THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

**I. Overview and Review**

**A. Genesis 3:15** - When the covenant of works was broken, God revealed his covenant of grace with Adam, setting apart a people for himself and promising to send a Savior.

**B. Genesis 6-9**- When the earth was destroyed by a flood, God established his covenant with Noah, providing the context of preservation in which the grace of redemption may operate.

**C. Genesis 12-50***- Why is the remainder of Genesis focused on four generations of a single family?*

**II. The Covenant of Grace with Abraham**

The covenant with Abraham differs from the covenant with Noah in that it (1) concerns religious faith and worship, (2) embraces a holy people that is distinguished from the rest of the human race, (3) bestows the benefits of salvation upon this holy people, and (4) is established forever and ever. [VanDrunen p. 82]

1. **Exposition of pertinent passages in Genesis:**
2. **Genesis 12:1-9** – **The covenant initiated**.
3. **Genesis 13**:**14-18** – promises repeated.
4. **Genesis 15:1-20** – **The covenant ratified**
5. **Genesis 17:1-27** – **The covenant confirmed & sealed**
6. **Genesis 18**:**17-19 –** promises repeated.
7. **Genesis 22:15-18** – **The covenant reiterated**
8. **Genesis 26:1-5** – The covenant renewed with Isaac
9. **Genesis 28**:**10-17** – The covenant renewed with Jacob
10. **Questions for Review**
11. What are the divine *promises/provisions* of the covenant with Abraham?
12. What is *the heart* of the covenant with Abraham?
13. What evidence do we encounter that the covenant is a *sovereign dispensation of grace (unilateral, unconditional)*?
14. What evidence do we encounter in support of the following covenantal principles:
	1. *Particularity*
	2. *Continuity*
	3. *Reciprocity*
15. In what sense is the covenant with Abraham ‘*conditional*’?
16. What did *circumcision* signify and seal? Was the relationship for which it stood primarily biological or spiritual? What is *the ground* of paedo-circumcision?
17. **Questions for Discussion & Application**
18. Why should we have any concern about a covenant made with Abraham roughly 4000 years ago?
19. How does Genesis 3:15 fit into the covenant promises given to Abraham?
20. How is the “seed” promise fulfilled according to the New Testament? (Gal 3)
21. What “land” (“everlasting possession”) was Abraham looking for? (Heb 11)
22. How was Abraham justified before God? (Rom 4, Gal 3)
23. How did Abraham show his faith, as “God’s friend”? (Js 2)
24. What does God teach us about the importance of administering the signs of the covenant?
25. What is the relationship of circumcision to baptism? (Col 2)
26. What is the ground of infant baptism? (Acts 2)
27. From what New Testament texts can we infer that children of believers were baptized in the apostolic church?
28. Did Abraham err in circumcising Ishmael (or Isaac re: Esau)?
29. What comfort can parents receive from the covenant?
30. What is involved for parents when they bring their children for baptism?
31. What are the benefits received by covenant children? What are their covenant obligations?