

January 30, 2022
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Genesis Behind the Scenes: Abraham's Journey of Faith
Episode 2: The Covenant
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Genesis 17:1-11

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ²Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." ³Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God." ⁹Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Gen 15:6

Understanding Biblical Covenant— In a literal sense, a covenant means a binding agreement, a legal contract. It is a seal between two or more parties. In a biblical sense, the word covenant derives from the same root word meaning "to cut."

1. God makes a promise to a subordinate.
2. God binds himself to the promise through a legal and binding contract.
3. God seals the contract with flesh and blood.
 - a. The giving of flesh and blood outside of promise and legal covenant is meaningless.

The Blessing of Covenant

1) TRUE IDENTITY

- a) **Vs. 5** *No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.*

2) FRUITFULNESS

- a) **Vs. 6** *I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.*

3) TERRITORIAL DOMINION

- a) **Vs. 7** *The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."*

Questions For Small Groups:

1. The sermon noted that God makes covenants with subordinates or those that are lesser than Him. He then binds Himself to those covenants. Why would God do this?
2. The sermon also mentioned the worldwide tradition of blood oaths and covenants. The covenants of God are also sealed this way (Marriage, Old Testament Circumcision, New Covenant Christ Covenant on the Cross) Why is this a necessary step?
3. Why would a covenant with God give you a new identity?
4. What are some ways God might give territory and dominion to those of us today as we keep His covenant?
5. Abraham was made fruitful. How might we experience fruitfulness today and does Galatians 5 perhaps come into play? (Fruit of the Spirit)