**Abrahamic Covenant Part 2**

**A More Detailed Covenant**

In Genesis 17 the Covenant is still unfulfilled but God expands the details to Abraham. In verse 1-8 Abram is now to be the father of nations and this is signified by his name change. In verses 9-14 the law of circumcision is set out. In verses 14-22 Sarai is to become the mother of nations, people and kings and her name is changed. Lastly, in verses 23-27 the act of circumcision is carried out in Abraham’s household.

Abraham is called to be blameless, James 1:4 says that it is to be "to be perfect and complete."

Sarah is promised a son and is name should be Isaac, Ishmael was not to be his heir, v17

I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his descendants after him [Isaac], v19

But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, v21

**The Revelation and Promise of Isaac**

The revelation of Isaac was made known in verse 17 &19 of Genesis 17. In both verses v19 and 21 God states that His covenant shall be with Isaac and that it will be an everlasting Covenant with Isaac and his descendants.

In Genesis 18 Abraham receives a visitation from God and He confirms that Sarah will bear a child the next year. Sarah overhears this and laughs; and God responds by saying:

13And the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear *a child,* since I am old?’ 14**Is anything too hard for the Lord?** At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”

**Genesis 21**

**God fulfils His promise to** **Abraham and Sarah.**

2For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. 3And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him - whom Sarah bore to him - Isaac

And is was as God had said, Sarah bore Isaac at the appointed time. God’s promise is fulfilled of a son to Abraham and Sarah is fulfilled.

**Genesis 21:4-7**

Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. And Sarah said, “God has made me laugh, *and* all who hear will laugh with me.” She also said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne *him* a son in his old age.”

**Isaac became a wonderful type or picture of the Messiah to come, Jesus Christ.**

**Both were specially promised sons.**

* Both conceptions were miraculous.
* Both were born after a period of delay.
* Both mothers were given assurance by truth of God’s omnipotence (Genesis 18:13-14; Luke 1:34, 37)
* Both were given names rich with meaning before they were born.
* Both births occurred at God’s appointed time (Genesis 21:2; Galatians 4:4)
* Both births were accompanied by great joy (Genesis 21:6; Luke 1:46-47; 2:10-11)[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Strife between Ishmael and Isaac (v8-14)**

Sarah saw the son of the bondwoman scoffing (mocking or ridiculing) her son Isaac, this displeased Sarah and she said to Abraham that Ishmael shall not be heir with Isaac.

Sarah asked Abraham so send the bondwoman and her son away, God told Abraham to take his wife’s advice and send the bondwoman and her son away.

**The Covenant was tested (Gen 22)**

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!”

And he said, “Here I am.”

2Then He said, “**Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac**, **whom you love**, and go to **the land of Moriah,** and **offer him there** as a **burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

Abraham was counted and righteous, so was it necessary for God to test Abraham’s faith? Does this mean that God endorses human sacrifice?

**Genesis 21:3-8**

3So Abraham rose **early in the morning** and saddled his donkey, **and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son**; and **he split the wood for the burnt offering**, **and arose and went to the place of which God had told him**. 4Then **on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off**. 5And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; **the lad and I will go yonder and worship**, and we will come back to you.”

6**So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son**; and he took **the fire in his hand**, and a **knife**, and **the two of them went together**. 7But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!”

And he said, “Here I am, my son.”

Then he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but **where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?”**

8And Abraham said, “My son, **God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering**.” So the two of them went together.

Abraham did as God instructed him and took his son to mount Moriah to be sacrificed. In conversation with his son, his son asked, where is the sacrifice, and Abraham responded that God, himself will provide the lamb for the offering.

“God, himself will provide the lamb for the offering” – those were prophetic words but did Abraham believe those words at that time.

Abraham understood that a sacrifice to God is an act or worship even if it your only son, that is the son of the promise, an heir.

**Genesis 21:9-12**

9And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

10And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

11And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

12And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

**Hebrew 11: 17-19**

17 It was faith that made Abraham offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice when God put Abraham to the test. Abraham was the one to whom God had made the promise, yet he was ready to offer his only son as a sacrifice. 18 God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that you will have the descendants I promised.” 19Abraham reckoned that God was able to raise Isaac from death — and, so to speak, Abraham did receive Isaac back from death.

**ISAAC**

**GEN. 21 – 35** There are many clear types or pictures of Christ in the Old Testament, and the life of Isaac is no exemption. Note the similarities.[[2]](#footnote-2)

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| --- | --- |
| **ISAAC** | **JESUS** |
| 1. The seed of Abraham | The Seed of Abraham **Gal.3:16** |
| 2. A promised Son | A promised Son **Is. 9:6 & 7:14** |
| 3. Long Awaited | Promised to Adam & Eve **Gen.3:15** |
| 4. God’s power promised. **Gen.18:14** | Also promised to Mary. **Luke 1:37**  |
| 5. Named before birth | His Name shall be Jesus. **Mat.1:21** |
| 6. Miracle Birth | Virgin Birth – a miracle **Is. 7:14** |
| 7. Birth connected with judgement on Sodom & Gomorrah | Jesus birth connected with Judgement of sin at Calvary. **Gen.18** |
| 8. Born after & mocked by Ishmael | Born after the Law and mocked by Pharisees. |

**The** **Covenant was God dependant**

Isaac was the promised son of Abraham and circumcision was a symbolic requirement or sign of the Covenant.

So, if one was born as Jew or Israelite and circumcised, were they automatically under the Covenant or a descendent of Abraham?

Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked [stubborn] - Deut 10.16

***Was the Covenant*** ***Unconditional or Conditional?***

It was Unconditional in that God made the promises and sealed the Covenant in relation to the promised land to his descendants, great nation, shall be a blessing.

The Conditionality of the based on:

* “the timing of and participants in that fulfilment are conditioned by faith-produced human obedience.
* In our judgment, the conditionality was not attached to the promise but only to the participants who would benefit from these abiding promises. . . . The duty of obedience (law, if you wish) was intimately tied up with promise as a desired sequel.”

**The Descendants of Abraham**

***Who are the true descendants of ABRAHAM?***

God raised up his servant Jesus the Messiah (described in Isaiah 53) to fulfil the promises God made to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This fulfilment comes through Jesus, through whom Israel and the nations receive the blessing of atonement for sins (“turning every one of you from your wickedness”) and the knowledge of God Himself.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Acts 3:24-26**

24Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. 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 Son Jesus**, sent Him **to bless you**, in turning away every one *of you* from your iniquities.”

**Romans 2:29**

29But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

**Galatians 3:13-14**

13Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

**Romans 9: 6-8**

6But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel, 7nor *are they* all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.” 8That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

**Jesus Fulfils the Abrahamic Covenant**

**Galatians 3:29**

29And if you *are* Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

***Connecting the Covenant to Jesus Christ***

1. **Land**
*Hebrews 11:10.For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*
2. **Seed**
*Galatians 3:16. The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.*
3. **Blessing**
*Jesus IS our blessing. Not just his death, but also his very life. His life lives in us by faith. In Christ we have every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3).[[4]](#footnote-4)*

**Matthew 1**

The book of the genealogyof Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

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1. David Guzik, *Genesis 18 Commentary*, <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/genesis-18/> (17 Jan 2019) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
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3. Jews for Jesus,*The Messiah would be the descendant of Abraham through whom all nations would be blessed,*https://jewsforjesus.org/jewish-resources/messianic-prophecy/the-messiah-would-be-the-descendant-of-abraham-through-whom-all-nations-would-be-blessed/, (04 March 2019) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Brady Wolcott, *How Jesus Fulfills the Abrahamic Covenant,* <https://gbcbowie.org/blog/how-jesus-fulfills-the-abrahamic-covenant/> (04 March 2019) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)