



Abrahamic Covenant: Gen 12:1-3, Procreation & the Messianic Line; the Anti-Semitism Clause; Palestinian: from Nile to Euphrates, Gen 13:14-15; 15:18

B. The Four Unconditional Covenants to Israel:

1. **Abrahamic.** It establishes the Jewish race and the future nation of Israel and contains a “protection” clause against anti-Semitism.

Genesis 12:1 - [c. 2086 B.C.] Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country [**Ur of the Chaldees**], and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you [**Canaan**];

v. 2 - and I will make you [**Abram**] a great nation [**Israel**], and I will bless you [**בָּרַךְ barak**], and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing [**בֵּרַכְתָּהּ berachah**];

v. 3 - and I will bless [**בָּרַךְ barak**] those who bless you [**בָּרַךְ barak**], and the one who curses you I will curse. And through you [**sacrifice of the Messiah**] all the families of the earth shall be blessed [**בָּרַךְ barak**].”

2. The key word in this passage is **בָּרַךְ barak**, translated “bless.” Its original meaning was “to kneel.” It took on certain applications associated with paying respect to others such as “salute,” “greet,” and “bless.”

In verse 3 it is passive, meaning that we receive blessing from God by our attitude toward the Jew.

3. In this construction we find the formula of A (God) blessing B (Abram) in verse 2. In verse 3 we find the same formula repeated and in this case A (God) blesses B (anyone who blesses Abram).
4. The use of this word in the ancient world must be explained so that we can understand the impact of this covenant not only on Abram but also on those of us who are implied in this passage.

Jenni, Ernst and Claus Westermann. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Translated by Mark E. Biddle. (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997), 1:266, 274, 277-78:

בָּרַךְ barak. A benevolent power proceeding from God guaranteeing wealth, well-being, health, and good fortune. It can refer primarily to fertility, well-being, and victory over enemies. (p. 266)

Genesis 12:3b means “by you shall all the families of the earth gain blessing.” This is the only meaning possible for Genesis 18:18, “Through him (Abram) shall all families of the earth gain blessing.” Abraham plays a significant role in his plan of salvation. (p. 274)

For Jehovah the promise of descendants stands in the foreground in the blessing (Genesis 12:2, “I will make you (Abram) a great nation and I will bless you”; Genesis 26:24, “I will be with you (Isaac) and bless you and multiply your descendants”). Yet Yahweh’s actual goal is not reached in Israel’s growth to a great and mighty people. As the structure of the promise is Genesis 12:2-3 makes clear, the actual goal is “that in you all families of the earth shall gain blessing.” (p. 277)

The Pentateuch relates the blessing to the two most important elements of the promise to the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob), the promise of descendants and of land. God’s blessing applies to just to Israel but to all of humanity from the beginning of creation onward. It consists of God’s providing humanity, as all living beings, with the power of fertility and multiplication. (p. 278)

5. The blessing to Abram is that he would be the patriarch of a new race of people called the Jew. He will be told later that their numbers will be myriad and through them all the peoples of the earth will be blessed.



6. The plan of God comes into view here. There is meaning and purpose in the life of Abram. He will be the genesis of a great nation. But that nation and its people have an objective and that is the glory of God.
7. It is God's intent to accumulate for Himself a number of individuals who willingly reject the allurements of the Devil's world and devote themselves to serving Him from their own free will.
8. Through the Jew, God will accomplish His plan of salvation which will produce those who will participate in His earthly and eternal kingdoms.
9. In Genesis 3:15 it was prophesied that the One Who would defeat Lucifer in the Invisible War would be born of a woman.
10. Lucifer responded in Genesis 6 with an assault on the genetic line of true humanity by assigning an army of demonic satyrs to impregnate the females of the human race. Only Noah and his family escaped.
11. Following the flood the line of the Messiah was continued through Noah's eldest son Shem. Genesis 11 gives us the genealogy of Shem which after ten generations produced Abram who married Sarai.
12. In Genesis 12:1-3 we find that God's plan for the Messiah is now narrowed not only to the line of Abram but also to the new racial species of the Jew.
13. In order to protect this new racial species, God issued a warning to Lucifer and those he might influence down through the ages: "I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you."
14. Blessings come to those who are pro-Semitic while to the anti-Semitic He imposes His divine wrath.
15. Consequently, a theology that ignores the literal nature of this covenant but allegorizes its fulfillment in the church must also ignore the literal nature of its anti-Semitic clause and thus open the door for anti-Semitism to emerge within the church.
16. **Palestinian**. This is a divine land grant to the progeny of Abraham. The grant covers the entire Middle East and is described in detail in Scripture and first of all to Abram in:

Genesis 13:14 - And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;

v. 15 - for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever [**eternal life clause, i.e., for believers only**].

Genesis 15:18 - On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt [**Nile**] as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.
17. The extent of this real estate will include the following: (1) the eastern portions of Egypt, Sudan, and Uganda in Northeast Africa, (2) the entirety of Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia on the East Coast of Africa, (3) Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait, on the Arabian Peninsula, (4) all but the extreme eastern portions of Iraq and Turkey, (5) Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel in the eastern Levant, and (6) possibly the island of Cyprus.



18. When Abraham was transformed into a Hebrew he and his progeny became the genetic line to which this land is promised. But the eternal life clause clearly indicates that its fulfillment is only available to those who not only have the genes of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob but also the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
19. That only those with eternal life may permanently inherit the land is indicated by the final word of Genesis 13:15, "I will give it to you and to your descendants forever."