

The Covenant of Grace

Oakwood Presbyterian Church

2016



***“A covenant is a bond in blood
sovereignly administered.***

When God enters into a
covenantal relationship with
men, he sovereignly institutes
a life-and-death bond. A
covenant is a bond in blood, or
a bond of life and death,
sovereignly administered.”

*O. Palmer Robertson,
The Christ of the Covenants*



Covenants Within the Covenant

- Adamic Covenant – “The Covenant of Commencement”
- Noahic Covenant – “The Covenant of Preservation”
- **Abrahamic Covenant – “The Covenant of Promise”**
- Mosaic Covenant – “The Covenant of Law”
- Davidic Covenant – “The Covenant of the Kingdom
- The New Covenant – “The Covenant of Consummation”

Seed of the Serpent vs. Seed of the Woman



“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”
Genesis 3:15

“Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.”
Genesis 4:8

“And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth... At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.”
Genesis 4:25,26

Abraham and His Offspring

“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. 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. 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... Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your offspring I will give this land.’ So he built there an altar to the LORD...”

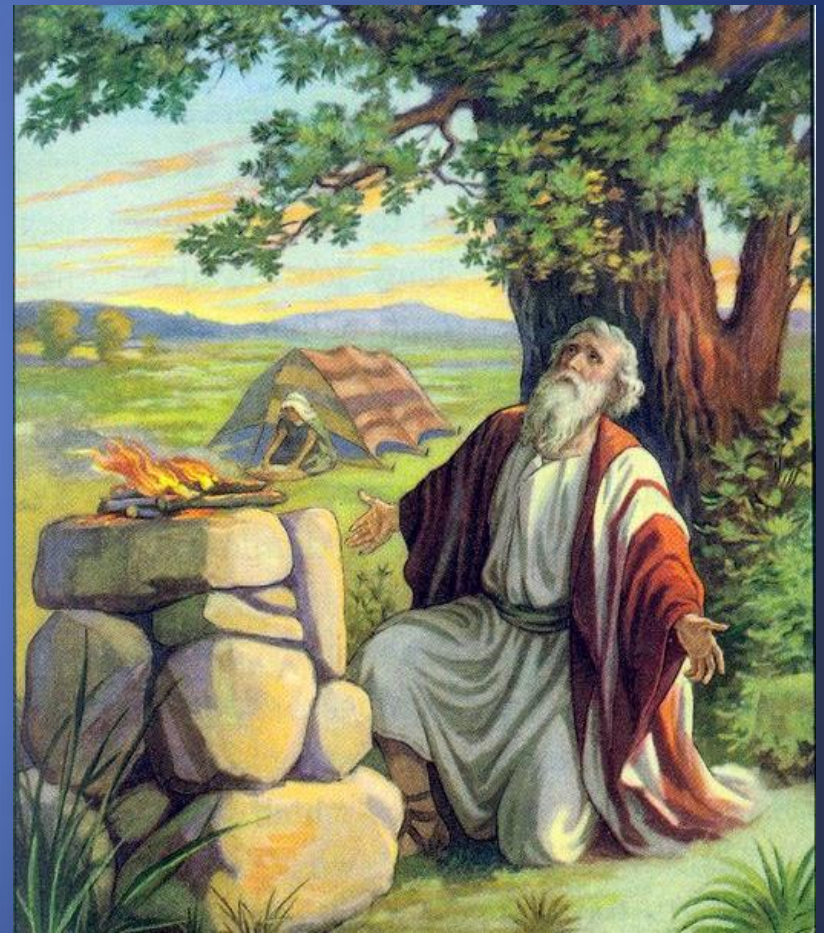
Genesis 12:1-3,7

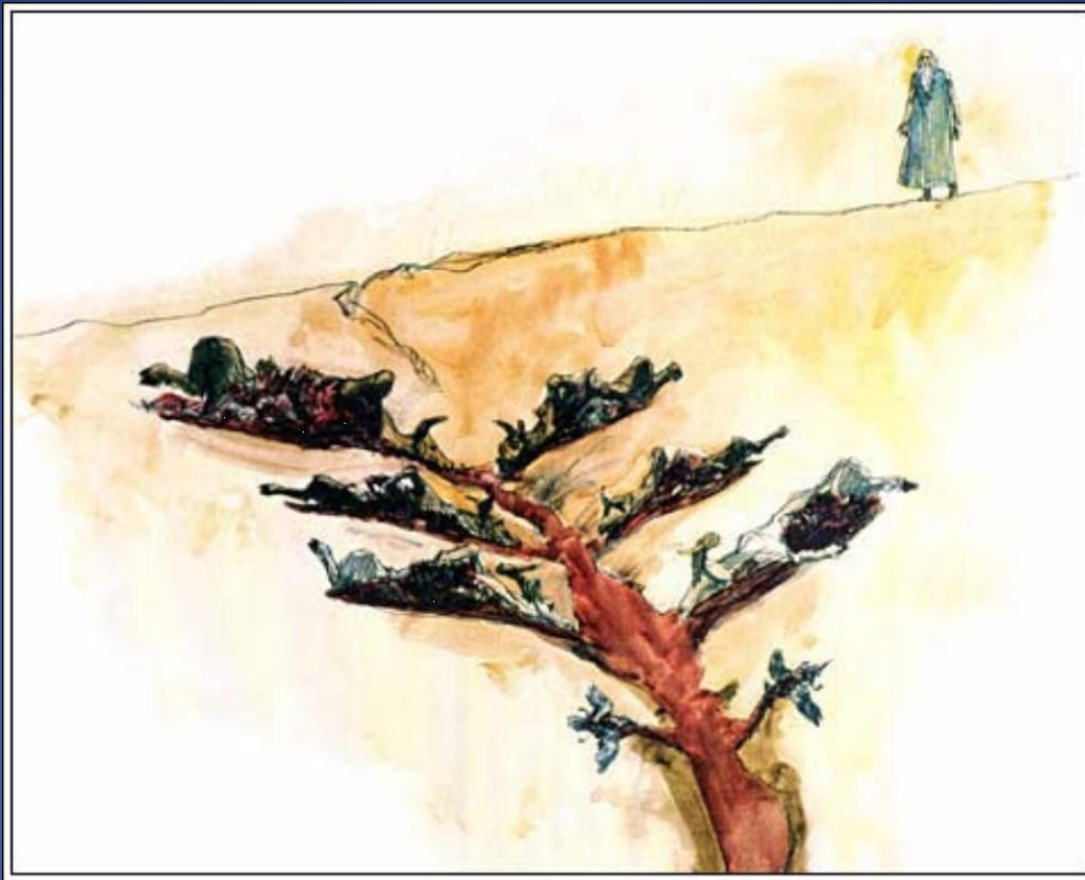


The Covenant Confirmed

“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.’ But Abram said, ‘O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’”

Genesis 15:1,2





“But he said, ‘O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.’ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.”

Genesis 15:8-11

A Bond in Blood, Sovereignly Administered

“When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your offspring I give this land...’”

Genesis 15:17,18



“...God the Creator binds Himself to man the creature by a solemn blood oath. The Almighty chooses to commit Himself to the fulfillment of promises spoken to Abraham. By this divine commitment, Abraham’s doubts are to be expelled. God has solemnly promised, and has sealed that promise with a self-maledictory oath. The realization of the divine word is assured.”

Robertson,

The Christ of the Covenants



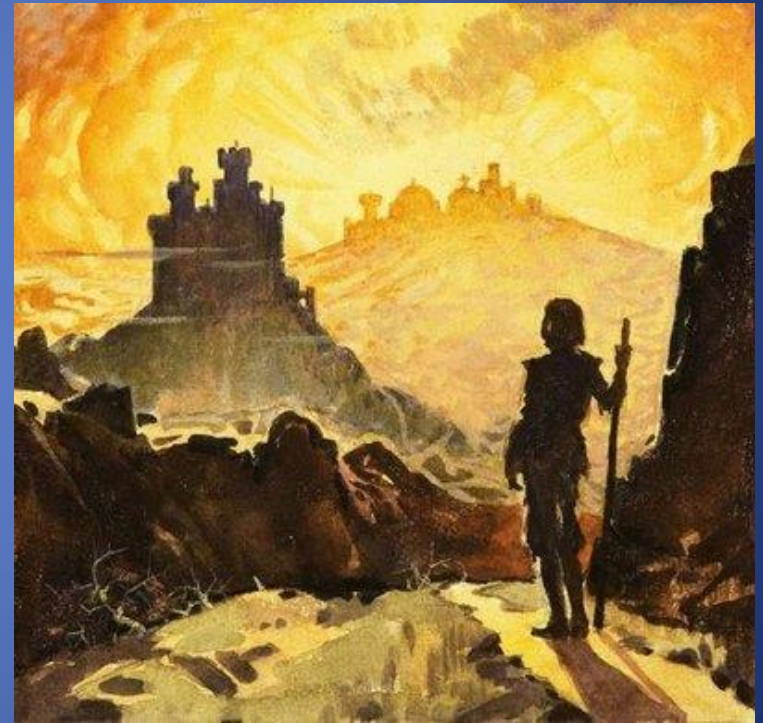


“By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” Genesis 22:16-18

The Faith of Abraham

“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. 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... 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... they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city.”

Hebrews 11:8-10,13,16



The Sign and Seal of the Covenant



“And God said to Abraham, ‘As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised... it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised... So shall My covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.’”

Genesis 17:9-13

The Sign of Circumcision

- A sign of inclusion in the covenant
- A sign of the importance of family
- A sign of the effect of original sin
- A sign of the need for inner cleansing
 - Regeneration, repentance, faith



The Circumcision of the Heart

“Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.” Deuteronomy 10:16

“And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. And the LORD your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you.” Deuteronomy 30:5-7

“Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem... O Jerusalem, wash your heart from evil, that you may be saved. How long shall your wicked thoughts lodge within you?” Jeremiah 4:4,14

“A Blessing to the Nations”



“ If a stranger shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; he shall be as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it.” Exodus 12:48

“Any Gentile might participate in the highest privilege of Judaism, if he should indicate a willingness to meet the same requirements laid on the Jew himself...” Robertson, The Christ of the Covenants

Circumcision and the New Covenant

“For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. **He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.** The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, 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 4:9-12

“For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.”

Romans 2:28,29

“For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh...”

Philippians 3:3

True Heirs of the Abrahamic Covenant



“ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. 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.’ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith... in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.” Galatians 3:7,8; 26-29



Invisible Church

Visible Church

The New Covenant Sign & Seal

“In [Christ] also you were circumcised with a **circumcision made without hands**, by putting off the body of the flesh, by **the circumcision of Christ**, having been **buried with Him in baptism**, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.” Colossians 2:11-14

