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Preface

What do you believe about the future according to Bible prophecy? Consider the following:

“The millennium has already happened!” or “The millennium will happen after the Second Coming of Christ.”

“The Church is the New Israel!” or “God’s Covenants with Israel are irrevocable and will be fulfilled.”

“God’s covenants are irrevocable!” or “God changed His mind”

“God’s Kingdom is here on earth!” or “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Which is it? Were the covenants God made to Israel somehow transferred to the Church or are they even still standing? Is the millennium a future event or has it already occurred? If one questions the timing of the millennium, one must also question the prophets of the Old Testament, as well as all the events portrayed in the book of Revelation. Are they all allegorical? Have they already happened? Or are they yet to happen in the future?

In this book, we will show the outline of God’s promises to Israel from Genesis to Revelation, with an emphasis on their covenantal foundations, prophetic developments, the ultimate fulfillment in Christ, and the eschatological consummation of those covenants. With a focus on the biblical approach, we will show that God’s promises to Israel are irrevocable, while at the same time finding their end fulfillment in Christ, through whom covenant blessing extends to the nations.

“²⁶And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

*‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion,
And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*

*²⁷For this is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins.’” Romans 11:26-27 (NKJV)*

“²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” Romans 11:29 (NKJV)

The place of Israel in biblical theology has long been debated. At the heart of the debate is the question of divine faithfulness. Do God’s promises to Israel persist unchanged with a future fulfillment in Christ and in the end times or are they transposed into the life of the church?

Historically, much Christian theology has tended toward supersessionism (also known as Replacement Theology) —the view that the church replaces Israel as the chosen people of God. The renewal of the nation of Israel in the mid-twentieth century prompted interest in the Jewish roots of Christianity which, in turn, provoked reevaluation of Israel’s continuing role in salvation history and its eschatological role. Within evangelical scholarship, some argue for the church’s participation in Israel’s promises, while others stress a future national restoration for Israel within God’s eschatological plan.

This book intends to show that the biblical canon itself affirms both the irrevocable nature of Israel’s election and the fulfillment of the promises made to her through Christ. God’s faithfulness to Israel is not annulled but transformed in Christ, who embodies Israel’s promise and extends covenant blessing to the nations.

To faithfully and fully understand how the covenants with Israel are, and will be, fulfilled, we need to look at both the Old and the New Testaments. We need to understand that Israel is not just a bystander in the events portrayed by Jesus Christ and recorded by John in the book of Revelation but is the very foundation for those events.

This book will be divided into four sections:

- I. The Biblical; Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic, covenants with Israel
- II. The New Covenant.

III. The future of Israel in prophecy.

IV. How the fulfillment of prophecy is interwoven throughout Scripture and is part and parcel of God's plan of salvation.

So, let's get started.

Section I

God's Covenants with Israel

Chapter 1

Abrahamic Covenant – the Foundation

Ten generations and about 400 years had elapsed from the time of the flood to Abram, the son of Terah and great-grandson of Noah. Abram was well-respected and relatively prosperous in his homeland of Ur when God called him. His life and, through him, the lives all of whom descended from him – both physically and spiritually – changed forever.

“¹Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. ²I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”
Genesis 12:1-3 (NKJV)

So, Abram, with his wife Sarai, and his nephew Lot, left the only home he had known and, trusting completely in the Lord, headed out for parts unknown. It should be noted that Abram was not a young man at that time, as life spans had decreased significantly since the flood. At the time of the beginning of his travels, he was about 75 years old.

When Abram, Sarai, and Lot arrived in Canaan, the Lord again made a promise to Abram.

“⁷Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’” Genesis 12:7 (KNJV)

A couple of interesting notes about this promise is that 1) at that time the land was inhabited by the Canaanites and 2) Abram and Sarai had no children and would not have any descendants...at least not until the Lord intervened, but we’ll read about that further on.

Due to a severe famine in the land, the sojourners went down to Egypt, where Abram prospered significantly after a “misunderstanding” between

him and the Pharaoh over who Sarai really was. They returned to Canaan where he and Lot separated. Lot chose the vastness of the plains of Jordan and Abram settled in the land of Canaan.

The Lord speaks to Abram again, *“¹⁴And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: ‘Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; ¹⁵for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. ¹⁶And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. ¹⁷Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.’”* Genesis 13:14 – 17 (NKJV)

1. Is the Abrahamic Covenant Conditional?

God has made promises to Abraham:

- a. He will make him a great nation
- b. He will bless him and make his name great
- c. He will give him and his descendants the land of Canaan
- d. He will make him a blessing to all the families of the Earth.

It is interesting to note that in none of these verses is there an “if you...I will” statement. In other words, the Lord did not say to Abram, who was later renamed Abraham, “if you will do this, then I will give you this land, make you a great nation, multiply your descendants, etc.” This is a unilateral and unconditional covenant.

We learn that Sarai grew impatient for those blessings of God on her and Abram’s descendants, so she sent Abram in with her handmaid, Hagar. Abram also didn’t wait on God and went in to Hagar. Hagar gave Abram a son but then turned against Sarai (Genesis 16:1-4). If there had been conditions placed on these promises, then when Abraham sinned by not trusting God, the covenant would have been broken.

But the Lord tells Abraham again, “¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. ²And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.’ ³Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: ⁴As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷**And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.** ⁸Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an **everlasting possession**; and I will be their God.” Genesis 17:1-8 (NKJV) (emphasis added)

This covenant is repeated, again and again, even after Abraham’s descendants sinned. Isaac lied to Abimelech about Rebekah (following in his father’s footsteps?), but the covenant made with Abraham was still in place, “²⁴And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, ‘I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake.’” Genesis 26:24 (NKJV)

And the next generation...We ’t won list all the sins of both Jacob and Esau, yet the Lord still confirmed with Jacob the covenant made with Abraham. God didn’t leave out Esau, either, but the blessing Isaac gave to Esau and inherited by his son, Ishmael, was significantly less than the blessing and covenant for Jacob, as we shall see.

¹⁰Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. ¹²Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

¹³And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: 'I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. ¹⁴Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'" Genesis 28:10-14 (NKJV)

Many years later, when Moses and the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt, God remembered His covenant with Moses.

²³Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. ²⁴So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them." Exodus 2:23-25 (NKJV)

David exhorts the Israelites to remember the covenant in 1 Chronicles, *¹⁵Remember His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, ¹⁶the covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, ¹⁷and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel **for an everlasting covenant**, ¹⁸Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the allotment of your inheritance," ¹⁹When you were few in number, indeed very few, and*

strangers in it. ²⁰When they went from one nation to another, and from one kingdom to another people, ²¹He permitted no man to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, ²²Saying, “Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm.” 1 Chronicles 16:15-22 (NKJV) (emphasis added)

Even in the times of the New Testament, the covenant was remembered. When John the Baptist was born, his father Zacharias gave credit to the covenant for the salvation of the Jews.

“⁶⁸Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, ⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, ⁷⁰as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, ⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, ⁷²to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, ⁷³the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.” Luke 1:68-75 (NKJV)

So, the covenant with Abraham and all his descendants was not conditional and was forever.

2. Was the Covenant Confirmed?

In the time of Abraham, a “blood covenant”, the most solemn form of covenant, was not unusual. Both parties would walk between sacrificed animals and, by that passage through the slaughter, indicate if they did not uphold their end of the covenant, they would end up like the animals they walked between. Both parties would have to walk between the animals for the covenant to be

confirmed, as both parties had agreed, and had something to offer, to the covenant.

But when God confirms His covenant with Abraham, something different happens. Abram (before being renamed Abraham) is instructed by God to slaughter a heifer, a goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. Abram halves the carcasses of the heifer, goat, and ram and places each half opposite the other. The two birds are also placed opposite each other, creating a path between the two rows of sacrificed animals. This is when the traditional process of a blood covenant takes a turn.

“¹²Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.”

“¹⁷And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. ¹⁸On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: ‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— ¹⁹the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.’” Genesis 15:12,17-21 (NKJV)

Abram was asleep (verse 12). He could not walk down the path of the blood covenant, but he didn’t need to because there was nothing for him to offer in this promise.

Only God, in the form of the smoking oven and burning torch, walked the path of the blood covenant because it was only He who was giving the promise – nothing was required of Abram for this promise to be confirmed. This passage illuminates God’s sovereignty as well as the irrevocable nature of this covenant.

Neither Abraham, nor his descendants, could change, alter, or cause to be revoked the covenant God made with him because he, Abraham, did not make the covenant – God did.

In the verses omitted in the passage above, Genesis 15:13-16, a prophesy is given about the descendants of Abraham and the result of their unfaithfulness. Yet, in spite of their future unfaithfulness, the covenant is still given, still valid, and still confirmed.

3. **Has the Covenant been Fulfilled?**

If the covenant is unconditional and it has been confirmed by God, then only one question remains. Have all the parts of the covenant been fulfilled? Let's take a look at each part of the covenant.

"¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. ²And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.' ³Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: ⁴'As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. ⁸Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.'" Genesis 17:1-8 (NKJV)

- a. *"²And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Genesis 17:2*

There is no scriptural reference to exactly how many were circumcised in Abraham's household when the Lord told Abraham this would be the sign of His covenant with Israel (Genesis 17:9-13, NKJV), so we can't establish a base count of the nation of Israel from this verse. We do, however, have a count of how many were in Jacob's household when he left for Egypt: 70.

"²⁶All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all. ²⁷And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy." Genesis 46:26-27 (NKJV)

We know from Scripture Jacob and his family prospered in the early days in Egypt and multiplied. After Joseph and his brothers had all passed, *"...the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them."* Exodus 1:7

Scripture also gives us a hint of how many left Egypt when Moses led them out. *"³⁷Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children."* Exodus 12:37 (NKJV)

Within the first two years after the Exodus, the first Israeli census was taken (Numbers 1) and the total reported was *"⁴⁶all who were numbered were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty."*

There must be a cautionary note here. When the Israelites counted census, they did not count women and children, or

older or disabled men. Only those men who were between a certain age and capable of going into battle were counted, so the total population of Israelites would have actually been much higher, with some estimates of over a million people.

The overall worldwide population of descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has had its ups and downs in the centuries since that escape from Egyptian bondage. There were also times when many of that heritage were afraid to reveal it, as the penalty could be death.

According to the Jewish Virtual Library, at the end of 2023 there were 16,783,105¹ people of Jewish descent worldwide. From the same source, we learn the majority of these are split just about evenly between the US (44.5%)² and Israel (44.3%)³.

There can be no question the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have multiplied upon the earth. But, has that population reached a point where it cannot be counted – where it is as many as the stars in the sky or grains of dust on the earth?

No. While this part of the covenant has shown significant growth, it is not fully complete – and it won't be until the Messiah returns. We'll look at that more in a later section of this book.

¹ Vital Statistics: Jewish Population of the World (1882 - Present), Jewish Virtual Library, January 1, 2024, https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jewish-population-of-the-world#google_vignette

² Ibid

³ Ibid

- b. *“⁴As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.”* Genesis 17:4 (NKJV)

Abraham is considered the father of three major religions in the world: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Judaism through the descendants of Abraham; Christianity through the fulfillment of a part of that covenant (more on that further on), and Islam through Ishmael, the son of Abraham through Sarai's maid, Hagar.

“⁹The Angel of the Lord said to her (Hagar), ‘Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.’ ¹⁰Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, ‘I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.’ ¹¹And the Angel of the Lord said to her: ‘Behold, you are with child, and you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has heard your affliction. ¹²He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man, and every man’s hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.” Genesis 16:9-12 (NKJV)

God did not forget his covenant with Abraham to multiply his descendants – even those who turned against Him – and the Lord gave a blessing to Ishmael and his descendants. But just in case there was any confusion, He also made clear who would be the father of His people. God would multiply the descendants of Ishmael, but it was with Abraham's descendants through Jacob and Isaac that the full covenant would be given.

“¹⁹Then God said: ‘No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his

descendants after him. ²⁰And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. ²¹**But My covenant I will establish with Isaac**, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.’ ²²Then He finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.” Genesis 17:19-22 (NKJV) (emphasis added)

The population of Islamics around the world is around 2 billion people⁴, according to the Pew Research Center, with a growth rate of 21% between 2010 and 2020⁵.

So, has this part of the covenant been fulfilled - is Abraham the father of many nations? I would have to say it has been, though there may be more to come. More on that in a later section of this book.

- c. ⁸*“Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession.”* Genesis 17:8 (NKJV)

God promised all the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants, but have they always lived in that land? We can clearly see, from the biblical record, the answer to that is a resounding “No!”

Exile to Egypt

⁴ How the Global Religious Landscape Changed From 2010 to 2020 - 3. Muslim population change, Conrad Hackett, Marcin Stonawski, Yunping Tong, Stephanie Kramer, Anne Shi, and Dalia Fahmy, June 9, 2025, <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2025/06/09/muslim-population-change/>

⁵ Ibid

The first time the Israelites were exiled was to Egypt, due to famine in the land of Canaan. When they first arrived in Egypt, they prospered and multiplied until the new Pharaoh became concerned about their growth and growing power. He then ruled that all newborn males were to be killed. The story of how Moses was saved during this time is an amazing amplification of God's power, love, and mercy! We know it was Moses who, after demonstrating God's power before the Pharaoh, led the Israelites out of Egypt and back to Canaan. There is a lot more to this story, like the parting of the Red Sea, but I'll let you read about that in the Bible. It is a gripping tale and parts of it have been historically proven to be accurate. They remained in Egypt for 400 years, just as God told Abraham in Genesis.

"¹²Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³Then He said to Abram: 'Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.'" Genesis 15:12-15 (NKJV)

Exile to Assyria

The next exile affected only the northern kingdom, as Israel had split into north and south, circa 931 BC.

This exile is interesting in that those who were exiled never returned to Israel, though it is presumed many of those

tribes did return when Israel was again a nation in 1948. We read about this exile, and the reason for it, in 2 Kings.

⁵Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years. ⁶In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. ⁷For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods, ⁸and had walked in the statutes of the nations whom the Lord had cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. ⁹Also the children of Israel secretly did against the Lord their God things that were not right, and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city. ¹⁰They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. ¹¹There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the Lord had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger, ¹²for they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, ‘You shall not do this thing.’” 2 Kings 17:5-12 (NKJV)

Exile to Babylon

It was less than 100 years after the northern kingdom of Judah’s fall when the southern kingdom was attacked and conquered by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar didn’t just want spoils, he wanted total

control and instructed his eunuch to bring back the best of the best. This is also when the first Temple was destroyed.

“³Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles, ⁴young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.”
Daniel 1:3-4 (NKJV)

The duration of the exile to Babylon had been foretold by Jeremiah, *“¹⁰For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.”*
Jeremiah 29:10 (NKJV)

Near the end of those 70 years, Daniel realizes the time is drawing to an end and seeks the Lord.

“¹In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— ²in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. ³Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. ⁴And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, ⁵we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and

rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. ⁶Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. ⁷O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.”
Daniel 9:1-7 (NKJV)

How the Lord answers Daniel’s plea is one of the main foundational passages about the end times and well worth reading. We will delve into that prophecy again further on in this book.

Exile and Diaspora

The last exile began in 70AD, with the Roman siege of Jerusalem and destruction of the second Temple. The Jews were not transported into another country but were scattered all over the globe. The siege was led by General Titus, who later became Roman Emperor Titus.

God does not break His promises. He brought them back, from all over the globe, just as prophesied by Isaiah.

“⁵ Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east and gather you from the west. ⁶ I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth— ⁷ everyone called by My name and created for My glory, whom I have indeed formed and made.” Isaiah 43:5-7 (NKJV)

Israel became a nation again on May 14, 1948 – in one day!

“⁷Before she was in labor, she gave birth; before her pain came, she delivered a male child. ⁸Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children.” Isaiah 66:7-8 (NKJV)

Four exiles, three of which led to the reemergence of the Israel nation. Israel is now back in their land, so has this part of the covenant been fulfilled?

The answer to that question lies in the boundaries stated by God to Abraham in Genesis.

“¹⁴And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: ‘Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; ¹⁵for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.” Genesis 13:14-15 (NKJV)

The Lord further clarified the boundaries in Genesis 17.

“¹⁸On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: ‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— ¹⁹the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.” Genesis 17:18-20 (NKJV)

If we compare a map of the current nation of Israel (Israel highlighted in yellow):



To an estimation of the land given to Abraham (striped areas):



The difference is quite noticeable.

Now we have the UN almost unilaterally agreeing that Israel should be divided and part given to the Palestinians. Britain, France, and other countries have stated they will give

official recognition to a Palestinian state in September 2025 if certain conditions are not met by Israel.⁶

They are not alone. A scan of current headlines reveals the breadth of the support for this “two-state solution.”

Is this part of the covenant fulfilled? Not yet, but God doesn’t break His promises, and He is not done with Israel.

- d. *“In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.”*
Genesis 22:18(NKJV)

Jesus Christ was born from the lines of Abraham. Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and rose again three days later, in payment for our sins. Jesus Christ, who is the only way to salvation.

“⁶Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6 (NKJV)

Through Jesus Christ we have the only path to salvation and scripture tells us, it is of the Jews.

“²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.”
John 4:21-22 (NKJV)

Have all the nations of the world been blessed through Abraham? Absolutely and unequivocally Yes!

⁶ What is the two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict?, Reuters, July 30, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/what-is-two-state-solution-israel-palestinian-conflict-2024-01-25/>

Has this part of the covenant with Abraham been fulfilled? Well, yes, but it's not over yet. We are told, by Jesus, that salvation is "of the Jews."

That will be true again during the period known as the Tribulation when 144,000 are chosen from the twelve tribes of Israel for a very specific purpose.

"¹After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. ²Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

⁵of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;

⁶of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;

⁷of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;

⁸of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed."

Revelation 7:1-8 (NKJV)

It is not a coincidence that, immediately following this passage about the selection and sealing of the 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel, John sees, *“⁹After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”* Revelation 7:9-10 (NKJV)

One of the elders asked John if he knew who this multitude was, and he responded that the elder knew.

“¹³Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, ‘Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?’ ¹⁴And I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ So he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 7:13-17 (NKJV)

The multitude wearing white robes that John sees are those who are saved during the Tribulation. At a time when the Gospel will not be heard every Sunday morning, bibles are likely banned, and those who do dare to preach the true Gospel of Jesus Christ do so under the threat of martyrdom,

these 144,000 from the tribes of Israel continue to share the Word of God.

We know the Abrahamic Covenant:

1. Was unconditional. The reforming of the nation of Israel, after all their years of sinning – even to the point of rejecting God’s own Son – verifies the covenant is unconditional. There are no conditions under which Israel could lose the blessings promised under this covenant or which would cause God to revoke it.
2. Was confirmed. The covenant was confirmed in a blood covenant, but the only One who walked through the sacrificed animals was God, because the covenant is by Him alone.
3. Has not been fulfilled. There are four parts to this covenant:
 - a. “Will multiply you exceedingly” Genesis 17:2
 - b. “You shall be a father of many nations.” Genesis 17:4
 - c. “Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession.” Genesis 17:8
 - d. “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 22:18

Only two of which can be said to be fulfilled – b and d.

God’s promises are forever, so there must be more to the story of Israel that we have yet to see for all these promises to be fulfilled. God is not done with Israel.

Chapter Two

Mosaic Covenant – The Law

Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and towards the “Promised Land.” The journey should have taken about 11 days, but lasted 40 years. Three months into their odyssey to the Promised Land, after having witnessed the Lord’s protection of them, the Israelites were encamped in the wilderness at the base of Mt. Sinai. Moses looked to God for answers.

“³And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ⁴‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” Exodus 19:3-6 (NKJV)

When Moses returned to the encampment and told the Israelites what God had instructed him to say, they were all in agreement and eager to do whatever God, through Moses, told them to do.

“⁷So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. ⁸Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.” Exodus 19:7-8 (NKJV)

Over the next five chapters of Exodus, the Lord lays out to Moses very specific laws about how the Israelites will live, beginning with the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. And, again, the Israelites eagerly agreed to all that God, through Moses, told them to do.

“³So Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, 'All the words which the Lord has said we will do.'” Exodus 24:3 (NKJV)

But their eagerness to obey couldn't overcome their impatience when Moses went back up Mt. Sinai and stayed for 40 days and nights. They wanted a god to worship, so they went to Aaron.

“¹Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, 'Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'” Exodus 32:1 (NKJV)

Aaron agreed and the golden calf was made. God was not pleased when He saw what was happening in the Israelite encampment and called them a “stiff-necked” people.

“⁷And the Lord said to Moses, 'Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. ⁸They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' ⁹And the Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! ¹⁰Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.'” Exodus 32:7-10 (NKJV)

Amazing, isn't it? The Israelites had witnessed first-hand their salvation through miracles from the Lord. They had seen the cloud by day and the fire by night leading them. They had eaten the daily manna from heaven and had even witnessed the glory of God on Mt. Sinai. They had agreed to obey every commandment sent by God, but at the first imagined sign of being forsaken, when Moses was gone “too long” on Mt. Sinai, they turned

back to their old ways and created, worshipped, and offered sacrifices to a false god in the form of a golden calf.

Was God surprised at the iniquities of His people? No, God is never surprised. He knew when He gave them this covenant they would break it.

Then, why give it? Let's examine the Scripture and see if we can figure out why God gave this conditional covenant, knowing it would be broken.

We know the Abrahamic Covenant, given about four hundred years earlier, was unconditional and could not be changed, revoked, or broken. In fact, God mentions it again to Moses, even after seeing the willingness of the Israelites to betray their promise to God.

"¹Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' ²And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. ³Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.'" Exodus 33:1-3 (NKJV)

God could have wiped the Israelites off the face of the earth after their betrayal, and, indeed, many lives were lost in payment for their sin (Exodus 32:25-29). But God had made a promise and He would keep it. He kept a remnant of the original people that left Israel, reconfirmed the covenant, and led them to a place He would prepare for them.

"¹⁰And He said: 'Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you. ¹¹Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

¹²Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst." Exodus 34:10-12 (NKJV)

But the question remains," Why?"

The Abrahamic Covenant was given to Abraham and his descendants because of Abraham's faith. It was to be the example of how our salvation comes, not through our own works or worthiness, but through our faith in God. Paul reminds us, in Romans, that Abraham's faith is how he was justified in righteousness.

"¹What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.'" Romans 4:1-3 (NKJV)

The Mosaic Covenant was given to the Israelites, not to bring them to salvation, but to show them 1) they couldn't work for, or buy through animal sacrifices, their own salvation, and 2) salvation is from the Lord, not through their own works.

1. Is the Mosaic Covenant Conditional?

Yes, the Mosaic Covenant is a conditional covenant, as stated in the passage from Exodus, *"⁵Now therefore, **if you will** indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine."* Exodus 19:3-6 (NKJV) (emphasis added)

But we should add a note of caution. Even when the Israelites broke the covenant – which they did, repeatedly – the promise God made did not change. In other words, the Israelites did not lose their special status with God, but would suffer the consequences in the

form of curses and exile. We can read the full listing of those consequences in Deuteronomy 28.

2. Was the Covenant Confirmed?

Yes, the Mosaic Covenant was confirmed with a form of a blood covenant. Unlike the Abrahamic Covenant however, it is the Israelites, and Moses specifically, who make the blood covenant, as we read in Exodus 24.

"⁴And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. ⁶And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, 'All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.' ⁸And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words.'" Exodus 24:4-8 (NKJV)

3. Has the Covenant been Fulfilled?

Yes, but probably not in the way we may think. We'll study that more in the section about the New Covenant. The Mosaic Covenant was fulfilled by Jesus Christ, as He stated in Matthew.

"¹⁷'Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.'" Matthew 5:17-18 (NKJV)

The Mosaic Covenant was given to show the Israelites, and through them the whole world, that they needed a Messiah. A Messiah through whom

they all could approach God, not just the High Priests on specific days. A Messiah who could offer permanent atonement for sin, not just a temporary atonement through animal sacrifices. A Messiah who would cleanse them through His blood, not a ritualistic cleansing in front of a temple.

The Mosaic Covenant was a conditional covenant, and we read in Deuteronomy 28 the specific blessings, and curses, if the people of Israel do not obey the commandments. It should be noted, however, that nowhere in the listing of curses for disobedience is the Abrahamic Covenant broken, or the promise from God that the Israelites will be His Chosen People revoked.

Even after the Israelites occupied the Promised Land, they sinned and were exiled. But the promise never changed and, even after the last exile in 70 AD, they were brought back to the land promised to them, as prophesied by Isaiah.

"⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; ⁶I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth—⁷Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him." Isaiah 43:5-7 (NKJV)

The Mosaic Covenant was an imperfect covenant given to imperfect people. But it was given to lay the foundation for the perfect covenant to come. It was given to fulfill God's plan and purpose.

Chapter Three

Davidic Covenant – The Kingdom

In the interim period between God's giving the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants and ultimately consummating a covenant with David, Israel sinned over and over. Yes, sometimes they followed God and served Him with clean hearts, but mostly they sinned against and forsook God. But even then, God did not abrogate the unilateral promise found in the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants. The following pages demonstrate God's faithfulness in carrying out his covenant promises despite Israel's waywardness.

Moses led the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt and to the borders of the Promised Land. But Moses, and most of his generation, were not permitted to enter Canaan, the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because of their iniquities. Instead, it was Joshua who led Israel into the Promised Land after forty years wandering in the desert. Moses died just before they crossed over into Canaan, but not before the Lord reconfirmed the Abrahamic covenant with Moses.

*"¹Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. ⁴**Then the Lord said to him, 'This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.'** ⁵So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. ⁶And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished. ⁸And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the*

plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended." Deuteronomy 34:1-8 (NKJV) (emphasis added)

Before he died, Moses also gives Israel a final warning reminding them of the Lord's promise and that it is not because of their righteousness that God is fulfilling His promise.

*"⁴Do not think in your heart, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to possess this land'; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out from before you. ⁵**It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land**, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ⁶Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people."* Deuteronomy 9:3-6 (NKJV) (emphasis added)

Joshua was a wise man and led his people well, though even under Joshua's leadership, the Israelites sinned. But when Joshua died, chaos ensued. Those who followed Joshua and his generation had not personally witnessed the mighty hand of God when He delivered them from the Egyptians and it wasn't long before they forgot about Moses' warning.

"¹¹Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals; ¹²and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. ¹³They forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. ¹⁴And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all

around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies." Judges 2:11-14 (NKJV)

Even then, however, the Lord did not forget His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Instead, He appointed judges to rule over the tribal lands. But the Israelites wouldn't listen to the judges, either.

"¹⁶Nevertheless, the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. ¹⁷Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the Lord; they did not do so. ¹⁸And when the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. ¹⁹And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way." Judges 2:16-19 (NKJV)

God could have driven the Israelites out of Canaan for their unfaithfulness, but He once again showed His infinite mercy. Instead of forcing them to leave the land promised to them, He just removed His protection from them. God made a promise and it was not going to be broken.

"²⁰Then the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice, ²¹I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, ²²so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the Lord, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not." ²³Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua." Judges 2:20-23 (NKJV)

Throughout the book of Judges, the Israelites turned their back on God and He, even after removing His protection from them, was ever faithful and would raise up a deliverer to save His people.

1. Othniel, delivered Israel from slavery under Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia - Judges 3:7-11
2. Ehud, son of Gera, delivered Israel from slavery under Eglon, king of Moa - Judges 3:12-30
3. Shamgar, son of Anath, killed 600 Philistines - Judges 3:31
4. Deborah, delivered Israel from Jabin, king of Canaan - Judges 4
5. Gideon, son of Joash the Abiezrite, delivered Israel from the Midianites - Judges 6:11- Judges 8:21
6. Jephthah, delivered Israel from the king of Ammon - Judges 11:1-33
7. Samson, son of Manoah, delivered Israel from the Philistines - Judges 13 - Judges 15

The list goes on throughout the book of Judges. Although the people of Israel sinned, forsook the God of their fathers, even to the point of worshipping false gods, God never forgot His promise. He chastised them, yes, but He did not destroy them nor did He drive them from the land promised to them. Either of which He could have easily, and justifiably, done, but He is a God of infinite mercy and when they finally realized their sin and turned to Him, He was faithful and merciful and brought them back to their inheritance.

Over and over again, the Israelites were threatened, and often overcome, by the surrounding nations – all led by kings. The judgeships weren't really working due to the defiance of the Israelites, and the people of Israel wanted to present a united front to their enemies. So, they demanded a king.

¹Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. ²The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second,

Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. ³But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. ⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵and said to him, 'Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.'" 1 Samuel 8:1-5 (NKJV)

Samuel, being a wise and faithful man of God, asked God what he should do with this demand, and God answered.

"And the Lord said to Samuel, 'Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. ⁸According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. ⁹Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.'¹⁰So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked him for a king. ¹¹And he said, 'This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. ¹²He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. ¹³He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. ¹⁴And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. ¹⁵He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. ¹⁶And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. ¹⁸And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day.'" 1 Samuel 8:7-18 (NKJV)

Reading through the faithlessness of Israel, their repeated deliverance from the hands of their enemies, and their eventual demand for a king, it would almost seem as if God was reactionary; reacting to the events that unfold rather than setting those events in motion. But do not make that mistake – God is not surprised by the actions, or demands, of the Israelites and, in fact, all these events and demands are the foundation for God's ultimate plan. The Israelites wanted a kingdom and, as we shall see, that kingdom was part of God's plan all along. The throne, that would become David's throne, will play an important part in Israel's future role in the end times.

Saul, anointed by God through the prophet Samuel, became Israel's first real king. But allow me a brief segue here, as there is an interesting event that happens with his anointing.

Samuel speaks to Saul:

*"⁵After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying. ⁶Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them **and be turned into another man.**" 1 Samuel 10:5-6 (NKJV) (emphasis added)*

*"⁹So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that **God gave him another heart**; and all those signs came to pass that day." 1 Samuel 10:9 (NKJV) (emphasis added)*

There are many times, in Jeremiah and Ezekiel and the Psalms, where God promises us a new heart, but this verse reminded me of a verse in Ephesians.

*"¹⁷This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²²that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and **that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.**" Ephesians 4:17-24 (NKJV) (emphasis added)*

This verse in 1 Samuel reminds us that, even though the Old Testament believers did not have the gift of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit was very active and present in the time of the Old Testament. Even then, the Holy Spirit was working through man to fulfill God's complete and total plan of salvation.

Now back to the events that led up to the Davidic Covenant.

Saul was king of Israel, anointed by God through the prophet Samuel and chosen by public acclamation. While he was king, he destroyed many of Israel's enemies but then disobeyed God when he failed to destroy the Amalekites. In the end, it was his own disobedience and jealousy that brought him down. He fell on his own sword in the battle against the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:1-6).

After Saul refused to obey God in dealing with the Amalekites, God spoke to His prophet Samuel, *"¹¹I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My*

commandments.” And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night.” 1 Samuel 15:11 (NKJV)

Samuel went to Saul and told him what the Lord had given him.

*“²⁶But Samuel said to Saul, 'I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.' ²⁷And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸So Samuel said to him, **“The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.** ²⁹And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent.” 1 Samuel 15:26-29 (NKJV) (emphasis added)*

Who was this neighbor of Saul’s who would be the second King of Israel?

It was an unknown shepherd boy, the youngest son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who came to prominence by killing a giant named Goliath with a stone thrown from his slingshot. The shepherd boy’s name was David.

At first, Saul was much impressed with this shepherd boy and offered his daughter, Michal, to him for marriage, then later took her back and gave her to another. So, Saul did not stay impressed with David for long and became very jealous of David when the people proclaimed David as a better warrior than Saul. We won’t go into the full story of Saul and David’s relationship here, but it is a fascinating insight into Saul’s degeneration.

After Saul’s death, David is anointed King of Judah, as Israel was in conflict with north and south battling each other. He served as King of Judah for seven and a half years, before being proclaimed King of all Israel.

“¹Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, 'Indeed we are your bone and your flesh.' ²Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the Lord said to you, ‘You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over

Israel.' ³Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord. And they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. ⁵In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah." 2 Samuel 5:1-5 (NKJV)

David conquered the enemies of Israel and proclaimed Jerusalem as his capitol. He brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem and placed it in a tent. But he was not happy with that temporary housing for the Ark and sought out the prophet Nathan about building a more permanent home for it.

"¹Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies all around, ²that the king said to Nathan the prophet, 'See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.'" 2 Samuel 7:1-2 (NKJV)

Nathan then told him the words God had given him.

*"⁸Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. ¹⁰Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, ¹¹since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the Lord tells you that He will make you a house. ¹²**When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his Father,***

and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever. ’ ” 2 Samuel 7:8-16 (NKJV) (emphasis added)

The Lord God just made a unilateral covenant with David, a man later described by Luke as “a man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22). (NKJV)

Let’s take a look at the four elements of this covenant.

1. *“¹²When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.”* 2 Samuel 7:12 (NKJV)

David will die, but his descendants will rule over a kingdom.

2. *“¹³He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”* 2 Samuel 7:13 (NKJV)

It is David’s seed, in fact his son Solomon, who will build the Lord’s house – the first temple. The kingdom established will be an eternal kingdom – this is critical to understanding Israel’s role in eschatology.

3. *“¹⁴I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.”* 2 Samuel 7:14-15 (NKJV)

Even when Israel falters in her allegiance and faithfulness to God, the bond set forth here will not be broken. God will chastise His people, but He will always have a special relationship with them. This is also crucial to understanding Israel’s role in the end times.

4. *"¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." 2 Samuel 7:16 (NKJV)*

David's kingdom, as previously shown, will be an eternal kingdom and his throne will be established...not for a time, not for a while, but forever. Again, this is crucial to understanding Israel's role in eschatology.

1. Is the Davidic Covenant conditional?

Just like the Abrahamic Covenant, this is a unilateral covenant from God to David and David's descendants. And, just like the Abrahamic Covenant, neither David nor his descendants could break, change, or revoke it. So, it is considered an unconditional covenant.

However, if we look a bit further in the Scripture, we do see conditions applied.

"¹And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished building the house of the Lord and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he wanted to do, ²that the Lord appeared to Solomon the second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon. ³And the Lord said to him: 'I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. ⁴Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, ⁵then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' ⁶But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but

go and serve other gods and worship them, ⁷then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples. ⁸And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?' ⁹Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the Lord has brought all this calamity on them.' " 1 Kings 9:1-9 (NKJV)

What does this mean? Is the Davidic Covenant conditional or unconditional?

While the Davidic Covenant is considered to be an unconditional covenant, there are conditions applied to David's son, Solomon. Solomon did turn away and he did forsake God, so he, and many of his descendants, did not experience the fullness of the promise made to David. God's house, the grand temple that Solomon built, was later destroyed and there was a time when no seed of David or Solomon sat upon David's throne.

But God remained faithful. Even after Israel split into two kingdoms, there was, for a time, still a grandson of David's sitting on his throne. The northern part, ruled by Jeroboam, fell into idol worship, worshipping Baal. The southern part, under the kingship of Rehoboam, Solomon's son, remained, at least outwardly, faithful to God. But their faithfulness did not last and when Babylon invaded Israel, David's throne was destroyed and the kingdom dissolved.

But wait ... if David's throne is destroyed and the kingdom abolished, then what are these New Testament verses talking about:

"³⁰Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and **the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.** ³³**And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,** and of His kingdom there will be no end.'" Luke 1:30-33 (NKJV) (emphasis added)

*"¹⁴Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. ¹⁵And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: ¹⁶**'After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up;** ¹⁷So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord who does all these things.'" Acts 15:14-17 (NKJV) (emphasis added)*

When James stood up before the Pharisees to make this statement, the house of David was in collapse, yet James clearly saw the future fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant in Jesus Christ and the church that began on that day of Pentecost.

God is faithful and He intends to keep His promises. Just like the promise of Israel's return to the land has happened in this generation, the rest of the promises of the everlasting kingdom and David's throne will also be fulfilled...in God's timing, not ours.

2. Was the Davidic Covenant confirmed?

There is a blood sacrifice given to confirm the Davidic Covenant, but it was not given until many years later.

The sacrificial offering of Jesus Christ's death on the cross confirms both the Messianic and eternal nature of the Davidic covenant.

3. Was the Davidic Covenant fulfilled?

As mentioned above, there is a Messianic and eternal nature of the Davidic Covenant.

The Messianic part has been fulfilled, as shown in Luke.

"³⁰Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.'" Luke 1:30-33 (NKJV)

The eternal part, "³³And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end" is ongoing, but we need to pay attention to the last part of verse 32, "*the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David*". Where will Jesus reign when He returns? On earth, sitting on David's throne. We'll cover this more fully in a later section.

Abraham was chosen, not by his works, but by his faithfulness. David was chosen, not by his own merit, but by God's sovereign will. The Davidic Covenant shows us God's divine Will, His Sovereignty, and His divine election in carrying out His plan of salvation.

The Davidic Covenant also gives us hope for the future, as we know our Messiah, Jesus Christ, will return and will, one day, sit on David's throne. This is not allegorical or symbolic. This is a divine promise from God and we know God does not break His promises.

Chapter Four

Are the Covenants Still Valid Today?

The last three chapters looked at each of three of the covenants given to Israel – the Abrahamic Covenant, the Mosaic Covenant, and the Davidic Covenant. Two of these – the Abrahamic Covenant and the Davidic Covenant – were unilateral – given by God. The Mosaic Covenant was conditional and confirmed not by God, but by Moses in the sprinkling of blood on the leaders of the twelve tribes of Israel.

But are they still in full force and effect today? Let's take a look again at each one and see what Scripture reveals, and what history confirms, on whether these three covenants, or any of them, are still valid today.

1. The Abrahamic Covenant

God had already spoken to Abraham and given the covenant, then He spoke to him again and reconfirmed it in Genesis 12.

*¹⁴And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: 'Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are— northward, southward, eastward, and westward; ¹⁵**for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.** ¹⁶And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. ¹⁷Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.'"* Genesis 13:14 – 17 (NKJV) (emphasis added)

The original Hebrew for the translation "forever" in this verse is actually two words – ki (for) and olam (ever). The second word, olam, means "eternity, everlasting, forever, perpetual, ancient, world" (Strong's), or time without end.

That same word, *olam*, is used three times in Genesis 17 (verses 7, 13, and 19), so God apparently meant it to be an everlasting, eternal covenant between Him and Abraham and Abraham's descendants. It is repeated in the confirmation of the covenant to Isaac (Genesis 26:2-4) and Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15), so the covenant was still valid beyond Abraham.

In fact, long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were gone, Peter the Apostle still considered it valid, even after the events at Pentecost and the "birth" of the Church, *"²⁵You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'²⁶To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."* Acts 3:25-26 (NKJV)

Luke is reiterating that the covenant belongs to those of Abraham's descendants – the Jews – and it has not changed hands or been transferred to any other people. It is Israel who will inhabit the land and it is Israel who will benefit from the blessings in the Abrahamic Covenant and, through those descendants, the world will be blessed.

It becomes evident, especially after the rebirth of the nation of Israel in 1948 – a literal, though partial, fulfillment, that while Israel sinned repeatedly and may have temporarily forfeited the blessings of the covenant, God meant it to be forever and the whole of it, the entirety of the covenant, will, one day, be fulfilled. We can't break the parts of the covenant down and say, 'well, this part is literal, but the rest of it is figurative.' That would be trying to make Scripture fit our worldview, instead of letting Scripture dictate our worldview.

2. The Mosaic Covenant

As we have seen, the Mosaic Covenant was conditional upon Moses and the Israelites following the commandments – the Law – given in Exodus, Leviticus, and into Deuteronomy. That law was very specific and governed every area of the individual's life, as well as how the Israelites would be governed.

But the Israelites failed, over and over again, to keep the commandments even to the point of worshipping idols.

So, is the Mosaic Covenant still valid today? We'll let Jesus answer the question.

"¹⁷Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." Matthew 5:17-18 (NKJV)

The old covenant, the Mosaic Covenant, was faulty, but it served a purpose. It showed the Israelites, and through them – the world - that they needed a Messiah. They could not fulfill and keep the commandments in their original sin nature. They needed someone to intercede for them, and for all of us, before God.

They needed a sacrificial Lamb. The Lamb of God fulfilled the law and gave us a New Covenant, a more perfect covenant.

"⁷For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. ⁸Because finding fault with them, He says: 'Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— ⁹not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. ¹⁰For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord:

I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Hebrews 8:7-10 (NKJV)

With this new covenant, the law would not be written on stone tablets, but *"on their hearts."*

We will delve further into this New Covenant in the next section.

We have to be careful here, however. While the New Covenant is eventually extended to those not of Jewish descent, it does not replace or remove the Abrahamic Covenant or the eventual fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant. God is not done with Israel, as we will see in the section about the prophecies concerning Israel and her role in the end times.

3. The Davidic Covenant

The Davidic Covenant was unilateral with conditional elements, as we've seen. Did Israel fulfill her side of the covenant? Sometimes, yes, but mostly, no. So, is the Davidic Covenant compromised and no longer valid?

We have to look to the Scriptures to see what God had to say about His covenant with David.

"²⁹His seed also I will make to endure forever, and his throne as the days of heaven. ³⁰If his sons forsake My law and do not walk in My judgments, ³¹If they break My statutes and do not keep My commandments, ³²then I will punish their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. ³³Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, nor allow My faithfulness to fail. ³⁴My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. ³⁵Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: ³⁶His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me; ³⁷it shall be established forever like

the moon, even like the faithful witness in the sky.' Selah" Psalm 89:29-37 (NKJV)

So, even if, or when, the sons of David fail to keep the commandments given to Moses, they will receive punishment but God will not break the covenant or alter it.

It is believed this Psalm was written by Ethan the Ezrahite during a time of great distress for Israel, when she was under siege by the Babylonians.

The sons of David are not currently sitting on his throne in Jerusalem, but just like the promise of the land, while there may be an interruption in the fulfillment due to their own lack of faithfulness, the promise will be fulfilled.

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, will, one day, sit on the throne of David and rule from Jerusalem.

There is one more covenant we have alluded to, but we have yet to really dive into – the New Covenant. The next section will study the New Covenant and answer questions about when it was formed, who it was for, and much more.

Section II

The New Covenant