

## THE COVENANTS: PART 7

# LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

### PART 7 | THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT III

This study concludes our focus on the Abrahamic Covenant by tracing its development through Scripture. Remember that in Genesis, God commits himself to fulfilling the Abrahamic Covenant by both an unconditional covenant (Genesis 15) and an unconditional oath (Genesis 22). When the covenant promises are repeated in subsequent generation to Isaac (Genesis 26:2-5) and to Jacob (Genesis 28:12-15; 35:11-13), no conditions are attached as they were previously with Abraham. Faithfulness is required to enjoy the covenant blessings, but the Lord guarantees the full and complete fulfillment of the covenant promises. The covenant between the Lord and Abraham is “an everlasting covenant” (Genesis 17:7) and the land of Canaan is given to Israel as “an everlasting possession” (Genesis 17:9). God’s enduring commitment to Abraham means that Israel’s subsequent disobedience, exile, and even rejection of their Messiah do not cancel or terminate the covenant promises. Abraham’s descendants are numerous, but Jesus is the one son of Abraham who brings fulfillment of the covenant that God made with Abraham. The covenant blessings extend in Christ to Abraham’s physical and spiritual descendants so that there is “neither Jew, nor Gentile” in Christ but also so that the specific promises God made to the people of Israel are fulfilled.

**Read the following passages:**

Exodus 32:1-14

Deuteronomy 30:1-10

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Isaiah 54:7-10

Luke 1:68-79

Romans 9:1-11:36

Galatians 3:1-29

### Questions for Discussion:

1. How do we see God's enduring and unconditional commitment to Israel in the working out of Old Testament history? Does Israel's disobedience mean that the covenant promises are no longer valid? Did the exile cancel out God's covenant commitments to Israel found in the Abrahamic covenant—why or why not? What did the Old Testament prophets promise would happen after the exile had ended?
2. Based on Galatians 3, what is the role of Jesus in fulfilling the promises of the Abrahamic covenant? Who receives the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant in Jesus and how does this relate to the original promises of the Abrahamic Covenant? What does this fulfillment in Christ reflect about the relationship between Jews and Gentiles in the body of Christ today?
3. How does Romans 9-11 demonstrate that God has not terminated his covenant with Israel? How does Paul show in this section that God's promises to Israel have not failed? What is the ultimate hope and promise for Israel given in Romans 11 in light of God's enduring covenant with Israel?
4. In Romans 11:24, Paul says that believing Gentiles are grafted into the olive tree. Does this reflect that the church has replaced Israel or something else? What implications can we take away from this verse?

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Does the inclusion of Gentiles within Israel mean that the specific covenant promises and commitments that God has made to Israel are no longer in effect?

5. Based on passages like Matthew 8:10-11; 19:28; Luke 21:24; Acts 1:6-7 with 3:18-26 (note the repetition of “time/restore” in both passages), do you believe that there will be a future national restoration of Israel with land and kingdom as envisioned by the Old Testament prophets? Should we view the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 as a fulfillment of biblical prophecy?
6. Is Jewish evangelism still a specific calling for the Christian church? Why or why not?
7. 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?