

Christ in the Abrahamic Covenant



Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-21

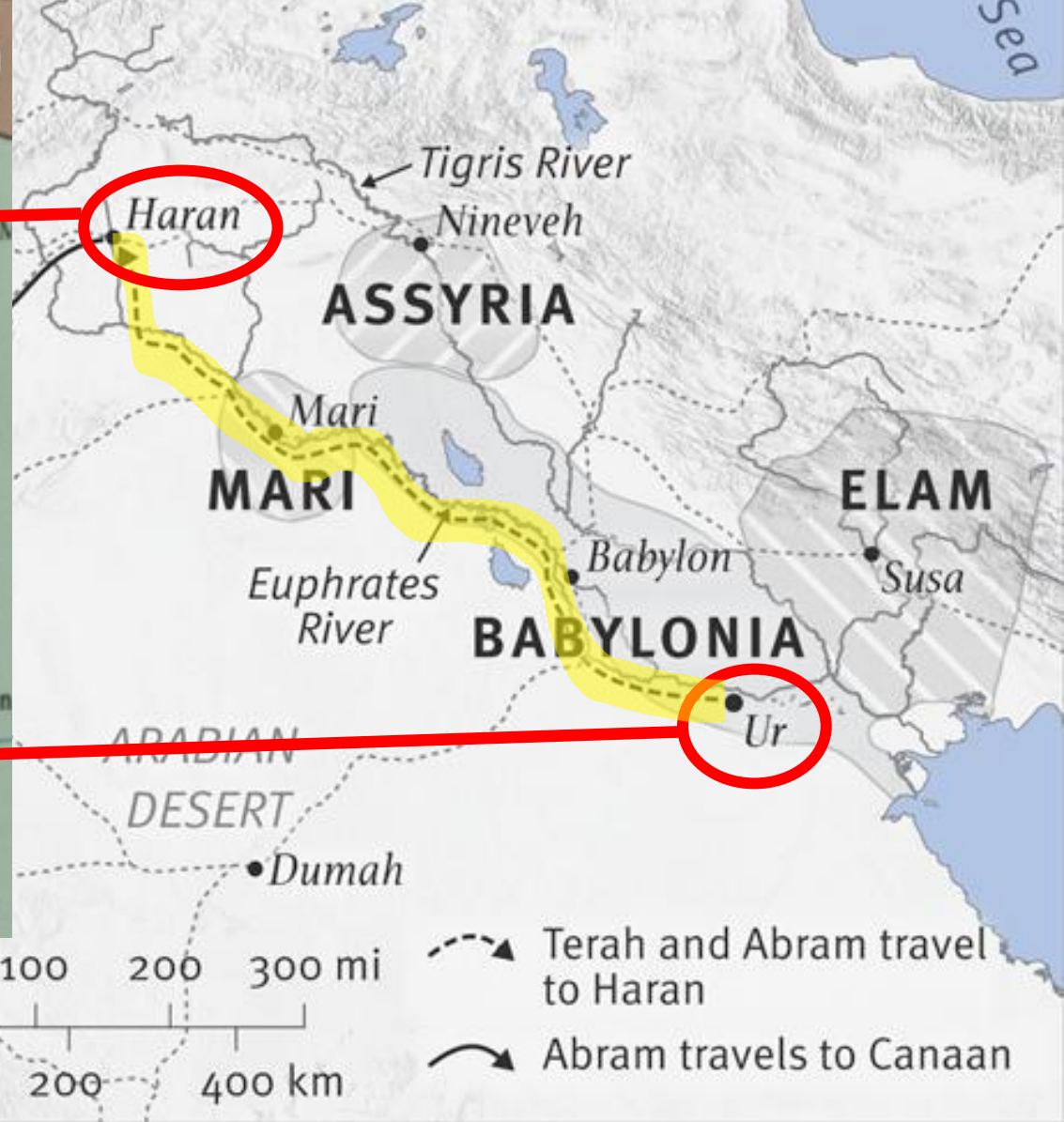
Background on Abram

☞ Terah becomes father of Abram, Nahor, Haran (11:27-28)

Joshua 24:2 Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘From ancient times **your fathers** lived beyond the River, namely, **Terah**, the father of **Abraham** and the father of **Nahor**, and **they served other gods**.’

Background on Abram

- ❧ Terah becomes father of Abram, Nahor, Haran (11:27-28)
- ❧ Abram takes Sarai as his wife and they are childless (vv29-30)
- ❧ Terah and family leave Ur and settle in Haran, where Terah later dies (vv31-32)



God's Calling, Commands, and Promises to Abram (12:1-3,7)

❧ The Calling (v1a)

❧ The Commands (v1b)

- Leave your country
- Leave your relatives
- Leave your father's house
- Go to the land that God will show him

❧ The Promises (vv2-3,7)

- Nation
- Seed
- Blessing
- Land

Subsequent Events

Chapter

12

✧ Abram goes to Egypt due to a famine, has a lapse of faith in concealing Sarai's identity, and is deported out of Egypt (12:9-20)

13

✧ Abram and Lot separate, with Abram settling in the land of Canaan (13:1-13)

✧ God reaffirms and elaborates His promises to Abram (13:14-17)

✧ Abram moves to Hebron and worships (13:18)

14

✧ Various conflicts occur between Mesopotamian kings in Canaan, with Lot being captured (14:1-12)

✧ Abram defeats the conquering Mesopotamian kings and rescues Lot along with the people and possessions (14:13-16)

✧ Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God, recognizes and blesses Abram as a man of God (14:17-20)

✧ Abram refuses to profit at the hands of the wicked king of Sodom and his people (14:21-24)

God Reaffirms and Elaborates His Covenant with Abram (15:1-21)

- ✧ God gives Abram a sign that he will have many descendants (vv1-5)
 - Physical descendants
 - Innumerable descendants

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- ✧ Abram believes God and God reckons it to him as righteousness (v6)

God Reaffirms and Elaborates His

Co

Romans 4:3³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

☞ God gives

☞ Abram bel

Romans 4:9⁹Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness.”

Romans 4:22²²Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness.

Galatians 3:6⁶Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.

James 2:23²³and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God.

God Reaffirms and Elaborates His Covenant with Abram (15:1-21)

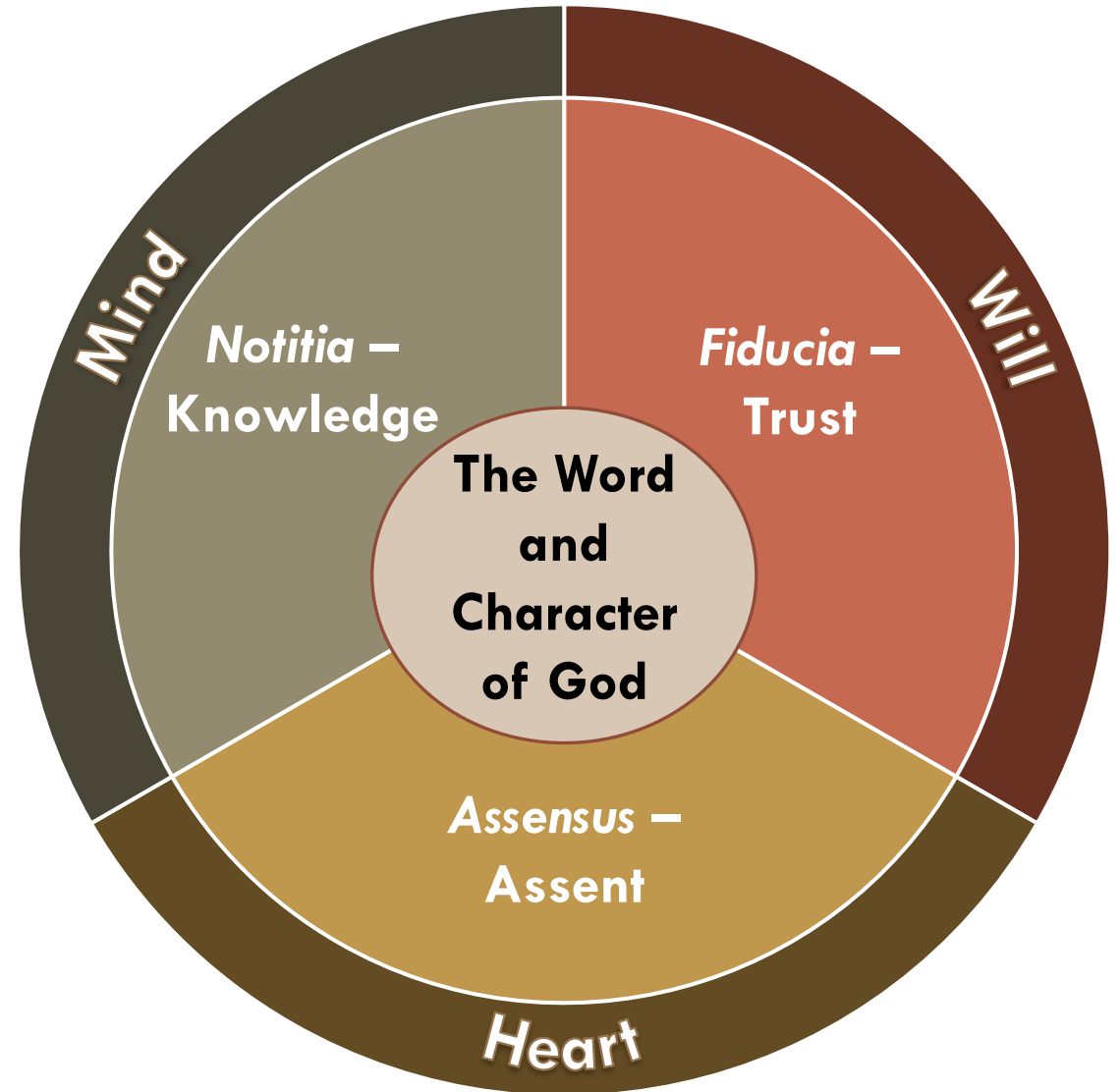
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Hebrews 11:6 ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

WHAT IS BIBLICAL FAITH

Definition:

Biblical faith is absolute trust in God and what He has declared to be true



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- ❧ Abram believes God and God reckons it to him as righteousness (v6)
- ❧ God assures Abram that he and his descendants will possess the land (vv7-21)
 - God reaffirms His promise concerning the land, but Abram asks for confirmation (vv7-8)
 - God instructs Abram to prepare for a ceremonial sign for confirmation (vv9-12)
 - God says that Abram's descendants will spend 400 years enslaved and oppressed, but will return to the land with many possessions (vv13-16)
 - God makes a divine oath to assure Abram that He will keep His promises (v17-21)

Significance of the Abrahamic Covenant

✧ A Covenant of Sovereign Grace

- God sovereignly initiated and called Abram, an idolater, to enter into a covenant relationship (12:1)
- God sovereignly calls sinners to salvation through grace alone in Christ (Eph 2:8-9, Rom 3:24, Rom 8:29-30, Eph 1:4-6)

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 3:24 ²⁴being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

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Romans 8:29–30 ²⁹For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

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Ephesians 1:4-6 ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Significance of the Abrahamic Covenant

✧ A Covenant of Sovereign Grace

✧ A Covenant of Promises

- Great nation

- Abram will be a great nation (Gen 12:2)

- Christ has His own kingdom which will have no end (Luke 1:32-33)

Luke 1:32-33 ³²“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

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- Seed

- Abram will have many descendants/seed (Gen 12:2, 15:4-5, 17:6)

- ❧ Physical (15:4-5)

- ❧ Spiritual (Gen 12:3c; Gal 3:7, 3:29)

Galatians 3:7⁷Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

Galatians 3:29²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

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Luke 3:23-34 ²³When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli (*male ancestor of Mary*), ²⁴the son of Matthat,... ³⁴the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham

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Galatians 3:16¹⁶Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

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 - Abram's ultimate physical seed was Christ (Matt 1:1-16, Luke 3:23-34, Gal 3:16)
 - Those in Christ are part of Abram's spiritual seed (Gal 3:7, 3:29)

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❧ A Covenant of Sovereign Grace

❧ A Covenant of Promises

- Great nation
- Seed
- Blessing
 - Abram himself will be blessed (Gen 12:2)
 - Abram will have a great name (Gen 12:2)
 - Abram will be a blessing to all the families of the earth (Gen 12:2-3)
 - Christ, the ultimate Seed of the promise, is the blessing to the entire world through His gospel (Gal 3:8, 3:13-14, Matt 28:19)

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❧ A Covenant of Sovereignty

❧ A Covenant of Promise

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Galatians 3:8 ⁸The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, *saying*, “All the nations will be blessed in you.”

Galatians 3:13–14 ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us — for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” — ¹⁴in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

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Matthew 28:19 ¹⁹“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit”

Significance of the Abrahamic Covenant

❧ A Covenant of Sovereign Grace

❧ A Covenant of Promises

- Great nation
- Seed
- Blessing
- Land

- Abram's descendants will be given the land of Canaan (Gen 12:7)
- Christ is the ultimate seed who inherits not only this land but rules all nations (Matt 25:31-46, Rev 19-20, Heb 1:2)

Hebrews 1:2 ²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Significance of the Abrahamic Covenant

❧ A Covenant of Sovereign Grace

❧ A Covenant of Promises

❧ A Covenant of Faith

- Abram was justified by faith in the Lord (Gen 15:6)
- Faith is likewise the means of justification in Christ (Gal 3:6-9, Rom 3:28)

Romans 3:28²⁸For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

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- ❧ A Covenant of Sovereign Grace
- ❧ A Covenant of Promises
- ❧ A Covenant of Faith
 - Abram was justified by faith in the Lord
 - Faith is likewise the means of justification

Galatians 3:6–9 ⁶Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. ⁷Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. ⁸The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the nations will be blessed in you.” ⁹So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

Closing Reflections

- ❧ Christ can be seen in the Abrahamic Covenant
- ❧ The fulfillment of the everlasting covenant with Abram is seen from the rest of Genesis to Revelation
- ❧ Christ, in his first and second coming, is the perfect fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant
- ❧ If you are a follower of Christ by faith, then rejoice!
 - You are a son of Abraham and are blessed
 - You are a participant in the promised blessings
 - Remember - God never breaks a promise!