

Covenant and Kingdom  
Week 7 - Grace and Works in the Abrahamic Covenant  
Genesis 17:1-14

- Genesis 12, 15, and 17 work together to establish the Abrahamic Covenant
  - **Promises** - Ch. 17 adds to the previous promises the promise of God's special presence among Abraham's descendents - they would be a temple-kingdom
  - **Precepts** - To live in accord with God's character (17:1) and circumcision (17:10)
  - **Federal Headship** - Abraham is federal head over his physical offspring - blood descent from Abraham makes one a member of **this** covenant
  - **Delegation of Dominion** - The land of Canaan would be the Kingdom of Israel, ruled on God's behalf by a descendent of Abraham
  - **Sanctions** - Penalties for covenant unfaithfulness go in both directions
    - Ch. 15 establishes sanctions against God if He does not fulfill His promises
    - Circumcision is added as a covenant sign signifying the promised blessings and threatened sanctions against Abraham and his offspring
      - Blessing of being set apart from the unclean world to holiness
      - Curse of being cut off for disobedience to covenant law
    - Sanctions on God give the covenant a grace element; sanctions on Abraham give it a works element
    - Promises of land, offspring, kings, transnational blessing are guaranteed by God
    - Individual enjoyment of the blessings depend on works
- Was salvation under the Old Covenant by works?
  - Salvation **always** depended on faith alone, whether in the promised seed or in the finished work of Christ
  - The works of the Old Covenant were never intended to make one right before God
  - The Old Covenant did not make people righteous, it set them apart and called them to righteousness
- Romans 4 - Focuses on the nature of Abraham's faith
  - Promises were made before the command of circumcision
  - Abraham's faith in the promises were counted as righteousness, not his circumcision
- Galatians 3:1-9, 15-18 - The object of faith in the Old Covenant was the promised blessing to the nations
  - Accomplishment of the promise was guaranteed by God apart from works - no law changed that
- The Abrahamic Covenant connects Abraham's offspring physically with Christ, but does no more than that