



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: The Abrahamic Covenant

Text: Genesis 12:1-7; Galatians 3:6-14

Theme: Jesus fulfilled God's covenant with Abraham, bringing salvation and blessing to every nation.

Outline:

The Storyline (Unifying Theme) of Scripture: God's people in God's place living under God's rule and receiving God's blessing.

Terms of the Covenant:

- I will make you a great people.
- I will give you a place.
- I will bless you.
- I will bless others through you and because of you.
- You must honor and obey me.

Threat to the Covenant:

- Abram (and Sarai) kept manipulating to make the blessings come true.

What's this got to do with Advent?

- If you know the story of the OT, you see two major problems:
 - 1) The nation of Israel failed to continue in obedience to God.
 - 2) The nation of Israel failed at its missional calling to be a blessing to all the nations of the world.
- A faithful remnant of God-fearing Jews kept looking for the day when a seed of Abraham would come and fulfill the terms of the covenant.
- Mary recognized that Jesus is that promised seed.
- Because Jesus came and fully obeyed the rule of the Father, he brought salvation and blessings to Jews and Gentiles alike. (Galatians 3:6-9, 14)
- Revelation looks forward to a redeemed family of Abraham "from every tribe and language and people and nation." (Revelation 5:9-10)

What's this got to do with you?

As you wait for the Second Advent . . .

- Meditate, don't manipulate.
- Be a conduit of God's blessings to others.



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. The sermon overviewed the life of Abraham from his initial calling by God to his willingness to sacrifice Isaac. What stood out to you?
2. The sermon shared that the storyline (or unifying theme) of the Bible was **God's people in God's place living under God's rule and receiving God's blessing**. Share an example of how that theme helps you make sense of something you've read in the Bible.
3. What happened right before Genesis 12:1-3 that illuminates the purpose and magnitude of God's covenant with Abram?
4. Thirteen years pass between Genesis 16:16 and Genesis 17:1. How is that instructive – even encouraging – for your own experience of the Christian life?
5. Why do you think God kept renewing his covenant with Abram, giving more and more specific details, in spite of Abram's repeated manipulation, fear, and doubt?
6. How do you make sense of God testing Abraham by asking him to offer Isaac as a burnt offering? Was God really demanding a human sacrifice to appease him? What do you think was God's ultimate point?
7. What are some ways Jesus demonstrated that he'd come to fulfill the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant?
8. Who is the family of Abraham today? What does it mean to belong to this family? What is the benefit? [see Galatians 3:6-14]
9. Have you ever caught yourself doubting a promise of God and manipulating the outcome you wanted? What happened? What's something in your life right now that you need to surrender to the Lord, rather than manipulating?
10. What are some practical, actionable ways you could be a conduit of God's blessing to others this week?

Prayer Prompts:

1. Praise the Father for sending the Son to be the promised seed of Abraham.
2. Acknowledge where fear, doubt, or discontentment drives you to manipulate desirable outcomes in your life rather than waiting on God.
3. Ask God not only to justify you by faith but to sanctify you by faith.