

LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

PART 6 | THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT II

This lesson focuses on the details and development of the Abrahamic Covenant in the life of Abraham and the book of Genesis. We see that the covenant relationship between God and Abraham involves both promise and obligation. God promises Abraham that he will make him a great nation, give his descendants a land, and make him a blessing to all peoples. Nevertheless, the covenant also has conditions and obligations. Abraham must respond in faith and obedience to God's call and commands to receive the blessings of the covenant. We see a progression in the Abrahamic Covenant from a conditional promise at the beginning to an unconditional oath in Genesis 22. God guarantees that he will fulfill the promises, but the blessings of that covenant are for those who respond in faith and obedience to God. Even with the unconditional commitments that God has made to Abraham and Israel, there is the expectation of covenant faithfulness on the part of God's people as well. God's unconditional promises and commitments in the Abrahamic Covenant find their complete fulfillment in Christ.

Read the following passages:

Genesis 12

Genesis 15

Genesis 17

Genesis 22

THE COVENANTS: PART 6

Hebrews 6:13-18

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are the conditions connected with God's promises to Abram in Genesis 12? What must happen for Abram to receive and experience these promises? What do you envision happening if Abram had not responded in faith and obedience to God's calling in this chapter?
2. How specifically does the relationship between God and Abram progress from Genesis 12 to Genesis 15? What new thing happens in Genesis 15 that is essential for the development of the Abrahamic Covenant?
3. Is Genesis 15:6 referring to the moment of salvation or should we see some other significance to God's "reckoning of righteousness" here in this verse?
4. What about the details of the way that God makes the covenant with Abram in Chapter 15 reflect that this is a binding and unconditional promise and commitment on God's part from this point forward?
5. Is Genesis 17 referring to the same covenant as Genesis 15? Why or why not? What specific development in the covenant occurs in this chapter? How and why would an unconditional covenant have conditions and requirements added to it?
6. What conditions are attached to the covenant in Genesis 17? How are these specific conditions essential for Abraham to fulfill his calling and mission for God? Why is circumcision the sign of this particular covenant? Do you attach any significance to Abraham's name change in this chapter (from Abram: "exalted father" to Abraham: "father of a multitude")?

THE COVENANTS: PART 6

7. What covenantal change occurs in light of the events in Genesis 22? What is God's response to Abraham's faith in Genesis 22:15-18 and what implications does this have moving forward for the Abrahamic Covenant? What significance does Hebrews 6:13-18 attach to what occurs here?
8. How do passages like Deuteronomy 4:6-9 and 1 Kings 10 help us to understand the ways that the blessing of Israel would lead to the blessing of the nations? How specifically would Israel help to lead other peoples and nations to God? How did Israel's evangelistic presence in the world compare and contrast to Israel's evangelistic presence in the world of the Old Testament?
9. What is something that you have learned about God in this study that you can share with someone else to be an encouragement to them or to initiate a Gospel conversation with someone who does not know Christ?