

The Abrahamic Covenant: The Post-Flood Foundation For The Gospel

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Pre-Flood Gospel Expectations

From the earliest days of humanity, God revealed glimpses of His redemptive plan. Before the Flood, the people of God looked forward in faith to a coming Deliverer.

- The Promise of the Seed: In the Garden, God promised a coming Seed who would crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15).
- The Curse Reversed: This Seed would undo the curse and restore Eden's lost paradise.
- The Righteous Way: Men like Seth, Enoch, and Noah modeled what it meant to call upon the name of the Lord, to walk with God, and to trust Him to preserve us through judgment.
- The Coming Judgment: They also believed that God would one day come from heaven with an army of angels to judge the wicked.

This early gospel hope, centered in the promise of the Seed, formed the foundation upon which God would later build His covenant with Abraham.

The Abrahamic Covenant: Expansion of the Ancient Promise

The covenant God made with Abraham was a formal reiteration and expansion of the promises first spoken before the Flood and preserved through Noah and his family.

The Abrahamic Covenant stands as one of the most important turning points in Scripture, revealing God's plan for wholistic, global redemption.

The Covenant Promises

1. The Seed-Promise (Two-Fold):
 - God promised Abraham an abundance of descendants, too numerous to count.
 - Yet this promise ultimately pointed to one singular Seed, the Redeemer, through whom salvation and global redemption would come.

2. The Land Promise (to Israel):

- God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel) and his descendants the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession.
- This implied not only land, but a kingdom—with a King to rule over it.

3. The Nations Promise (to the whole world):

- Through Abraham's Seed, all the families of the earth would have an opportunity to be blessed.

Genesis 12: The Call of Abraham

When God called Abram, He commanded him to leave his country, his relatives, and his father's household, and to go to the land that He would show him. Along with this call came breathtaking promises:

*Now the Lord said to Abram,
“Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father's house,
To the land which I will show you;
And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”
(Genesis 12:1–3)*

Abram obeyed and entered the land of Canaan. There God appeared to him again, promising: “To your descendants I will give this land.” (Genesis 12:7).



Count the Stars



The Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 15: The Covenant Confirmed

In Genesis 15, Abram voiced his fear—he had no child, only a household servant as heir. But the Lord assured him: *“One who will come forth from your own body shall be your heir.”* Then God took him outside and told him to number the stars:

Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.” And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:4–6)

This faith was more than a belief in descendants. Jesus Himself declared, *“Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad”* (John 8:56). Paul adds, *“God preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations will be blessed in you’”* (Galatians 3:8).

Thus Abraham believed the same core truths revealed from the beginning:

- A coming Seed who would crush the serpent.
- The reversal of the curse.
- The hope of righteousness by faith.
- The certainty of judgment upon the wicked.

Through a dramatic covenant ceremony—God Himself, represented by a smoking firepot and flaming torch, passing between divided animals—He bound Himself to fulfill His promises (Genesis 15:17–18). In passing in between the pieces of the animals, God was in essence declaring, *“If I do not fulfill what I am declaring, may I die like these animals.”*

Genesis 17: Covenant Reiterated

Years later, God again appeared to Abram, reaffirming His covenant. Abram’s name was changed to Abraham, meaning “father of a multitude.” Nations and kings would descend from him. God promised an everlasting covenant, declaring, *“I will be God to you and to your descendants after you ... and I will give you ... all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession”* (Genesis 17:7–8).



The Lord Will Provide the Lamb

Genesis 21-22: Through Isaac and the Prophecy of the Lamb

God made clear that His covenant promises would come through Isaac, not through Ishmael (Genesis 21:12).

Then came the greatest test: God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, the very son through whom the promise was to come (Genesis 22:1-2). Abraham obeyed, believing that God could raise Isaac from the dead if necessary (Hebrews 11:19). At the last moment, God provided a ram in Isaac's place—a prophetic foreshadowing of the Lamb of God who would be offered for the sins of the world (Genesis 22:13-14).

Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. Abraham called the name of that place The Lord Will Provide, (Moses later added): as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the Lord it will be provided." (Genesis 22:13-14)

After Abraham's obedience, God expanded the promise again: *"Your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed"* (Genesis 22:17-18). Possessing the gates of His enemies means ruling over His enemies. This is the first hint that the Seed would also be a King.

Genesis 26-27: Covenant Passed to Isaac and Jacob

The covenant did not end with Abraham. God appeared to Isaac and reaffirmed the oath: *"By your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed"* (Genesis 26:4). Then came the clearest promise of kingship yet:

"Later, Isaac blessed Jacob, adding the promise of kingship: Now may God give you (Jacob) of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and an abundance of grain and new wine; May peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you; Be master of your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who curse you, and blessed be those who bless you." (Genesis 27:28-29)

Conclusion: The Everlasting Covenant of Hope

The Abrahamic Covenant is God's gospel promise on a global scale. It ties together Eden's hope of the coming Seed, the gift of righteousness by faith, the inheritance of a kingdom, and the blessing of all nations.

Abraham looked forward and rejoiced in the Messiah's day. We, standing on the other side of the cross, look back and see how God has been faithful to His word. The Seed has come,

Jesus Christ, the Lamb provided by God, and He will return as the King to possess the gate of His enemies and to restore all creation.