



The First Abrahamic Covenant

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 15:1-21

REVIEW

The first two covenants recorded in Scripture were made with Noah before the Flood, and the second one year after the Flood

The identification of two separate covenants with Noah is based on three promises

- **Let Scripture speak for itself – Exegesis, not eisegesis!**
- **A covenant is only to be identified as a covenant if Scripture calls it covenant**
- **Once a covenant is made, it cannot be added to, or subtracted from (Gal 3:15)**

INTRODUCTION

The instruction of Genesis 1:28 (the so-called “Edenic Covenant”) and the promise of Genesis 3:15 (the so-called “Adamic Covenant”), are NOT covenants because Scripture does not call them covenants!

This morning we come to the **FIRST OF FOUR** covenants that God made with Abraham

- **Genesis 15:18**
 - **“On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying...”**

When was the First Covenant with Abraham Made?

• **NOT in Gen 12:1-3**

- **Abram (lit., “High Father”) as an unbeliever was promised**
 - **To be shown a land**
 - **Would be made a great nation**
 - **Would be blessed**
 - **His name (reputation) would be made great**

When was the First Covenant with Abraham Made? (continued)

- NOT in Gen 12:1-3

- Abram (lit., “High Father”) as an unbeliever was promised
 - Promised blessings and cursings upon those who blessed or cursed him
 - In Abram all families of the earth (the land, Hebrew: “adamah”) would be blessed
 - Cf Gen 22:17-18 = in Abraham’s Seed (singular, Christ) would all the nations of the earth (Hebrew: “eretz”) be blessed
- These were personal promises

When was the First Covenant with Abraham Made? (continued)

• NOT in Gen 13:14-18

- The land promised him was only so far as he could see (vss 14-15)
- His offspring was promised to be innumerable (vs 16)
- He was supposed to walk through the land in order to claim it (vs 17)
 - He walked away! (vs 18)
- The land covenant was only made in Gen 15:18

The Background to this Covenant of Land

- **God's preparation of Abram's salvation experience (Gen 14)**
 - **War of the 5-king alliance (vss 1-12)**
 - **Abram was alerted of Lot's capture (vs 13)**
 - **Abram's armed pursuit to recover Lot (vss 14-16)**

The Background to this Covenant of Land

(continued)

- **God's preparation of Abram's salvation experience (Gen 14)**
 - **Melchizedek's blessing of Abram (vss 17-23)**
 - by identifying the name of Abram's god: "The Most High God"
 - And His miraculous deliverance
 - **God's promise of personal descendants (vss 1-5)**
 - **Abram's response to the promise: faith (vs 6)**
 - Abram was caused to believe God!
 - God counted his faith for righteousness!

God's Super-Promise (Covenant) of Land

Genesis 15:7-21

- God's promise of land (vs 7)
- Abram's doubt concerning this promise (vs 8)
- God's preparation for the covenant (vss 9-11)
- Abram's nightmare (vs 12)
- God's personal promises to Abram before land covenant made (vss 13-16)
- God, the Holy Spirit, unconditionally make the covenant (vss 17-18)
- This covenant provides land NOT for Abram, BUT for his offspring (18b-21)

CONCLUSION:

God will fulfill this unconditional covenant of land TO ISRAEL.

The CHURCH , on the other hand, is promised “heavens” for our future dwelling

- **John 14:1-3**
- **II Peter 3:13**