



Abraham the Man of Faith

Galatians 3:7

5 Major Covenants of the Bible



- **Noahic**
- **Abrahamic**
- **Mosaic**
- **Davidic**
- **New Covenant**



just as **Abraham** “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of **Abraham**.⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to **Abraham**, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with **Abraham**, the man of faith.



What is Abraham most known for?



**From the outside world it is
that Abraham is the Father of the
Jews**

**From inside the world of the Bible
it is Abraham's incredible faith in
God and His promises**

Abraham Covenant



- Land
- Great Nation
- Great Name
- Blessing & Cursing

Ultimate Fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant

Land

New Jerusalem, New Heaven and the New Earth (Heb 11:10, Rev 21)

Great Nation

The people of God, a royal priesthood, a holy nation (1 Pet 2:9-10; Rev 7:9)

Great Name

Identified as “the father of us all” who by faith have been made righteous (Rom 4:16)

Blessing

Any male or female, Jew or Gentile can be permanently declared righteous through faith in the promises of God fulfilled in Christ Jesus (2 Cor 1:20; Gal 3)

Cursing

Cursed is everyone who relies on the works of the law (Gal 3:10)



Turn to

Hebrews 11:7ff



By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household.

By this he condemned the world and

**became an heir of the
righteousness that comes by
faith.**



Romans 1:17

- For in it the **righteousness of God** is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “**The righteous shall live by faith.**”



Romans 3:22

- the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.



Romans 4:5

- And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith is counted as righteousness,**



Romans 4:9

- Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that **faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.**



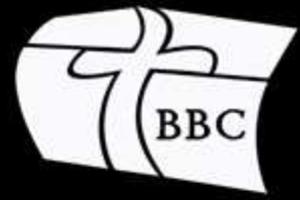
Romans 4:22

- That is why his faith was
“counted to him as
righteousness.”



Romans 9:30

- What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, **a righteousness that is by faith;**



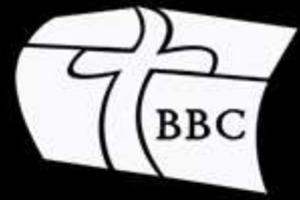
Romans 10:6

- But **the righteousness based on faith** says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down)



Philippians 3:9

- and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, **the righteousness from God that depends on faith—**



James 2:23

- and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, **“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”**—and he was called a friend of God.

Genesis 12:1,4

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance.

And he went out, not knowing where he was going.



9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.



For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.



What city is that?

Where do we find
more about the city
Abraham was
looking for?

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.



¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.



Genesis 12:2–3

- And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”



Abraham was expected to:

- **Chose to follow only one God**
- **Leave your family**
- **Go to a land you have never been to or seen**
- **Completely trust in a promise without any assurances or guarantees**



Genesis 12:4

- So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.



Genesis 13:16

- I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.

How does God make Abraham's offspring as the dust of the earth?



Galatians 3:7

- Know then that it is **those of faith** who are the sons of Abraham.

Like Abraham our faith is in



God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit

And ALL the glorious promises found in the Word of God promises like...

Like forgiveness, adoption, righteousness, eternal life, resurrected body, glorification, and new heaven and new earth where we dwell with our God and the Lamb forever and ever.



Lot Gets Kidnapped in a War Between Kings

Abram Rescues Him



Melchizedek

At which point a very special visitor shows up with a message and a blessing from the Creator of heaven and earth.

He is the king of Salem and a priest to God Most High.



Genesis 14:18–20

- And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)¹⁹ And he blessed him and said, “**Blessed be Abram** by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;²⁰ and **blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!**”



Genesis 15:1-2

- After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”²
- But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless,



Genesis 15:3

- And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”

No Descendants



Genesis 15:4-5

- And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; **your very own son shall be your heir.**” And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, **“So shall your offspring be.”**



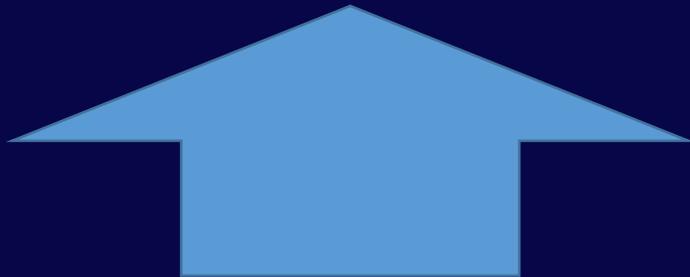
**This promise seems
utterly ridiculous:**

**Offspring as the stars in
the sky. How will this be
fulfilled?**



Genesis 15:6

- **And he believed the LORD,** and he [the Lord] counted it to him [Abraham] as righteousness.





**From a Holy God's perspective
righteousness is man's greatest
need.**

**Righteousness NOT money,
housing, fame or family is what
man needs to live forever with God.**



Turn to Genesis 17



Genesis 17:1–2

- When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, **“I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”**



“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, **for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.** ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations **for an everlasting covenant,** to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, **all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession,** and I will be their God.”



Then God Tells Him the Sign of the Covenant

Read v. 9-14

And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring,





Genesis 17:13–14

- both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. **So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.** Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”



**Now with that statement
from God do you understand
why the Jewish early church
struggled at understanding
why circumcision was no
longer needed?**

Presbyterians go out of their way  **to suggest that infant baptism is the NT replacement for OT circumcision.**

Baptists do not agree.

We teach that the circumcision of the heart done by the Holy Spirit is the replacement for OT circumcision.



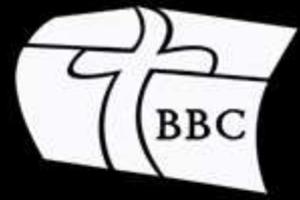
Ezekiel 36:26

- And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And **I will remove the heart of stone** from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.



Romans 2:29

- But a Jew is one inwardly, and **circumcision is a matter of the heart**, by the Spirit, not by the letter.



Galatians 5:6

- For in Christ Jesus **neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.**



Colossians 2:11

- In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,



We teach water baptism is a New Covenant ordinance for disciples of Jesus not infants or children of believers.

Jesus told us to make disciples and to baptize **them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**



Genesis 18

Abraham's Three Visitors

In Genesis 18 we learn that



Sarah will give birth to a son from her womb without regard to just how old she is

And Abraham is again reminded of the great covenantal promises



Genesis 18:17–18

- The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?**



This is precisely
what Paul is
referencing

Galatians 3:8



Galatians 3:8

- And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”



Galatians 3:9

- So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.



Abraham is NOT Perfect or Without Sin

Or Without Fear



On two occasions he asks his wife to lie about their relationship for fear of losing his own life.

And Abraham is very upfront about his fear:

“they will kill me because of my wife.” v. 12



Genesis 21

Isaac is Born



The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah **as he had promised.** ² And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.



Turn to Genesis 22

Abraham's Faith in Tested



Genesis 22:1 (NET)

- Some time after these things God tested Abraham.
- He said to him, “Abraham!”
- “Here I am!” Abraham replied.



Genesis 22:2

- God said, “Take your **son—your only son**, whom you love, Isaac—and go to the land of Moriah! **Offer him up there** as a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I will indicate to you.”



Genesis 22:3

- Early in the morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took two of his young servants with him, along with his son Isaac. When he had cut the wood for the burnt offering, he started out for the place God had spoken to him about.



Genesis 22:4–5

- On the third day Abraham caught sight of the place in the distance.
- So he said to his servants, “You two stay here with the donkey while the boy and I go up there. We will worship and then return to you.”



Genesis 22:6

- Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on his son Isaac. Then he took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together.



Genesis 22:7

- Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father?” “What is it, my son?” he replied. “Here is the fire and the wood,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”



Genesis 22:8

- “God will provide for himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham replied. The two of them continued on together.



Genesis 22:9

- When they came to the place God had told him about, Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood on it.
- Next he tied up his son Isaac and placed him on the altar on top of the wood.



Genesis 22:10

- Then Abraham reached out his hand, took the knife, and prepared to slaughter his son.



Genesis 22:11

- But the LORD's angel called to him from heaven, **“Abraham!
Abraham!”** **“Here I am!”**
he answered.



Genesis 22:12

- “Do not harm the boy!” the angel said. “Do not do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God because you did not withhold your son, your only son, from me.”



Genesis 22:13

- Abraham looked up and saw behind him a ram caught in the bushes by its horns.
- So he went over and got the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering **instead** of his son.



Genesis 22:14

- And Abraham called the name of that place “**The LORD provides.**”
- It is said to this day, “In the mountain of the LORD provision will be made.”



Genesis 22:15–16

- The LORD's angel called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “ ‘I solemnly swear by my own name,’ decrees the LORD, ‘that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,



Genesis 22:17

- I will indeed bless you, and I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be as countless as the stars in the sky or the grains of sand on the seashore.



Genesis 22:17b

- Your descendants will take possession of the strongholds of their enemies.



Genesis 22:18

- and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”



What is the blessing of the Abraham Covenant?



Romans 4:12 (ESV)

and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Romans 4:16 (ESV)

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,