

The Difference Between Israel & the Church, *part 2*

Don Cole

The Foundation of Israel in YHVH's Torah

What is the Purpose of YHVH's four Covenants? YHVH established four major Covenants in the Scriptures. Three are expressed in the Torah: the Abrahamic Covenant, the Mosaic Covenant, and the Davidic Covenant. And the fourth is in Nev'im: the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied the New Covenant. These four covenants demonstrate YHVH's covenant-relationship with Israel and the nations. While there are other covenants and promises, these are more relevant to our discussion of Israel.

There was a common practice of treaties in the Ancient Near East during the time these covenants were given.

The Suzerian-Vassel Treaty: The terms of this treaty were dependent upon two parties fulfilling specific terms. If either party broke the terms of this treaty/covenant, the treaty would be terminated. This is called a conditional covenant.

Royal Grant Treaty: Unlike the previous treaty, this requires no action on the part of the beneficiary. This treaty is based solely on one party's fulfilling the terms. This is called an unconditional covenant.

The Abrahamic Covenant *Genesis chapters 12-50*

The Abrahamic Covenant, which was the first covenant, we learn that the promises given to Abraham were in five stages: Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-16; 15:4-21; 17:4-16 and 22:15-18. The content of these promises developed into numerous blessings; however, three major areas will stand out: a seed, a land, and all the families of the earth will be blessed through you.

Genesis 12:1-3BSB

¹Then the LORD [YHVH] said to Abram, "Leave your country, your kindred, and your father's household, and go to the land I will show you. (This is a *conditional* covenant.)

²I will make you into a **great nation**, and I will **bless you**; I will make your **name great**, so that you will be a **blessing**. (This is an *unconditional* covenant.)

³I will bless those who **bless you** and curse those who curse you; and **all the families of the earth** will be **blessed through you**." (This is a *unconditional* covenant.)

Assignment:

1. Must read Genesis, Chapters 12-50.
2. Answer the following questions the best you can.
3. Send (text or email) your answers to me.

QUESTIONS:

1. Seed: what are the two distinct interpretations of this word?

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2. Land: is this part of Israel? Is the land eternal, everlasting etc.?

3. “all the families of the earth will be blessed through you,” (Gen 12:3). What does this verse imply?

What do we learn from Paul in Galatians 3:8?

Does the “Gospel” come out of this?

4. When did Abram get his name changed and why?

5. Jacob’s name was changed to what?

And what does his new name mean?

6. Do you think that chapter 15 is also an unconditional promise?

The Mosaic Covenant: *Exodus chapters 19-24*

Our focus is to understand YHVH’s Torah and the redemptive history of the Mosaic Covenant -- especially how this covenant applies to Israel the nation.

The Mosaic Covenant is a Suzerian-Vassel Treaty, which is conditional covenant.

Read: Exodus 19:5-6 BSB

⁵Now if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you will be My treasured possession out of all the nations—for the whole earth is Mine.

⁶And unto Me you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites.”

Notice this reading YHVH is very clear when He says “if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant” then He promised that, “you will be My treasured possession out of all the nations—for the whole earth is Mine. And unto Me you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

The Abrahamic Covenant speaks directly to Israel as a nation. The Mosaic Covenant is an extension of Abrahamic Covenant. While the Abrahamic Covenant is unconditional, the Mosaic Covenant is conditional.

Bring these papers back, and we will continue with this.

Baruch YHVH,

Pastor Don