THE BIBLICAL COVENANTS

Dr. Dan Starcevich

OUR PLAN

- ~~Goals and Introduction~~
- ~~Promise/Noah/Nation~~
- ~~Abrahamic Covenant~~
- Land Covenant
- Davidic Covenant
- New Covenant
- Between the Testaments
- Gospels and Acts
- The Epistles
- Revelation

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LET'S REVIEW

WHAT WE LEARNED LAST TIME

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God Reveals How He is Working Out His Eternal Plan Through the Biblical Covenants

WHAT WE LEARNED LAST TIME

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In The Noahic and Abrahamic Covenants God Works to Bring Forth the Promised Seed of the Woman

WHAT WE LEARNED LAST TIME

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God Has Sovereignly, Unilaterally, Unconditionally, and Eternally Bound Himself By Formal, Solemn Covenant and Oath to Fulfill Promises to Abraham of Land, Seed, and Blessing

THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

IF THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM IS BROKEN THEN THE HOLY NAME OF GOD IS DEFAMED

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 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.” (Genesis 12:1–3)

God’s Covenant With Abraham is Reiterated, Elaborated During His Life

IF THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM IS BROKEN THEN THE HOLY NAME OF GOD IS DEFAMED

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 I will give this land**." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had
appeared to him. (Genesis 12:5–7)

God's Covenant With Abraham is Reiterated, Elaborated During His Life

IF THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM IS BROKEN THEN THE HOLY NAME OF GOD IS DEFAMED

5 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and
count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “**So
shall your descendants be**.” 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He
reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7 And He said to him, “I am the LORD
who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, **to give you this land to
possess it**.” 8 He said, “O Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?”
(Genesis 15:5–8)

God’s Covenant With Abraham is Reiterated, Elaborated During His Life

IF THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM IS BROKEN THEN THE HOLY NAME OF GOD IS DEFAMED

3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, 4 "As for Me, behold, **My covenant** is with you,
And you will 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 will make you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 "I have made
you **exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.** 7 "I will
establish **My covenant between Me and you and your descendants** after you throughout their
generations for an **everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. 8 "I will
give to you and to your descendants after you, **the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan**, for
an **everlasting possession**; and I will be their God." (Genesis 17:3–8)

God's Covenant With Abraham is Reiterated, Elaborated During His Life

IF THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM IS BROKEN THEN THE HOLY NAME OF GOD IS DEFAMED

16 and said, "**By Myself I have sworn**, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 indeed **I will greatly bless you**, and I will **greatly multiply your seed** as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed **shall possess the gate of their enemies**. 18 "In your seed **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, because you have obeyed My voice." (Genesis 22:16–18)

- 13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, **He swore by Himself,** (Hebrews 6:13)

God's Covenant With Abraham is Reiterated, Elaborated During His Life

GOD'S HOLY NAME IS AT STAKE

- God Has Bound Himself By Covenant and Oath to a Particular Course of Action
- He Swore By Himself (Gn. 22:16, Heb. 6:13) To Uphold His Promises Therefore He Has Staked His Very Person and Character On Fulfilling His Promises

God Must Keep His Promise/Covenant or He is Not a God Worth Trusting

REVELATION PROGRESSES OVER TIME

TIME HAS ELAPSED

- The Abrahamic Covenant Has Been Explained and Elaborated in Gn. 12, 13, 15, 17, 22
- The Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob/Israel Have Come and Gone
- Joseph Has Come and Gone
- Israel Has Endured and Been Freed From Captivity in Egypt
- Israel Has Fallen Into Idolatry and Distrust of God
- A Whole Generation of Israel Had Died in the Desert

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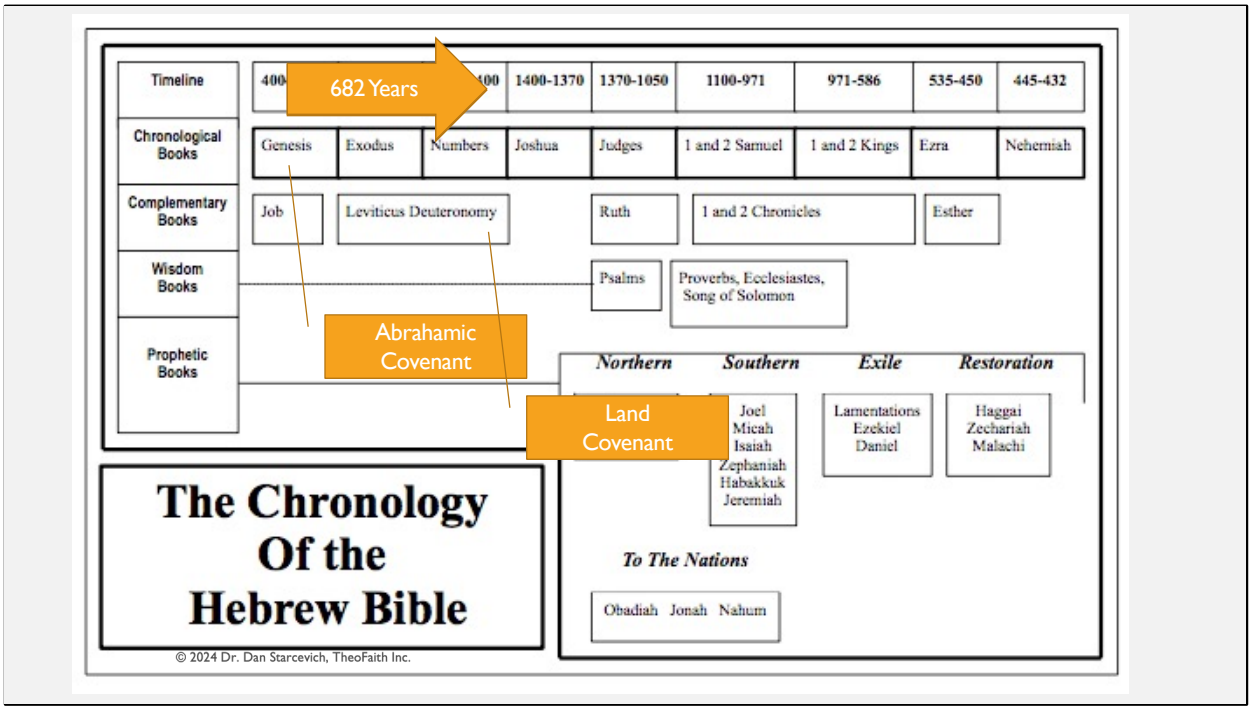
682 Years
Timeline
400
1400-1370
1370-1050
1100-971
971-586
535-450
445-432
Chronological Books
Genesis
Exodus
Numbers
Joshua
Judges
1 and 2 Samuel
1 and 2 Kings
Ezra
Nehemiah
Complementary Books
Job
Leviticus Deuteronomy
Ruth
1 and 2 Chronicles
Esther
Wisdom Books
Psalms
Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
Prophetic Books
Abrahamic Covenant
Land Covenant
Northern
Southern
Exile
Restoration
Joel
Micah
Isaiah
Zephaniah
Habakkuk
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi
To The Nations
Obadiah
Jonah
Nahum
The Chronology Of the Hebrew Bible
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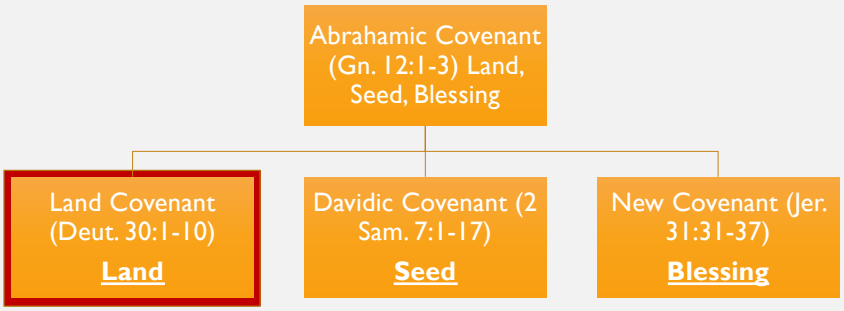
RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE COVENANTS



… to the land which I will show you, … (Genesis 12:1)

… and I will make you a great nation… (Genesis 12:1)

… and I will bless you … (Genesis 12:1)

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THE MOSAIC COVENANT

THE COVENANT WITH MOSES

- Between Abrahamic and Land Covenant is the Mosaic Covenant
- *Temporary* Covenant (Jer. 31:32-33, 2 Cor. 3:7-11, Eph. 2:15, Hb. 8:7)
- Does Not Replace or Invalidate the Covenant With Abraham, (Rom. 11:29) An Eternal Covenant
- Established the Principle that <u>Obedience Brings Blessing</u>

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THE COVENANT WITH MOSES

- Establishes Conditions to *Occupy* the Land (Dt. 4:1, Dt. 27-28) Where God Will:

"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, **so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land** which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. (Deuteronomy 4:1)

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THE COVENANT WITH MOSES

- Establishes Conditions to *Occupy* the Land (Dt. 4:1, Dt. 27-28) Where God Will:
  - Set His name (Dt. 12:5, 7, 14:23, 1 Kgs. 14:21, 2 Kgs. 21:7, 2 Chr. 6:6)
  - Be present (Ps. 9:11, Jl. 3:17, Zec. 2:10)
  - Dwell forever (1 Chr. 23:25, Ps. 68:16, 132:14, Mi. 4:7)

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SELAH

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THE LAND COVENANT

Deuteronomy
Mosaic Covenant *Redux*

First Sermon 1:1 – 4:43	Second Sermon 4:44 – 26:19	Third Sermon 27:1 – 34:12
What God Has Done	What God Expects From Israel The Laws of the Mosaic Covenant	What God Will Do

- Ratification of Mosaic Covenant 27:1 - 29:1
- The Land Covenant 29:2 - 30:20
- A New Covenant Mediator 31:1 – 24:12

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CONTEXT OF THE LAND COVENANT

- Abraham's Descendants Possess the Land
  - Promised By Unconditional Covenant
  - Guaranteed with an Oath
- The Land Promised is Occupied
  - Nations More Powerful
  - Nations Better Organized
  - Nations Well Established
  - The Residents Will Resist Israel

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CONTEXT OF THE LAND COVENANT

- Do They Still Own the Land?
- Did the Covenant at Sinai Set Aside the Covenant With Abraham?
- Can They Still Hope to Live and Worship in the Land Promised to them?

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AN OUTLINE OF THE LAND COVENANT

- An Inevitable Dispersion Deut. 30:1-2
- Physical Restoration Deut 30:3-4
- Spiritual Restoration Deut. 30:5-6
- God Goes to War Deut. 30:7
- God Blesses His People Deut. 30:8-9
- God Assures His People Deut. 30:10

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SOME OBSERVATIONS

- "Lord Your God" 12x
- "I Will" 9x
- Return/Recall/Restore/Again 7x

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INEVITABLE DISPERSION

So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the Lord your God has banished you, and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, (Dt. 30:1–2) z

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- A Divine Mandate
- Not If but When
- Dt. 29:4 – They Did Not Understand God's Grace
- God Himself Will Bring About Their Repentance and Obedience Lev 26:40–45; Jer 30:3, 18–22; 31:23–24, 31–34; Ezek 34:11–16; 36:22–36
- Obedience To the Commands of Deuteronomy is the Standard of Obedience

PHYSICAL RESTORATION

then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. "If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. "The Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. (Dt. 30:3–5)

- God Will Bring His Covenant People Into The Land He Promised to Them
- From a Dispersion After Assyria and Babylon
- Envisions a Process of Regathering, i.e. a Regathering Over a Period of Time
- Regathering From a World-Wide Dispersion
- The Fathers Possessed the Land–The Land Passed Permanently into Their Possession
- Obedience is Not Required For Ownership Just for Occupation!
- God Will Bless Them in the Land

SPIRITUAL RESTORATION

Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live. (Dt. 30:6)

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- God himself will remove whatever prevents the people from choosing to follow Him
- Gn. 17:10—Physical Circumcision; Dt. 10:16—Spiritual Circumcision
- Inner Commitment to the Covenant
- "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob. This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." (Rom. 11:26–27

GOD GOES TO WAR

The Lord your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. (Dt. 30:7)

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- God Brings The Curses of Dt. 28:15—68 On Israel's Enemies
- Repeated By Jeremiah 700 Years Later 'Therefore all who devour you will be devoured; And all your adversaries, every one of them, will go into captivity; And those who plunder you will be for plunder, And all who prey upon you I will give for prey. (Je 30:16)

GOD BLESSES HIS PEOPLE

And you shall again obey the Lord, and observe all His commandments which I command you today. "Then the Lord your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for the Lord will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers; (Dt. 30:8–9)

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- The Nation Shall Certainly Again Obey
- Obey = Keep the Commandments in Deuteronomy
- God Will Cause the Nation to Be Prosperous (Dt. 28:1—14, Josh. 1:8)
- The Blessing Promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

BLESSED ASSURANCE

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if you obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul. (Dt 30:10)

BLESSED ASSURANCE

- If you obey…if you return (NASB)
- If thou shalt harken…if thou turn (KJV)
- If you obey…if you turn (NIV)
- When you obey…when you turn (ESV)
- When you obey…because you turn (NRSV)

- Why the Difference?
  - Hebrew Syntax Allows For Either a Conditional (If…) or a Temporal (When…) Clause
  - Context Always Determines Which Choice to Make
  - Immediate Context Contains 9 Specific Sovereign, Unilateral Actions of God for Israel
  - Biblical Context Contains Expectation That God Would Do These Things (Mt. 5:5, Acts 1:3, 6)
  - The Better Translation is "When you obey…when you turn"

WHAT HAS GOD PROMISED?

- Restore them from captivity to freedom (v. 1a)
- Gather them from among the people they were living (v. 1b)
- Gather them from the farthest reaches of the earth (v. 4a)
- Bring them back (v. 4b)
- Return them to the land of the patriarchs which they will occupy (v. 5)
- Give them and their dependents a heart devoted to Him (v. 6)
- Inflict judgment on their enemies (v. 7)
- Extravagantly bless them (v. 9a)
- Rejoice over them (v. 9b)

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WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

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- God Expands the Land Promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- The Possession of the Land of Canaan is Settled in Gn. 12:1—7
- The Occupation of the Land of Canaan Requires Obedience to the Law of Moses
- There Will Be a Physical then a Spiritual Restoration of The Nation to the Promised Land
- God Has Sovereignly, Unilaterally, Unconditionally Promised They Will Occupy the Land

NEXT TIME

- The Line of the Promised Seed is Narrowed Down Further
- The Promises of Land, Seed, and Blessing Continue to Expanded
- A Earthly Kingdom Fulfilling the Failed Stewardship of Adam Comes into View

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WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Give Him Glory

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Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!

Refrain:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

His Word will not fail you He promised
Believe Him and all will be well,
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God. Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song!
Praising my Savior, all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior, all the day long!

Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight!
Angels descending, bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love!