

# Covenant Theology

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NOAH & ABRAHAM

# GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

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- Genesis 9:8-17
- Often called a Covenant of Common Grace
  - Impacts all of Creation
- BUT – has ties to God's Covenant of Grace with His elect
  - Grounded in grace, not merit
  - Preserves God's redemptive plan
  - Includes believers and their seed
  - Presence of a covenant sign - rainbow
    - Visible sign of God's promised salvation
    - God will preserve the "seed of the woman" until the coming of Christ

# GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

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- For the sake of the elect, God in his grace delays final judgement until He calls His elect to himself. 2 Peter 3:1-9
- God saves the seed of the woman through Noah in order to one day send THE SEED to undo the ruin of sin!
- WHY – Romans 2:4 - Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?
- Interesting sidebar, while not part of the actual Covenant, Gen 9:27 foreshadows the grace of God towards all nations! Shem was the line of God's Seed, but Japheth would "come under the tent of Shem"

# Abrahamic Covenant (of Grace)

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- Ultimately runs from Genesis 3 through Revelation 22
- Truly began with the mention of “the seed of the woman” Gen 3:15
- How is it different from the Covenant of Works?
- Are there similarities?

# Covenant of Works vs Covenant of Grace

The difference is in WHO fulfills it!

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## Covenant of Works

- Conditions – perfect obedience
  - Who must fulfill?
- Blessing – Life
  - Promise of a people, a place and God's presence
- Curse – Death

## Covenant of Grace

- Conditions – Faith in His perfect obedience
- Blessing – Eternal life
  - Promise of a people, a place and God's presence
- Curse – Eternal Death

# Abraham and the Covenant of Grace

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- The difference is all in who fulfills it! – Nothing special about Abram.
- God seeks him out in Genesis 12:1-7
- Likely not even the 1<sup>st</sup> born
- What does God promise Abraham?
- Has God's original plan changed since the time of Creation?
- Here we do see a difference – Abraham moves forward in faith -  
Gen 15:6

# Abraham and the Covenant of Grace

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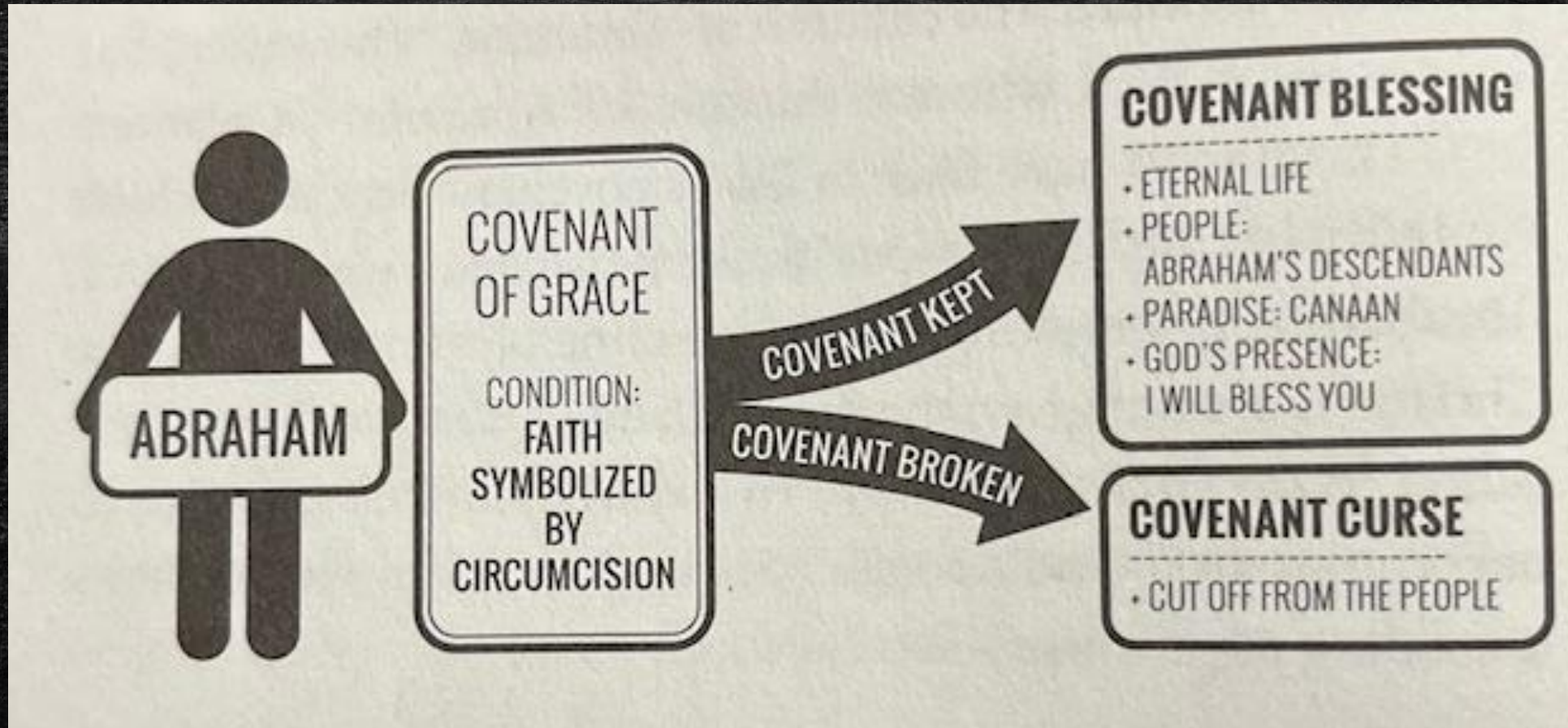
- The Covenant Ceremony – Genesis 15
- While Abraham had moved in faith, what does he ask? (Gen. 15:8)
- God's response - The terms laid out
  - Historical "covenants"
  - Sacrifices split in two
  - Instead of the "lesser party", God passes through
  - If the conditions of obedience are broken, God takes the punishment!
- One additional condition – Genesis 17:9-11

# Abraham and the Covenant of Grace

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- Circumcision – the OT sign and seal of the Covenant
- Romans 4:11 – picture of receiving righteousness by faith
- Radically different from the Covenant of Works
  - Does not merit salvation
  - Is faith a type of “work”?
- Meritorious vs Necessary conditions
  - Faith, not of yourselves! Eph. 2:8-9

# Covenant of Grace



# Signs and Seals

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- Point to the promises of God
- Confirm his promises to his people (THEY BELONG TO US!)
- Just as an official "seal" certifies a document, the Sacraments confirm that His promises are real and are ours in Christ!