

God's Promise to Abraham

Genesis 15:7-21

“How does this affect us? Just as God made a covenant with Abram and kept it through history, so has he made a covenant with all who are Christians. He will keep this covenant through the years of our lives on this earth and through eternity.

Human beings are unfaithful, with nothing to commend themselves to God. Had God not unilaterally established his covenant, none would have believed. Had he not made his covenant eternal, all would fall away and be lost. If his covenant had not been entirely by grace, none would have heard the promises, for no one deserves them. Yet, the sovereign, eternal, gracious God did establish his covenant, and he confirmed it, not with the blood of animals, but with the blood of his own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. During the three hours of darkness when Jesus hung upon the cross, God moved in the darkness to ratify the covenant. And because of Christ's death we shall never perish—neither shall any man snatch us out of his hand.” Boice

- I. *Abram believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.* It was through his faith that God made him righteous. This is a powerful act of grace that enables a believer to be in a relationship with Him. To credit righteousness to our lives means that the righteousness of Jesus Christ has been given to us through faith. His righteousness becomes our righteousness. To credit is a bookkeeping term. When God looks at the ledger of a believer's life, He sees His Sons' righteousness. He doesn't see any sin, it's gone, there's no evidence of it. It's been removed and replaced with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Our sin has been transferred to Jesus' account. it's been dealt with and cleansed by His blood. And like an accountant who does an audit and declares everything to be right. God, as judge, declares a believer to be in right standing before Him. It is a work in a believer's heart that is permanent. No one, including believers, has the power to reverse or make null or void what God has done in his court of law.

Gen. 15:6

James 4:8

1 Jn. 2:3-5

John 10:28-29 *28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

- II. God is a giver, and we are takers, we've taken the offer of salvation, received it by faith, and embraced it. We put our trust in God's promise of eternal life and the forgiveness of sin, promises given to those who believe in him for salvation. Upon salvation, God legally obligates himself to all believers through a unilateral unconditional covenant sealed by the blood of Christ to confirm his faithfulness toward those who love him. Unconditional means that God will keep his promise regardless of man's faithfulness toward his covenant. Those of us who know Him have entered into an unconditional covenant that guarantees our salvation. *"To put it simply, a blood covenant is a promise made by God that He will choose a people for Himself and bless them. The covenant was originally for Abraham's physical descendants but was later extended, spiritually, to all those who, like Abraham, believe God ([Galatians 3:7](#); cf. [Genesis 15:6](#)). God's promise of eternal blessing is given only on the basis of faith in the saving blood of His Son, Jesus Christ ([Hebrews 9:12](#))."*
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Gen 2:7-16
Hosea 6:7
Gen 3:15
Gen 8:21-22

Heb. 9:12 *He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.*

"A covenant is an unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God and man that stipulates the condition of their relationship." Grudem

- III. The covenant God made with Abram was a unilateral unconditional covenant, which is in effect to this day. It assured the lineage of Jesus Christ, and it assured the existence of the nation of Israel as God's gift to Abram's offspring, the Jews. The unconditional covenant God made with Abram was unilateral. The terms of God's covenants are determined by God himself; man has no say in the terms of the agreement. *"The unconditional covenant that God made with Abram is eternal, irrevocable, and based on grace. All of God's promises are based on his love, mercy, and grace. In a sense, the Father walked through the broken and bloody body of Jesus to establish His covenant with us, and God signed it for both of us. We merely enter into the covenant by faith; we don't make the covenant with God."* Guzik

Gen 15:17-21
Jer 34:18-20
Heb 6:13-15
Deut 7:7-8
1 Jn. 4:1-16

karath bĕriyth - to cut a covenant

Gen 17:8 *I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants for the generations to come... The whole land of Canaan... I will give as an everlasting possession...*