

Week 4: Patriarchs Part 1

Objective: To review rest of Genesis and understand how God's covenant promise passes down through the generations

1. Recap: **Original Covenant:** Adam/Eve - Adamic Covenant– **Promise:** Happiness w/Him for eternity
Condition: Not eat of Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil **Consequence when broken:** Lost happiness/eternity w/God; death
2. **Second Covenant:** Noah and family- 7 **Noahic Laws**¹ (Gen 9) **Conditions:** Do not worship idols, curse God, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, eating flesh torn from living animal, establish courts of justice
Consequence when broken: Humanity is scattered and fragmented; God promises not to destroy creation with water due to human sin. **SEAL:** Rainbow
3. **Third Covenant:** Abraham and his descendants -Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7; 13:14-17; 15; 17:1-14; 22:15-18). Lays groundwork for how God first called Israel then all nations back to *covenant relationship* with Him; **SEAL:** Circumcision
4. **Narrative Walk:** Shows where books fit into proper order to help us better understand
5. **Abram's roots:** Came from pagan family from Ur of Chaldea (modern day Iraq (Josh 24:2-3) Father from line of Shem (Gen 11) – Focus of this lineage; a Toledo².
6. Continuity of *Blessing* is important beginning w/God's blessing on Adam and Eve; it was to be passed on through generations - Adam to Seth (Gen 5:3-4); Noah to Shem (Gen 10:25-27); Abraham to Isaac
7. Q1 & 2: God's plan: for Abraham to trust Him completely; God makes three promises to Abraham (Gen 12)
 - a. Land Promise (Gen 15 Mosaic Covenant – future 4th covenant)
 - b. Kingdom Promise (Gen 17 Davidic Covenant - future 5th covenant)
 - c. Promise of Worldwide *Blessing* (Gen 22 New Covenant with Jesus Christ – future 6th covenant)
8. Q3: Faith is like trying to count all the stars in heaven in cloudless day sky
9. Obstacles to covenant w/Abraham – no children; did not obey God to leave ALL kindred behind – brought nephew Lot and family (Plan B in case God did not come through); famine (result of disobedience for bringing Lot along); Abram's name meant "Exalted Father but God changed to Abraham "Father of Many"; Hagar was another "insurance policy" (Gen 16)
10. Q3b, 4a & b: Covenant Oath (Gen 17: 1-23 – Circumcision; in New Testament, replaced by Sacrament of Baptism Gen 15:8-21 – splitting animals in half) Meaning: "May this be done to me if I fail to keep this covenant". Additional reading: Jer 34:17-20 common practices
11. Q5: God can be trusted even when situation is laughable (Sarah laughing when told she would bear a child in old age; Isaac's name means "laughable" or "haha"; foreshadows another impossible child born of faith to a virgin
12. Q6a& b: God is testing Abraham as He tested Adam and Eve – "Will you trust me?" Abraham says "Yes", and God swears by Himself (Gen 22:16-18) to fulfill the covenant
13. Q6c: Difference between *faith* and *obedience* – (James 2:17) Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."
Abraham is model of faith in that he believes much but that he ACTS on his belief.
14. Q7: Abraham's *ACT* of obedience foreshadows God's ultimate sacrifice of His Son.
15. Abraham lived to 175 yrs. old; Sarah was 127 yrs. old-died in land of Canaan; buried in a cave in field of Machpelah facing Hebron
16. Other notable events: *Blessing* of Abraham by Melchizedek³ (King of Salem –later Jeru-salem, destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot escapes and wife turns into salt; Isaac and Rebekah; Abraham's destination: land roughly size of New Jersey, connecting North to South, flowing with milk and honey known as the *Ancient Fertile Crescent*²
17. YHWH- God will provide (Breathe in-YH, Breathe out-WH)
18. The Holy Family will grow as Isaac takes a wife (Gen 24)

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Laws_of_Noah

² Toledo-a family line used as a literary tool like using Ancestry.com or genealogy timeline for only your family

¹God's Covenants with all humanity

<https://www.catholic.com/qa/how-many-covenants-are-there-in-the-bible>

Covenants in biblical times were often sealed by severing an animal, with the implication that the party who breaks the covenant will suffer a similar fate. In Hebrew, the verb meaning to seal a covenant translates literally as "to cut".

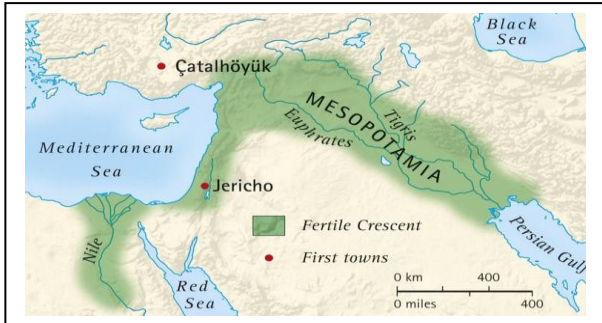
Noahic Covenant: God established a covenant with **Noah** and his descendants to never again flood the earth destroying all life (Gen. 9:9). This covenant is established with all of humanity. Humanity is tasked with fulfilling seven commandments (do not worship idols, do not curse God, establish courts of justice, do not commit murder, do not commit sexual immorality, do not steal, do not eat flesh torn from a living animal). (Sign of the Covenant: Rainbow – God hung His bow across the sky as sign of His promise)

Covenant with Abraham: God established a covenant with **Abraham** that he would make a great nation of his descendants through which the whole world will be blessed (Gen. 12:1-3). On his part Abraham had to leave the land of his youth and enter into the land promised to him. Abraham and his descendants also were required to circumcise all male descendants. (Sign of the Covenant): Circumcision)

Mosaic Covenant: God established a covenant with **Moses** (Ex. 19-24) in which the Jewish people are freed from slavery and become God's special possession. Not only will they be **blessed**, but God will claim them as his very own. The Mosaic covenant has 613 commandments which the Jewish people must fulfill in order to receive the benefit of the covenant. (Sign of the Covenant: The Ten Commandments)

Davidic Covenant: God established a covenant with David that the messiah will come from David's descendants (2 Sam. 7). This covenant did not task the Jewish people or Gentiles with any new commandments to fulfill. (Sign of the Covenant: The Temple)

The New Covenant: God promised to establish a new covenant through the prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 31:31-34) which was then fulfilled in Jesus (Luke 22:20). This covenant does away with the legal requirements of commandments and replaces them with a desire of the heart to do the will of God. This covenant is with all humanity. (Sign of the Covenant: His Son, Jesus, The **Word** of God)



²The Fertile Crescent

The "**fertile crescent**," often referred to as the "cradle of civilization," refers to a semi-circular area of the eastern Mediterranean region, including the valleys of the Nile, Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The region includes parts of the modern countries of Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, northern Egypt, and Iraq, and the Mediterranean Sea coast lies to its west. To the south of the arc is the Arabian Desert, and at its southeast point is the Persian Gulf. Geologically, this region corresponds with the intersection of the Iranian, African, and Arabian tectonic plates.

³Melchizedek's blessing*: In Gen 14, Abram returns from victory (rescuing his cousin Lot) and meets *Melchizedek*, king of Salem, who brings out *bread* and *wine* and *blesses* Abram and receives his tithes (prefigures Christ, the High Priest, enthroned in heavenly Jerusalem, who *blesses* us and offers himself in bread and wine).

***Melchizedek:** 1) Noah's son *Shem* who received blessing (Gen 9) who would have lived past the time of Abram. From time of Adam until after the Exodus, firstborn son was both king and priest of extended family. If was Shem, then was passing on blessing from his authority as firstborn king and priest. 2) "*Type*" of Christ (*King of righteousness*"), Name: King of Salem means *peace* and Salem will later become *Jerusalem*; also receives Abram's tithes He (See St Paul's Letter to Hebrews)