A scroll of parchment with a light brown, textured surface and dark brown, irregular edges. The scroll is partially unrolled, showing a cylindrical roll at the bottom. The text "Galatians 3:16 and 'Seed'" is written in a black, sans-serif font in the center of the scroll.

Galatians 3:16 and "Seed"

## Gal 3:16 is a “tough one”

16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.

# The Promises: Gen 12:1-3, 7

Context says Gen 12 and Gen 15 (cf Gal 3:6, 8)

## Gen 12:1-3: First Statement of the Promises

- 1 Now the Lord said to Abram,  
“**Go forth** from your country,  
And from your relatives  
And from your father’s house,  
To the land which **I will** show you;
- 2 And **I will** make you a great nation,  
And **I will** bless you,  
And **I will** make your name great  
**And so you shall be a blessing;**
- 3 And **I will** bless those who bless you,  
And the one who curses you **I will** curse.  
And in you all the families of the earth will be  
blessed.”

4 So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

5 Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.

6 Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite *was then in the land*.

7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants [lit. seed] I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him.

## Promises Regarding “Seed”

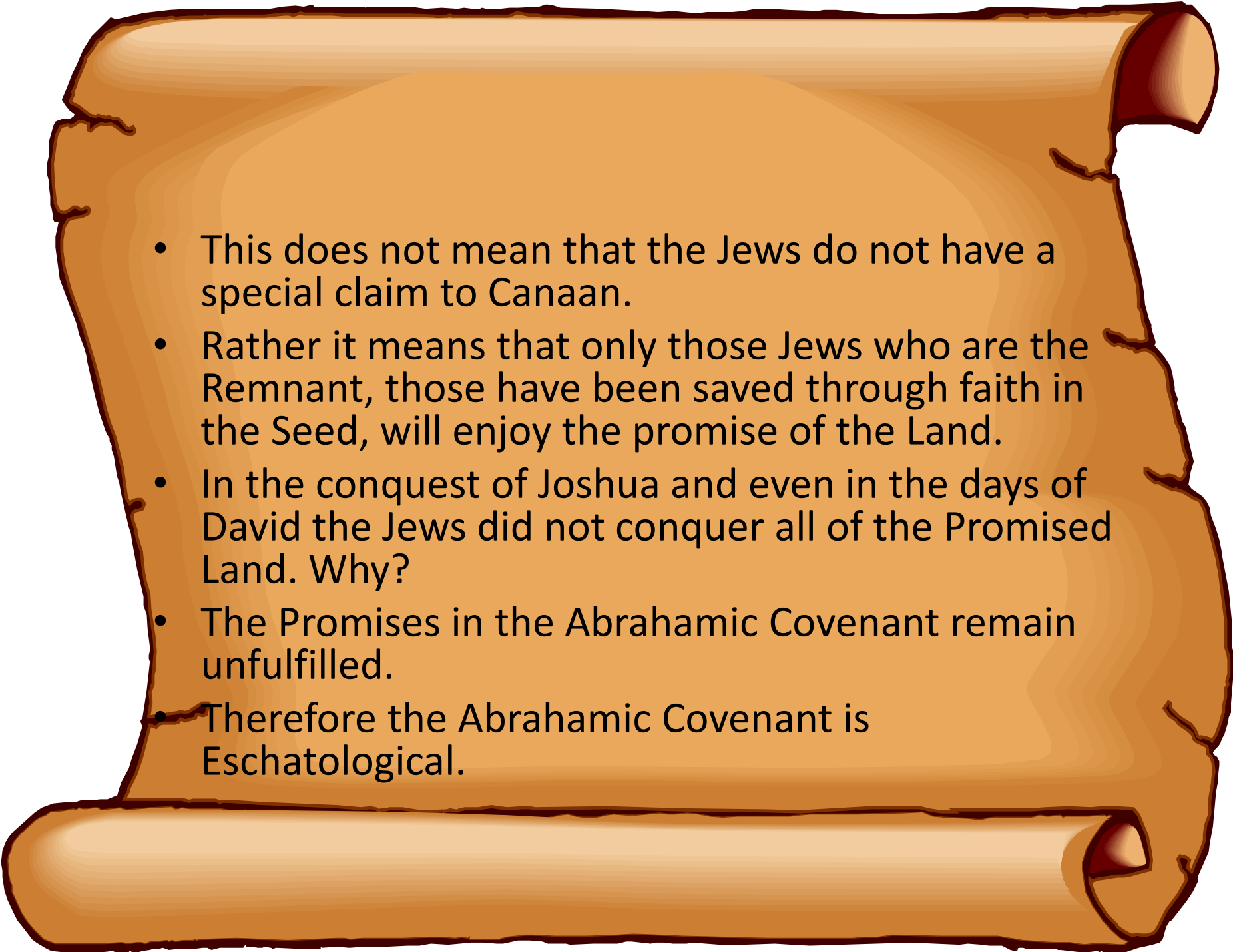
- Gen 15:4: I will give you a seed
- Gen 13:16, 15:5: I will multiply the number of your seed
- Gen 13:15, 15:18: I will give the land to your Seed
- Gen 22:18: I will bless all peoples through your Seed

**Grant**

**Grant Requiring  
Obedience/Participation**

# Paul's Doctrine Concerning the Abrahamic Covenant

- That which is true of the Abrahamic Covenant is not changed by the Mosaic Covenant.
- The only Seed that will receive the full benefit of the Abrahamic Covenant is the Lord Jesus Christ.
- This is what God meant when He spoke the promises to Abraham.
- All who believe in the promise of God regarding this Heir of Salvation (Gen 15:6) will enjoy the blessings promised in the Abrahamic Covenant.

- 
- A scroll with a light brown, parchment-like texture and dark brown borders. The scroll is unrolled, showing a list of five bullet points. The text is in a simple, black, sans-serif font. The scroll has a slight shadow and a dark brown binding on the right side.
- This does not mean that the Jews do not have a special claim to Canaan.
  - Rather it means that only those Jews who are the Remnant, those have been saved through faith in the Seed, will enjoy the promise of the Land.
  - In the conquest of Joshua and even in the days of David the Jews did not conquer all of the Promised Land. Why?
  - The Promises in the Abrahamic Covenant remain unfulfilled.
  - Therefore the Abrahamic Covenant is Eschatological.

# Eschatological Components of the Abrahamic Covenant

- “forever”
- “Seed” refers to the Lord Jesus Christ receiving the Land—still future.
- Yet “seed” refers sometimes to Abraham’s “nation” Israel.
- The Remnant of Israel receiving the promises through King Jesus will not happen until the Millennium.



## v15: The Illustration from Normal Human Interaction

Brothers, according to *the standards of man* I speak:

Even though *it is* only of man, the having been already ratified **testament**, no one annuls it or adds a codicil to it.

## v16 Seed, not “seeds”

16 τῷ δὲ Ἀβραὰμ ἐρρέθησαν αἱ ἐπαγγελίαι καὶ τῷ σπέρματι αὐτοῦ. οὐ λέγει· καὶ τοῖς σπέρμασιν, ὡς ἐπὶ πολλῶν ἀλλ’ ὡς ἐφ’ ἑνός· καὶ τῷ σπέρματί σου, ὅς ἐστιν Χριστός.

Now to Abraham were spoken the Promises and to his seed. It does not say, “And to seeds,” like upon many but as upon one: “And to your Seed,” Who is Christ.

## v17 Covenant, Law, and Promise

17 τοῦτο δὲ λέγω· διαθήκην  
προκεκυρωμένην ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ ὁ μετὰ  
τετρακόσια καὶ τριάκοντα ἔτη γεγονώς  
νόμος οὐκ ἀκυροῖ εἰς τὸ καταργῆσαι τὴν  
ἐπαγγελίαν.

Now this I am saying: The Covenant which  
was ratified beforehand by God, the Law  
430 years later having come does not  
make void unto the nullification of the  
promise.

# The Protagonist of Genesis

1. If the terms of the Abrahamic Covenant change, God is not God.
2. The Abrahamic Covenant is forever.
3. If forever means less than forever, God is not God.
4. Application: For us this means we should keep our word because we represent the Lord.
5. Why? God has arranged history so that we can measure His faithfulness through the Covenants.

# Law, Inheritance, Promise

18 εἰ γὰρ ἐκ νόμου ἡ κληρονομία, οὐκέτι ἐξ ἐπαγγελίας· τῷ δὲ Ἀβραάμ δι' ἐπαγγελίας κεχάρισται ὁ θεός.

For if from the Law  
the inheritance,

not still from promise;

But to Abraham by means of a promise He  
has granted, God.

# Summary

1. An Unconditional Covenant does not cancel the requirement to obey.
2. It is Abraham's obedience that enables him to receive the promises.
3. And no one including Abraham has obeyed after the standard of Gen 17:1 except Jesus Christ.
4. Therefore we have in the Abrahamic Covenant the Promise of blessings that God Himself secures and distributes through Christ.