

*Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.*

*Series: Covenant: God's Way of Relationship*



*Teaching Sermon Notes: "Abraham: The Covenant of Promise, Part Five"*

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The covenant God made with Abram includes seven provisions: (1) God will make of Abram a great nation; (2) God will bless Abram personally; (3) Abram's name shall be great; (4) Abram is to be a blessing to others; (5) those who bless Abram will be blessed (6) those who curse Abram will be cursed; (7) all nations of the earth will be blessed through Abram. (Genesis 12:1-3)

We get more detail and enlargement of the covenant as we read on. After Lot departed, Abram is told that God will give to him and to his descendants all the land he sees (Genesis 13). The promise concerning his seed enlarges to include to be as many in number as the dust of the earth. In Genesis 15 the line is through Abraham, not Eliezer of Damascus, his servant.

In Genesis 17:1-18, more provisions are made: (1) God solemnly confirms the covenant with a self-maledictory oath. (2) God changes Abram's name to Abraham as a symbol of the promise that he will be the father of many nations; God is with him. (3) Abraham will be very fruitful. Kings will descend from Abraham. (4) "All the land of Canaan" is given to the seed of Abraham for "an everlasting possession." (5) God confirms His covenant as a perpetual covenant between Him and Abraham that will extend to Abraham's descendants after him. God will be Abraham's God and the God of his descendants after him. (6) God will give the whole land of Canaan – the land where Abraham is now residing – to him and his descendants after him as a permanent possession. (7) I will be your God and you will be My people.

We will see in the covenant with Moses how God gives Israel, a redeemed people, the Law to show what is holy and what is unholy; to show what is good and what is evil; to show what love looks like and what is not loving; to show what is clean and what is unclean, to show what will bring the blessing of God and what will bring curses. It is "do this and you will live." But the commandments, though negative "you will not..." are also promises. "You WILL NOT." The time that the people of God through Jesus Christ, the provision by God's grace as a Redeemer and Savior and Lord, will come. And the heart of God will make sure as He said, "And I will be your God and you will be My people."

The covenant with David deals with the kingly line. In it we have what we call "the sure mercies of David." The line from Adam to Christ is protected by the Living God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God fulfills His Word. It is done when He speaks it. It is what we call an "already and not yet" situation. We need only to look at the many charts providing prophecy and fulfillment as to Jesus Christ Messiah to see their fulfillment.

In Abraham's life we have seen how God made the promises and just waited when Abram who becomes Abraham tried to figure it all out as to how things were going to come to pass. Abraham grew in His relationship with God. He became known as the friend of God. God justified Abraham. Romans 4. God assured Abraham that all would come to pass just as God said. Abraham held to the hope. Isaac was born. His name means "laughter." Does God have a

sense of humor? I think so. What is impossible to man is not impossible to God. Sarah gave birth to Isaac. Isaac is the child of promise, just as would be Jacob. God reiterated His promises to Isaac and to Jacob. Even in apostasy, God confirmed the covenant and how He would keep His promises. “Thus says Jehovah, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which stirs up the sea, so that the waves thereof roar; Jehovah of hosts is his name: If these ordinances depart from before me, says Jehovah, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever. Thus says Jehovah: If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, then will I also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says Jehovah” (Jer 31:35-37).

God protected the line of descent of Christ.

I’ll give an example. Along the way, the Devil thought he had maneuvered things so that it would be impossible for a Savior to be born as prophesied from the line of David. It’s called the Curse of Jeconiah. But God had Jesus born legally of Joseph and actually of Mary. Curious? Check out <https://www.gotquestions.org/curse-of-Jeconiah.html> .

The ultimate purposes of God will be fulfilled. For example, Israel’s history follows God’s plan. Deuteronomy 30:2-4. Dispersion will result from disobedience but regathering into the land will happen because of the unchanging nature of the covenant.

- (1) The Abrahamic Covenant is called ‘eternal’ in Genesis 17:7, 13, 19; 1 Chronicles 16:17; Psalm 105:10.
- (2) Then, as to Moses: in Galatians 3, Paul says, **17What I mean is this: The law that came 430 years later does not revoke the covenant previously established by God, so as to cancel the promise. 18For if the inheritance depends on the Law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God freely granted it to Abraham through a promise. 19Why then was the law given? It was added because of transgressions, until the arrival of the seed to whom the promise referred. It was administered through angels by a mediator.... 20A mediator is unnecessary, however, if there is only one party; but God is one. 21Is the Law, then, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come from the Law. 22But the Scripture pronounces all things confined by sin, so that by faith in Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe.... Galatians 3:17-22 Berean Study Bible**

(3) The Davidic Covenant is called ‘eternal’ in 2 Samuel 23:5; Isaiah 55:3; and Ezekiel 37:25; and

(4) The New Covenant is called ‘eternal’ in Isaiah 24:5; 61:8 ; Jeremiah 32:40; 50:5 and Hebrews 13:20.

Hebrews 7:18 **So the former commandment is set aside because it was weak and useless 19(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.... Berean Study Bible**

Romans 8:3

**For what the Law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man, as an offering for sin. He thus condemned sin in the flesh.**

Galatians 3:21 **Is the Law, then, opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come from the Law.**

Many people believe that they are going to heaven when they die. When asked what they base that belief on, they answer with such responses as: "I am a good person." "I never murdered anyone." "I have done the best I can." "I try to keep the commandments the best I can." "I do the best I can; that's just the way I am." "I go to church, am a church member, and do all of these good works." "I believe that there are many ways to God and that everyone goes to heaven when they die." "I choose to go to heaven when I die; it's my choice." And so forth. But here's the deal. Mother church doesn't save. God is infinite and eternal, holy, and we are finite. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We cannot save ourselves. Angels do not save. There is none good, no not one. Only God is good. Salvation is more than trusting God for the temporal and temporary. Salvation is more than just knowing God intellectually. Even the demons and the devil believe God exists, and tremble.

**You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. James 2:19 NLT**

When I say that we need to get from "here" to "there," I am talking about making certain that our faith and trust is not in anything concerning ourselves but rather in trusting Jesus Christ alone and only with a hearty reliance on Him alone. We call it "saving faith." That faith comes by the grace of God. Even the faith is a gift. Ephesians 2:8, 9.

So many people presume they are going to heaven when they die. When we get to the point of our physical death, we better have already dealt with the issue and know for certain whether we are in the faith. 2 Corinthians 13:5, 6. Eternal life is a free gift, not something earned or deserved. We better know the foundation of our faith; that the faith that saves is based on believing in Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, believing Christ, and believing what Christ believes. God alone saves. Salvation is by the grace of God, a gift, not of works of righteousness that we have done. Christ is in the true believer. John 15. The Holy Spirit applies what Jesus Christ has accomplished in redemption.

For the true believer, our eternal destiny is secured by Covenant, specifically the New Covenant in Christ's Blood. The Father sent the Son, Jesus Christ, to save a people unto Himself. By Covenant, God took full responsibility for keeping the Covenant, which is eternal, non-negotiable, and settled. The promises of the Covenant are guaranteed; they will certainly come to fulfillment. It is all of God and all of grace. The Holy Spirit is the seal of the New Covenant. Jesus is the Surety of the Covenant. When Jesus rose again from the dead after being crucified as payment for the penalty of our sin; that signaled that the Father accepted the Sacrifice of Jesus of Himself as atonement.

The Holy Spirit is the Life-Giver. The Law could not give life. We will get into this more as we begin looking next into the Covenant God made with Moses. The Covenant made with Abraham is a Covenant of Promise, one that preceded the Mosaic Covenant, and one that prevails.  
Romans 4, Galatians 3

True believers have a true hope. That hope is Christ. It is called the Blessed Hope. Christ in us is the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27. Titus 2:11-13 says: **For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It instructs us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live sensible, upright, and godly lives in the present age, as we await the blessed hope and glorious appearance of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...**

Romans 15:13:

13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

May we come to Him who is eternal life and believe, being touched by the grace of the Living God.

## *Mary Craig*

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“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”  
Revelation 21:7

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