



Class outline

- Reasons for Covenants
- Giving of the Abrahamic Promise
- Cutting of the Covenant
- Sign of the Covenant

Kingdom of Covenants

Review: Reasons for Covenants

- Gods Original intent: A perfect man in the image of God ruling over a perfect world as God's representative
- Man's rebellion: corrupted mankind and world, spiritually and physically.
- God's Goal in History: Restoration of man and world to a perfect state
- Gods means: To create a perfect instrument to restore the blessing to the whole world

Giving of the Abrahamic Promise (Gen 12:1-3)

- This passage is the second great turning point in history.
- There are three aspects to this promise: Land, Seed, and Blessing.
- Land and Seed are **to** Abraham, whereas blessing comes **through** Abraham. The emphasis is on the Blessing (18:18, 22:18, 26:3-4, 28:13-14).

Cutting of the Covenant (Gen 15:1-21)

- Abraham asks for a token of reassurance, which is common at this time. The covenant God makes with Abraham (*blood covenant*) is totally irreversible.
- Both parties had to pass between the split animals, but only God does (v17, cf. Ex. 13:21). Therefore, God alone is bound to fulfill the covenant, it is **unconditional**.

Sign of the Covenant (Genesis 17)

- God expects a response to his covenant, to "walk with him" (cf. Adam in 3:8, Enoch in 5:24, Noah in 6:9)
- New details: Nature of covenant is not just physical but also spiritual: A special personal/national relationship with God. God is known from this point on as the "God of Israel."
- Circumcision is the sign of the Covenant (v9-11). It is an **expression of faith** similar to baptism today (cf. Moses disobedience in Ex. 4:24-26)
 - Performing this expression of faith was more than an outward act. It was supposed to reflect an inward reality (Jer. 9:25-26, Rom 2:28).

There are three characteristics of the Abrahamic Covenant: It is unconditional, spiritual, and national. The Covenant answers the "What-Question." "What is God doing?" He chose Israel as an instrument to bless the world.

Discussion Questions

- Abraham asked God for a token/sign of his promise. Can we ask the same from God today?
- Does God's treatment with Moses disobedience (Ex. 4:24-26) of not circumcising his son reveal us anything about the way God views baptism?
- God expected Abraham to have a response to his unconditional covenant (Gen. 17:1) and he expects us to respond to the message of the cross. In what ways has God recently challenged you to "walk with him"?