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**Biblical Theology, Lesson 7**

**The Abrahamic Covenant**

1. **(Review) Adam to Noah**

* Creation: God’s People, in God’s Place, under covenant of works
* Fall: Sin - broken covenant, no longer God’s people, kicked out of God’s place, all of humanity and creation under God’s wrath and curse
* Redemption:
  + God promised a new man (an offspring, a new Adam) who would come to save and restore humanity (Gen. 3:15)
  + God made a covenant with fallen humanity, through Noah, to show mercy and allow us to still live as his image bearers, despite our sin - but still not his people or in his place

1. **(Preview) From Abraham to David: God forming a new people for Himself**

* Now, God is going to form a special people for himself - restoring God’s People
* Israel: God calls a covenant people to Himself. He makes promises of redemption through three covenants with this particular people, the family and nation of Israel, with the final purpose of bringing about his plan of redemption and the hope of salvation for the whole world.
* Begins with Abraham

1. **Abrahamic Covenant**

God took one of the men from these rebellious nations, Abraham, and made a big promise to him.

**A. *Genesis 12:1-3*. Notice that *God promises* to give to Abraham at least three things:**

(1) Land—the land of Canaan; *place*

(2) Great nation—a vast multitude of descendants; *people*

(3) Blessing—God’s favor on Abraham and on all the families of the earth; *restored relationship with God*

The basis of the Abrahamic covenant: the *promises of God by His grace.* This sets the groundwork for a covenant of promise and grace, unlike the covenant of Works with Abraham (and later, with Moses). Cf. Wellum and Gentry, *God’s Kingdom through God’s Covenants,* 98-99.]

In other words, though all the world has come under God’s judgment, God promised to Abraham that through him and his descendants, God would remove that judgment and place his favor, or blessing, on people all over the world. If Noah is a second Adam who gives humanity a new start after the flood, Abraham is a third Adam who represents a new hope for humanity.

**B. Genesis 15:1-19 - God makes the covenant with Abraham**

* Officially vows to brings about the promises through making a *covenant* with Abraham.
* 2 Parts: 1. *Seed/offspring* (same Hebrew word as in Gen. 3:15), and 2. *Land.* Wellum and Gentry, 108-112]

**C. Genesis 17:1-14 - Sign of the Covenant: Circumcision**

God affirms the covenant and gives a sign for all who are in the covenantal community: *circumcision.* Abraham enters into and remains in the covenant through faith in God, believing in His promises.

*Rom. 4:16-17.* Physical descendants were part of this covenant community, signified by circumcision, but the whole point of the story is to show the need for *faith in the promises of God.* That is what signifies the people of God. Points forward to Christ, who is the fulfillment of the blessings promised to Abraham. *Gal. 3:6-14*We receive these blessings in Him, and are part of the covenant community, the true descendants and heirs of Abraham, by grace through faith in the promises of God, revealed fully in the gospel of Christ.