

 Abraham was the man chosen by God to be the father of a new nation, called Israel.

• Israel was the special people of God out of which a great deliver (Jesus Christ) would come.

Abraham is one of the key figures in the Bible

• Genesis 12:1–3 (NIV) — 1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

**Gen.12:1a** -- "Go from your country, your people and your father's household"

A call to abandon everything to follow the Lord

Gen. 12:1b ... "to the land I will show you."

 God set the direction for Abram's move but did not state a destination

### In Gen 12:1-3, God said:

- 1. I will make you into a great nation.
- 2. I will bless you.
- 3. I will make your name great.
- 4. And thou will be a blessing.
- 5. I will bless those that bless you.
- 6. I will curse those that curse you
- 7. And all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Genesis 13:14-17 (NIV) — 14 The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. 15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. 16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. 17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

• Your offspring will be like dust of the earth – uncountable.

### **Three Key Events Show The Obedience Of Abraham:**

1. He left his land and went into the land God had promised him. (Heb 11:8-10)

- 2. He obeyed God's command concerning the Covenant sign of circumcision (Gen 17:23)
- 3. Even when God asked him to sacrifice his own son, Isaac, Abraham was willing to obey (Heb 11:17-19)

God Was Pleased With Abraham's Faith And Obedience

• Genesis 18:19 (NIV) — 19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

- God's promised covenant can be summarized by three words:
  1. LAND 2. SEED 3. BLESSING
  - ABRAHAMIC COVENANT Genesis 12:1-3 "land" "seed" "blessing" LAND OF ISRAEL DAVIDIC NEW COVENANT COVENANT COVENANT Deuteronomy 30 2 Samuel 7 Jeremiah 31 "land" "seed" "blessing"

**God's Promises To Abraham Had Three Dimensions** 

- 1) Personal: He would make Abraham's name great
- 2) Universal: "In you all the families of the earth will be blessed"

3) National: (1) his descendants would become a great nation (2) the land of Israel as an eternal inheritance

- The land God promised includes the modern-day nation of Israel and parts of modern-day Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq (Genesis 15:18–21).
- The promise of God is Israel's title deed to the land.
- Israel is the only nation God ever promised a particular piece of real estate
- The Promised Land belongs to Israel.

Hitchcock, M. (2012). The End: Everything You'll Want to Know about the Apocalypse

#### The Nature of the Covenant Is it conditional or unconditional?

- Most amillennialists and postmillennialists argue that Israel failed to uphold their end of their covenant, so the covenant need not be literally fulfilled.
- Some amillennialists and postmillennialists spiritualize God's promised blessing and transfer it from Israel to the church.
- Premillennialists maintain that the Abrahamic Covenant is literal and unconditional and will be fulfilled in the future reign of Christ on earth.
- Hitchcock, M. (2012). The End: Everything You'll Want to Know about the Apocalypse

### Why The Covenant Is An Unconditional Covenant:

- 1. A blood covenant bound the parties unconditionally
- 2. The original promises were given to Abraham without conditions
- 3. Scripture repeatedly states that the covenant is eternal
- 4. The New Testament affirms the unchangeable nature of covenant
- 5. Their failure did not set aside the covenant

Hitchcock, M. (2012). The End: Everything You'll Want to Know about the Apocalypse

# 7 Key Features of the Biblical Covenants

- A Nation Forever
- A Land Forever
- A King Forever
- A Throne Forever
- A Kingdom Forever
- A New Covenant
- Abiding Blessings

- God's promises to Israel are unconditional and eternal, yet they have not been completely fulfilled.
- Those promises will be fulfilled in the future.
- Israel will see God fulfill these promises.
- Israel has a clear part yet to play in God's plans for the whole world.
- Hitchcock, M. (2012). The End: Everything You'll Want to Know about the Apocalypse

#### **KEY EVENTS IN ABRAHAM'S LIFE**

- When Abraham and his wife Sarah were too old to have children, God promised them a son
- A son was born as God had promised
- Isaac is "the miracle child"
- Genesis 21:5 (NIV) 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

 The Promise Of Seed Was Fulfilled With This Miracle Birth Of Isaac

• Genesis 21:4 (NIV) — 4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him.

• The Covenant "sign" was placed upon Isaac's Life.

- God appeared to Isaac and confirmed to him the Covenant blessing.
- Genesis 26:24 (NIV) 24 That night the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham."
- God Was Saying "I Made A Promise I Am Going To Keep It!"

- READ: Genesis 25:19–26
- Who Was Jacob?
- He was the son of Isaac and Rebecca. His twin brother Esau was a few minutes older than he, but God made choice that it was Jacob who would receive the Covenant blessing.
- Jacob was chosen for the covenant position and blessing
  not Esau
- This is God's own (sovereign) decision

#### **God Chose:**

- Abel over Cain
- Noah to build the ark
- Abram to receive Covenant
- Sarah over Hagar
- Isaac over Ishmael
- Jacob over Esau

#### Isaac Blessed Jacob With These Words:

- Genesis 28:3–4 (NIV) 3 May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. 4 May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now reside as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham."
- This Begins The Birth Of Israel -- The Covenant Nation

- How Does The Name Israel Come To Be?
- Jacob Wrestled With The Lord All Night He was Overmatched
  But He Would Not Let Go -- He Held On For A Blessing
- During This Encounter Jacob Was Given A New Name: Israel:
- "God Rules," "One Who Strives With God," "A Prince Of God"
- Jacob Means "Heel Snatcher," -- "The Selfishly Ambitious."
- The Lord Had Given Him His New Name And His New Destiny!

#### The Sons Of Jacob -- Became The Children Of Israel.

- They grew into a mighty nation Israel.
- Jacob blessed these same sons in genesis 49
- They lived 400 years in Egypt
- Their time in Egypt was part of the promise of God to Abraham

READ: Genesis 15:13–14

- Israel Left Egypt For Two Reasons:
- Israel's Reason for wanting to leave Egypt: They were being persecuted by the Egyptians. Their boy babies were being killed, and the Israelites became slaves under the Egyptians.
- God's Reason for Delivering Israel: He wanted to honor His Covenant with His people by bringing them into the land He had promised the Land of Canaan.

• Israel Was Ruled By A Theocracy – The Rule Of God.

- God gave Moses the Law to govern Israel.
- Exodus 19:3-6

What Kind Of Tie In To The Blessing And Covenants Of God... We Find In Present Day Israel???

God promised the world be blessed thru Israel

The ultimate blessing comes in Jesus Christ

 Along with that in our world today many blessings have come to us thru this little set-apart nation of Israel

Israel has made significant global contributions, particularly in technology, agriculture, and medicine

- Jews currently make up approximately 0.25% of the world's population and 2% of the U.S. population. Yet they have won prizes in these fields: Chemistry; Economics; Literature; Medicine; Peace; Physics;
- They have been A blessing to the world

How is Israel beneficial to the US?

• The U.S. benefits from its relationship with Israel through enhanced security, intelligence sharing, technological advancement, and economic growth, with Israel serving as a strategic partner in the Middle East, a hub for innovation (AI, cybersecurity, defense tech), and a creator of American jobs via defense spending and trade -- GOOGLE

Israel Is A Land About Which God Says "This Is Mine."

- Israel Was Raised Up To Be A Light To The Gentiles
- Isa. 49:6 I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Through the Jews the Messiah has come into the world.

The Word Of God Calls Jews The "Root" And Gentiles The "Branches." (Rom. 11:16-27).

 "Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, 26 and in this way all Israel will be saved"

 God Has A Plan To Touch The Hearts And Destiny Or The Remnant Of Israel

#### THE COVENANT IS STILL INTACT

• The Abrahamic covenant is directed to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants. It is repeated to them about 20 times in Genesis

 Through Israel God will work to preach the gospel throughout the whole world, invoke the second coming, and reign for a thousand years in Jerusalem,

• Jeremiah 31:35–36 (NIV) — 35 This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the Lord Almighty is his name: 36 "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the Lord, "will Israel ever cease being a nation before me."

• The force of the Abrahamic covenant is still in place today.

 God still blesses those who bless Israel and curses those who curse Israel.

• Genesis 12:3 (NIV) — 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."