

## Abrahamic Covenant Study Guide # 2

The central covenant to understanding the history of the Old Testament hangs on the understanding of the Abrahamic Covenant. All covenants of scripture coverages and finds their meaning in Christ. "The principle rule of interpreting scripture is that scripture interprets scripture."

### The Abrahamic Covenant:

- 1) Land
- 2) Seed (Offspring)
- 3) Blessing.

It is important to see: **The Initial Fulfillment, The Shadows, The Greater Fulfillment, and The Substance** as related to Land, Seed, and Blessing.

### ---Impact of Greater Fulfillments on Initial Fulfillments---

*Every promise to Abraham had an Initial and a Greater Fulfillment:*

*Initial . . . Greater*

*Physical . . . Spiritual*

*Foreshadow . . . Substance*

*Type . . . Reality*

*Temporary . . . Eternal*

*Outward sign . . . Internal sign*

*Temporary . . . Permanent*

**I. Once the final fulfillments came, how are we to view the initial fulfillments?**  
**One way to answer this is to use circumcision as a test case.**

### Genesis 17:9-14

1. Failing to circumcise was a capital offence: Exodus 4:24-26

2. What does the New Testament teach about circumcision? *It does not matter!*

**1 Corinthians 7:18-19; Galatians 5:6; Galatians 6:15; Philippians 3:2-3; Colossians 2:11; and Colossians 3:11**

3. How can the New Testament take the sign of an eternal covenant and cast it away? Isn't this a BIG PROBLEM?

**Genesis 17:9-14**, and Notice verse 13, “He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an **everlasting** covenant.”

everlasting” (17:14) is from *olam*, which fundamentally means “a long time.” The context determines if it means “everlasting.” **Examples:**

**1 Samuel 27:8**, “And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of **old (olam)** the inhabitants of the land.....”

**1 Samuel 27:12**, “And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant **forever (olam)**.”

*---The Hebrew word “olam” could mean everlasting, perpetual, never, old, ancient and this all depends upon the context.*

*There was a radical shift from physical circumcision to spiritual circumcision, from outward sign to inward reality. Something fundamental changed. All the promises to Abraham have two fulfillments: initial fulfillment and greater fulfillment, intermediate and ultimate, shadow and substance. The physical is no longer relevant. The greater made the initial obsolete.*

**II. Since this is true of the sign of the covenant, what impact did the spiritual fulfillments have on the other physical fulfillments?**

### **1. The Land Promise Impacted**

A. How does Galatians 4:22-26, Revelation 11:3-8, Hebrews 13:10-14 describe earthly Jerusalem?

B. James wrote to Jewish believers “scattered among the nations.” Did he tell them to move back to Palestine and reclaim their Canaan?

C. The Hebrew Scriptures describe the Jews as the apple of God’s eye. Does the NT teach that the Roman Empire would fall because it attacked the Promised Land? **Luke 21:20-22**

**Summary of New Testament writers toward physical Jerusalem:**

Hagar/Mount Sinai /Slavery

Sodom, Egypt Christ suffered outside the camp/Go outside

Here we have no lasting city

Days of Vengeance: Run!

**Conclusion:** The Land Promise is Obsolete! Like a shot-gun shell that has been fired, its duty is done and it is tossed on the ground.

## **2. The Seed Promise Impacted**

Matthew 21:43-46; John 8:39-47; Romans 2:28-29; Revelation 2:9; Revelation 3:9

### **Summary Statements About the Physical Offspring:**

- The Kingdom of God will be taken away from you
- You are of your father the devil
- You are not of God
- No one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly
- Those who say that they are Jews and are not
- Synagogue of Satan.

## **3 The Physical Blessing Impacted**

Genesis 12:3 and Zechariah 2:8

***Jesus tells us there is a radical shift:*** Luke 11:50, 21:20-22

***Paul's teaching shows a major change:*** Romans 9:27, 11:7-8

**John in Revelation:** Revelation 1:7

**Conclusion:** The Blessing Promise of protection and prosperity is Obsolete! They are now like pagers and typewriters.

The New Covenant is the fulfillment of everything promised to Abraham. The impact of these ultimate, spiritual fulfillments has made the temporary, physical fulfillments obsolete. They have been superseded.

### **Overview:**

Promised Land → Canaan → Heaven

Promised Seed → Jews → Jesus → True Israel

Promised Blessing → Prosperity → Gospel

Jesus and the Spiritual Nation are the terminal station.

## Personal Overview

1. God promised that all the families of the earth should be blessed by Abraham's offspring (**Genesis 12:2-3, 22:18, 26:4, 28:12-14**). According to **Galatians 3:6-9**, has this been fulfilled and how?

2. What did Abraham believe in **Galatians 3:6-9, 14**?

A. God promised what to Abraham? How are we saved in the fashion that Abraham was saved?

3. What is the difference between "promise" and "faith"? **Romans 4:13-16**

Which word looks forward? ---Which word looks back?--- C. In essence, are they not the same?

4. What was the promise or who was the ultimate fulfillment of the promise? See **Galatians 3:16, 7-9, 13-14** (Often it is helpful to read the verses backwards to understand what is being conveyed.) Also see **Ephesians 3:6**.

5. Based on **Galatians 3:7**, who are the sons of Abraham?

6. What is true of those who rely on the works of the Mosaic Law or Old Covenant in **Galatians 3:10-14**?

7. If Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law (**Galatians 3:13-14**), that the blessing of Abraham would come upon the Gentiles, and **Romans 4:13-14** tells us the promise of Abraham was not through the Law, and that the Law cannot make one heirs of the promise of Abraham; then shouldn't we conclude that Covenant with Abraham and the Mosaic Covenant of Law are not one covenant?

8. What does **Galatians 3:14** that Jesus has done on our behalf?

--Note: The 1st London Baptist Confession of 1644 says, "Christ ... hath ... put away sin by ... offering ... Himself a sacrifice for sin, by which He hath fully finished and suffered all things God required for the salvation of His elect, and removed all rites and shadows ..." (Insight: the shadows are have been removed!).—