

# Relationship of Bible Covenants

## Abrahamic Covenant

(Ge.12:1-3,7; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-21; 22:15-18;; 26:2-6,24-25; 27:28-29,38-40; 28:1-4,10-22; 31:3,11-13; 32:24-32; 35:9-15; 48:3-4,10-20; 49:1-28; 50:23:2).

UNCONDITIONAL

- The Abrahamic covenant is considered the core precept for any study of prophecy. This is a Royal Grant treaty (not suzerain or parity) which is a promissory covenant based on a king's desire to reward a faithful servant. Understanding God's covenant gives us His broad program which helps us in our study of prophecy as a whole. This agreement extends to all mankind throughout the ages.
- God obligated Himself to bring to pass definite promises and blessings to His covenant people. It is a unilateral covenant characterized by the words "I will". This shows God is determined to complete what He has promised. To show the unconditional nature of the covenant, God put Abraham asleep and committed Himself to keep the covenant regardless of Abraham's response (Ge.15).
- The covenants unfold in Scripture as progressive revelation. That is, the Land (De.30:1-10), Seed (2Sa.7:4017), and New (Je.31:31-34) Covenants expand on the original Abrahamic covenant.

EXPANDS INTO



LAND

### Land of Israel Covenant

(Ge.12:2; 13:16; 15:5; 17:1-2,7; 22:17; De.30:1-10)

UNCONDITIONAL

- It expands upon the land promise of the Abrahamic covenant.
- The Abrahamic covenant was not for Abraham alone, but included his descendants (Ge.13:14-15).
- Homeland - when a people lose their homeland of their own, they lose ethnic and national identity. Yet Israel after nearly 2,000 years, without a homeland maintained their national identity (De.30:1-10).
- God will fulfill His promise with Israel when the Messiah returns and millennial kingdom begins.

- Abraham was specifically promised the Land of Canaan (Ge.12:1,7; 13:14-15,17; 15:17-21; 17:8)

1. Israel has never possessed all the land God promised
2. God promises to fulfill His covenant (He will not change His mind)
3. God recognized that Israel would be scattered among the nations

EXPANDS INTO



SEED

### Davidic Covenant

(2Sa.7:10-16; Ek.36:1-12; Mi.4:1-5; Zp. 3:14-20; Zc.14:1-21)

UNCONDITIONAL

- It expands upon the seed promise of the Abrahamic covenant.
- God promises to establish David's kingdom forever (2Sa.7:10-16).
- Words such as "kingdom," "throne," and "house" show the political nature of the covenant. This demonstrates that God will provide protection as a people. This is especially true when Christ returns and rules from David's throne (Ek.36:1-12; Mi.4:1-5; Zp. 3:14-20; Zc.14:1-21). These are the literal descendants of Israel. To deny this is to make God a liar and a covenant breaker.

- From Abraham would come a great nation, namely, the nation of Israel (Ge.12:2; 13:16; 15:5; 17:1-2,7; 22:17)

4. God will return Israel to the Promised Land and unite them as a nation
5. Israel will serve the Messiah in the Promised Land

EXPANDS INTO



BLESSING

### New Covenant

(Je.31:31-34; Lk.22:20; 1Co.11:25; 2Co.3:6; He.8:8,13; 9:15; 12:24)

UNCONDITIONAL

- Because Israel was unable to keep the Mosaic Covenant, God graciously promised to give them a new covenant and a new heart.
- The context points to the literal nation of Israel:
    1. God makes the covenant "with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah" (Je.31:31).
    2. God said this covenant was "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them... out of the land of Egypt" (Je.31:32).
  - Israel will benefit from these promises when she submits to God spiritually. Without Israel, the second coming cannot occur, because she must be present for the event to occur (Je.31:35-36).
  - Though the covenant was specifically for the nation of Israel, the Church benefits with the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant because of our relationship to Christ (when He died on the cross, Lk.22:20).

It is called "new" because it replaces the Old or Mosaic Covenant.

### Mosaic Covenant

LAW

(Ex.19-24; De.28; He.10:1-4; 2Co.3:14; He.8:6,13)

CONDITIONAL

- Mosaic Covenant (Deuteronomy 11; et al). The Mosaic covenant was a conditional covenant that either brought God's direct blessing for obedience or God's direct cursing for disobedience upon the nation of Israel.

## Summary

To study Bible prophecy without understanding God's promises and commitments to Israel may lead one to the error of replacement theology. This error teaches that God has abandoned His promises to Israel, and replaced her with the Church. To accept this premise raises the question of what assurance can we have that God will keep any of the promises He has made with us since He, supposedly, abandoned promises in the past. The confidence we have in the Word of God is based on the faithfulness of God— not the obedience of man.