

Introduction:

- We are in the fifth message of a series on Covenant
 - We've looked at why we do not see clearly when covenant is mentioned.
 - We've looked at covenant language so we would begin to see covenant throughout the scriptures.
 - We've explored the parts of covenant when covenants are cut.
 - We've looked at the covenants with Adam, Noah, and started with Abrahamic covenant

I. Abraham's Covenant

- A. Archeology reveals that at the time of Abram the Ur of Chaldees was a 'moon worshipping' people. Artifacts say this over and over. Crescent moons are everywhere in that area. Abram was raised by his father Terah.
 1. Terah moves from the Ur of Chaldees to Haran. Note: Terah must have really like Haran because that is the name of his youngest son who died.
 2. Terah dies in Haran and it is there that God speaks to Abram. He is called to leave everything he knows and go to place he has not been.
 - a) He is not a man of great faith, at this point though, he does reverence God.
 - (1) There is a famine in the land so he goes to Egypt.
 - (2) He passes Sarai off as his sister to the Pharaoh of Egypt.
 - (3) He rescues Lot and he builds a second altar—Genesis 13:18, first one is Gen. 12:7.
 - b) In Genesis 14:22, Abram raises his hand to the Lord, God. Yahweh Elohim. Abram taking an oath, prompts God to initiate covenant with him. David saw this, in Ps 25:14.
- B. Covenant begins! Chapter 15 of Genesis
 1. God declares He is Abrams shield - Heb - Magen - "to cover from danger, guardianship of God." *TWOT*. God promises Abram offspring like the stars in the sky.
 2. *"And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness."* (Genesis 15:6, ESV)
 - a) Abram got what he did not earn.
 - b) He was now in right standing with God by faith. Genesis 15:6
 - c) But he doubts how he will possess the land that was spoken of. What does God do? He cuts covenant.
 3. God cuts covenant with Abram. Heifer, goat, ram, dove/pigeon—Blood sacrifice. Abram knows exactly what is happening!
 - a) Abram sleeps as God passes through the pieces.
 - b) God is serving as the covenant representative for Himself and for Abram and his descendants! Abram will never have to say this covenant is dependent upon me! Abram makes no promise oath...all he has to do is believe. **THIS IS THE HEART OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT: IT IS BASED ON GOD'S INITIATIVE NOT MANS!**
 - c) Abram all you have to do is to believe. Time became their enemy as it began to war against their faith.
 - d) Hagar and Ismael.
- C. God is silent for 13 years. Genesis 17 he speaks again regarding the birth of their son Isaac.
 1. Circumcision – shedding of blood.

2. Bare the mark of covenant.
- D. Genesis 22:1 says that God tested Abraham. "Take now your son..."
 1. "Abraham since you have sacrificed your son, I am now required by covenant to commit to do the same for you... For the first time in human history, a man's action has put God himself under covenant obligation." (Garlow, p 73). Revelation 13:8, before the foundation of the world.
 2. This is a direct link to the New Covenant! Salvation is now tied to covenant.
 3. Comparison: Abraham - Jesus. (Garlow).
 - a) Donkey - both rode on a donkey.
 - b) Wood - Isaac was laid on the wood the Son of God was nailed to a cross.
 - c) Dead man for three days journey. Dead man three days in tomb.
 - d) Isaac traveled to Mount Moriah, Jesus walked to same mountain—Mount Calvary.
 - e) Isaac must embrace his father's faith. Jesus is tested and must embrace His Father's faith. "Not my will but yours...Father into your hands I commit my spirit."
- E. The Elements of Covenant
 1. Representative: God represented both Himself and Abram...blazing torch.
 2. Terms and blessings/curses.
 - a) Genesis 12:2-3 *I will make you a great nation.*
 - b) Genesis 15:18-21 *So the Lord made a covenant with Abram that day... I have given this land to you and your descendants. I will be your shield and reward.*
 3. Blood sacrifice.
 - a) The animals of Genesis 15. A covenant was cut.
 - b) Genesis 17 circumcision
 - c) Genesis 22. Isaac was offered but God exchanged him for His Son. "before the foundation of the world."
 4. Marks on the body. Circumcision. Col 2:11— 'Circumcision of the heart.'
 5. Oaths/vows. *"By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."* (Genesis 22:16-18, ESV)
 6. Exchange of names. Abram to Abraham. (He goes from exalted father to father of many) Sarai to Sarah. God is now called: God of Abraham.
 - a) YHWH God takes the H out of his name and puts it in Abraham and Sarah.
 - b) God takes on Abraham's name. God of Abraham.
 7. Exchange of sons. Isaac and Jesus.
 8. Covenant Meal. The three visitors, symbolic of the Lord's presence.
 9. Memorials. Mount Moriah and Mount Calvary share the same location.

Conclusion:

- We see once again the pattern of covenant cutting.
- We see the prophetic picture of a Savior begin to take shape.