

THE BIBLICAL COVENANTS

Dr. Dan Starcevic

OUR PLAN

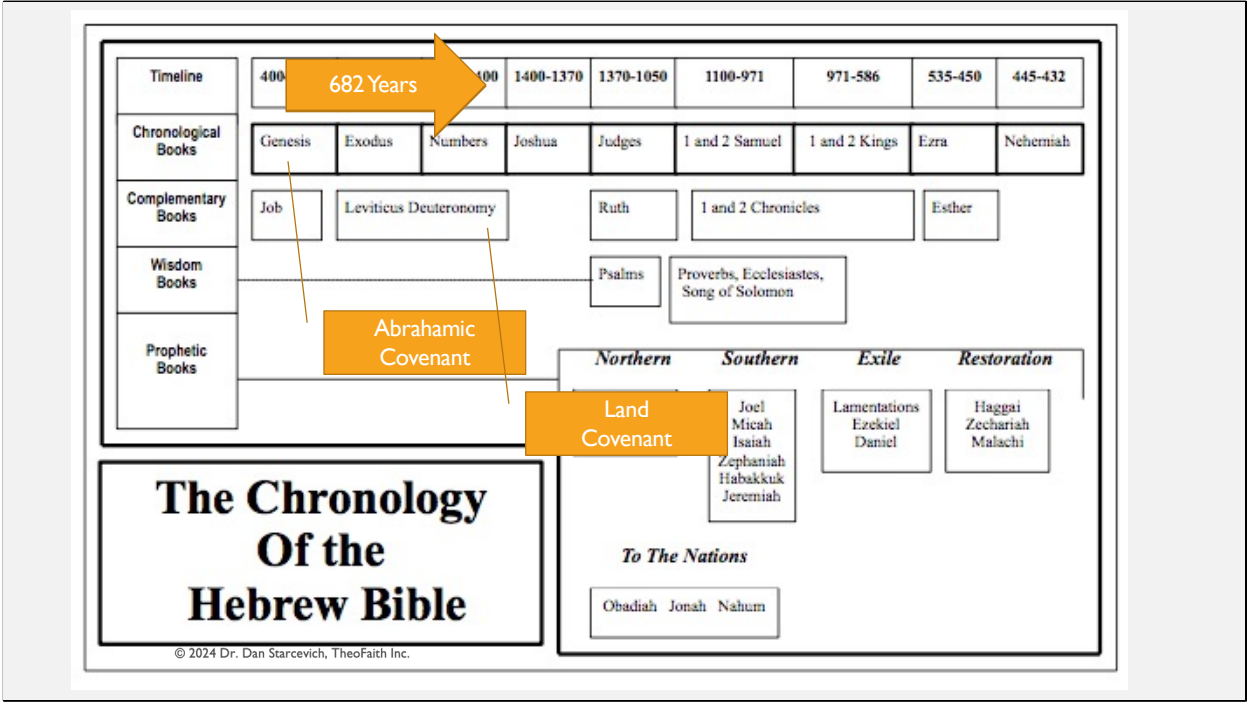
- ~~Goals and Introduction~~
- ~~Promise/Noah/Nation~~
- ~~Abrahamic Covenant~~
- Land Covenant
- Davidic Covenant
- New Covenant
- Between the Testaments
- Gospels and Acts
- The Epistles
- Revelation

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LET'S REVIEW

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



RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE COVENANTS

Abrahamic Covenant
(Gn. 12:1-3) Land,
Seed, Blessing

Land Covenant
(Deut. 30:1-10)

Land

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

Davidic Covenant (2
Sam. 7:1-17)

Seed

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

New Covenant (Jer.
31:31-37)

Blessing

*... and I will bless you ...
(Genesis 12:1)*

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THE MOSAIC COVENANT

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

²⁰ ... through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20)

¹³ For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; ¹⁵ for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation. (Romans 4:13–15)

²⁰ The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, (Romans 5:20)

The Law of Moses Was Meant to Reveal the Need for God's Grace



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

CONTEXT OF THE LAND COVENANT

- **Abraham's Descendants Possessed the Land**
 - Promised By Unconditional Covenant
 - Guaranteed with an Oath
- **They Don't Occupy the Land**
 - 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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SOME OBSERVATIONS

“Lord Your God” 12x

“I Will” 9x

Return/Recall/Restore/Again 7x

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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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)

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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)

- 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

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?

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

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WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- God Expands the Land Promise
- 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