraham’s Seed (singular)

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Summary of Abrahamic Covenant

- Individual promises to Abraham
- National promises to Abraham:
 - Innumerable descendants
 - Land forever including land dimensions
- Universal promises to the nations

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Character of the Abrahamic Covenant

- Unconditional—fulfillment based solely on God and not on the actions of humanity
 - Gen 15:7-21—God claimed responsibility
 - NOTE: Does not mean every person or generation will experience the benefits of this covenant since the relationship to the covenant is based on faith
 - God WILL fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant but one's connection with the blessing is by faith

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Three Major Aspects of Abrahamic Covenant

1. Seed/Nation (descendants)
 1. Innumerable
 2. First physical descendants
 3. Second spiritual descendants (Rom 4:10ff)
 4. Collective of all God's people (Gal 3:29)
 5. Singular Seed of Abraham (Gal 3:16)

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Three Major Aspects of Abrahamic Covenant

2. Land

1. "Nation" = physical territory
2. Promised everlasting possession
3. Land = "earth" or "dirt"

3. Blessing

1. Ultimate purpose is to bless all peoples (gen 12:2-3)
2. God's intention for Abraham/Israel to be channel of blessings to the world

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Abrahamic Covenant in the OT

- Official establishment of Israel—Ex 19:6
- Israel's continued existence—even in times of serious disobedience—was sustained by Abrahamic Covenant—(Ex 32:13; Deut 9:27-28; Jer 30:3; Isaiah 29:22-24)
- NOTE: Joshua 21:43-45 is not complete fulfillment but a small picture of ultimate fulfillment

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Abrahamic Covenant in the NT

- NT era opens linking Jesus to Abrahamic Covenant—Luke 1:54 - 55; 72 - 73.
- Seed/Nation
 - Physical Jew still a descendent of Abraham despite spiritual status (Luke 13:16; 16:24; John 8:37; Acts 13:26; Rom 11:1)
 - Abraham and descendants mediators of blessing to the nations
 - Abraham father of Israel and all who believe (Rom 4:9-12, 16)

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Abrahamic Covenant in the NT

- Land
 - Land connected with national Israel so any mention of God's concern for the nation includes land—Luke 1:32-33, 71-74; 2:32
- Universal Blessing (Gal 3:8)—promised to all through faith in Christ

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LAND →	Mosaic Covenant...how to live in the LAND with holiness
SEED/NATION →	Davidic Covenant...a real NATION with a real King (SEED) for all time
BLESSING →	New Covenant...all the nations of the earth receiving BLESSING through Abraham→Israel→Christ

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