

CHRIST

IN THE

OLD TESTAMENT

Passage: Gen 12:1-3, Gen 15

Lesson: A covenant of promised blessing,
and a Savior

Gen 12:1-3, Gen 15 – A covenant of promised blessing

- Introduction

- Our Bible divided into Old Covenant, and New Covenant
- The narrative of the Bible can be seen in terms of covenants
- All the covenants point to Christ: the need for Christ, the nature of Christ, or the work of Christ

Theme: The Abrahamic covenant provides a framework for the fulfillment of Gen 3:15, and introduces the idea of justification in God's eyes by faith, in a coming savior who would need to die to secure our blessing.

I. The early covenants

A. The components of a covenant

1. God's sovereign initiation
2. Exclusive interpersonal commitments
 - a) Dominant party determines the requirements
 - b) Sometimes one party (unconditional), sometimes both parties (conditional)
3. Consequences for keeping or breaking the covenant
 - a) Depends on the nature of the covenant

I. The early covenants

B. The early covenants

Covenant Components	Edenic Covenant (Covenant of works)
God-initiated	"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen 1:1) "Let us make man in Our image." (Gen 1:26)
Commitments by God	Care for man, provide for man (Gen 1, 2:18) Exist in personal relationship with man (Gen 3:8)
by man	Obey the law of God (Gen 2:16-17) Trust in the character, word of God (Gen 3:1-5)
Consequences	Disobedience = Loss of ideal world (the curse: Gen 3:14-19) Loss of intimate relationship with God (Gen 3:24) Obedience = eternal life in fellowship with God

But like Adam, they have transgressed the *covenant*.
Hosea 6:7

- God's promise, as the consequences were made clear (Gen 3:15):

"And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel."

I. The early covenants

A. The early covenants

Covenant Components	Edenic Covenant (Covenant of works)	Noahic Covenant (Unconditional covenant)
God-initiated	"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen 1:1) "Let us make man in Our image." (Gen 1:26)	"I myself do establish my covenant with you" (Gen 6:18, 9:9)
Commitments by God	Care for man, provide for man (Gen 1, 2:18) Exist in personal relationship with man (Gen 3:8)	Never again to flood the earth Never again to destroy all life on earth (Gen 9:11)
by man	Obey the law of God (Gen 2:16-17) Trust in the character, word of God (Gen 3:1-5)	None (unconditional)
Consequences	Obedience = eternal life in fellowship with God Disobedience = Loss of ideal world (the curse: Gen 3:14-19) Loss of intimate relationship with God (Gen 3:24)	Mankind is preserved, stage is set for God's plan of redemption

THE MIGRATION OF ABRAHAM

GEN. 11:27-12:9

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Abraham's migration route
- - -→ Abraham's alternative migration route



II. The Abrahamic Covenant

A. The framework of blessing (Gen 12:1-3)

1. What Abram would leave, by faith
2. What God would provide, through blessing
 - a) What Abram would gain
 - b) What others would gain through Abram
 - c) What mankind would gain through Abram!
 - “in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”
 - God is promising a solution to the original, broken covenant!



II. The Abrahamic Covenant

A. The framework of blessing (Gen 12:1-3)

Application:

- This is the Gospel! God is building on His original promise in Gen 3:15!

The 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.”

Gal 3:8

- God is promising Christ will come, and repair the relationship between God and man broken in the garden.
- God will continue to elaborate as He progressively reveals His plan.

II. The Abrahamic Covenant

- A. The framework of blessing (Gen 12:1-3)
- B. The details of promise (Gen 15)
 - 1. The preamble (vv. 1-3)
 - 2. The promise of a people – the lesson of justification by faith (vv. 4-6)

Application:

- The blessing that would come through the promised seed to make mankind right with God, will come through faith in the work of that Savior!

For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Rom 4:13

II. The Abrahamic Covenant

- A. The framework of blessing (Gen 12:1-3)
- B. The details of promise (Gen 15)
 - 1. The preamble (vv. 1-3)
 - 2. The promise of a people – the lesson of justification by faith (vv. 4-6)
 - 3. The promise of a land – the lesson of an unexpected sacrifice (vv. 7-21)



II. The Abrahamic Covenant

Application:

- A sacrifice is necessary to apply this covenant of promised blessing.
- Man has broken the Edenic covenant, and deserves death. That hasn't changed.
 - The sacrifice must be man to fulfill the Edenic covenant
- But God **alone** ratified the Abrahamic covenant of blessing. He bears the sole responsibility to save and to bless.
 - The sacrifice must be God based on the Abrahamic promise
- How can this be? The incarnation! Christ, the God-man!

In [Christ] all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form.

Col 2:9