



Abrahamic Covenant (COVENANT OF PROMISE)






Recap and Introduction

- **WHERE WE'VE BEEN**
- Genesis 1 Creation
- Genesis 2 Covenant of Works
- Genesis 3 The Fall
- Genesis 3:15 Covenant of Grace Introduced
- Genesis 6 Man's thoughts were only evil continually
- Genesis 7 Flood
- Genesis 8 Be fruitful and multiply
- Genesis 9 Covenant with Noah and sin of Ham.
 - Diverging seeds. Seed of Satan (Ham) and the seed of the Lord (Shem)
- Genesis 11 Tower of Babel - God disperses people across the face of the earth for trying to build a name for themselves
- Genesis 11:27 Abram came from the line of Shem. Shem means "name"
 - While the people were trying to make a name for themselves, God was making and keeping a name for Himself

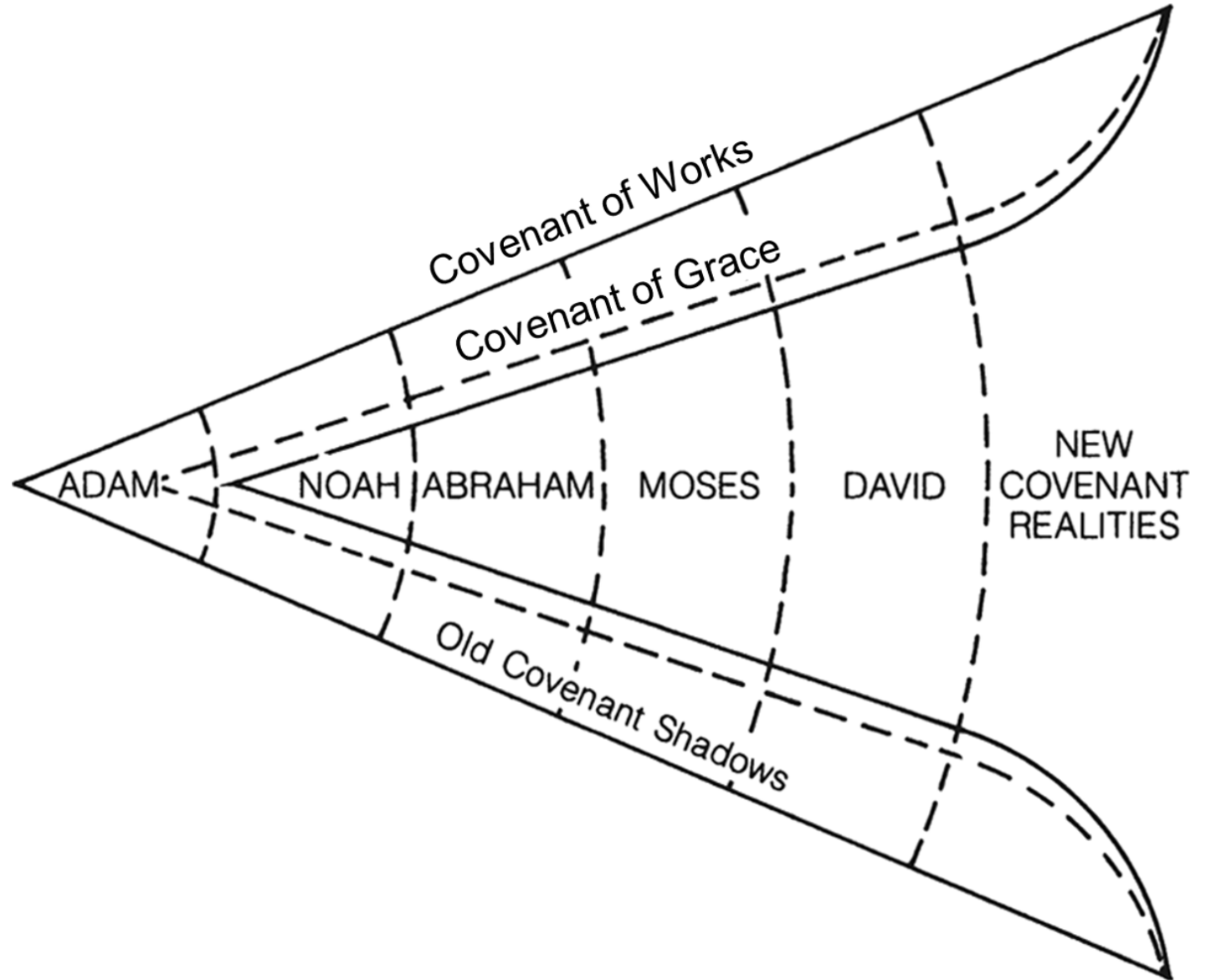


Recap and Introduction

WHERE WE'RE HEADED TODAY

- **Genesis 12 Covenant with Abraham introduced**
 - **Genesis 15 Covenant with Abraham ratified (formally established)**
 - **Genesis 17 Covenant with Abraham amended and the sign introduced**
 - **Genesis 22 Covenant with Abraham confirmed**
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Covenant unity
and continuity
(Abraham was a
steward of the
overall covenant
of grace)



Reminder of definition of Covenant:



**BOND IN BLOOD
SOVEREIGNLY
ADMINSTERED**



Historical Context

- Who was Abram/Abraham ?
 - 10 Generations from Adam to Noah
 - 10 Generations from Noah to Abram/Abraham
 - Age
 - We are introduced to Abram when he is 75 years in Genesis 12
 - Abram was 86 when Ishmael was born
 - Abram was 100 when Isaac was born
 - Diverging seeds between the two offspring. One (Ishmael) is the lineage of Satan and one (Isaac) is the lineage of Christ
 - Abraham died at 175 years old. Overall narrative is 100 years.
 - Abram means “exalted father”
 - Singular. Focus on self.
 - Abraham means “father of a multitude”
 - Expanded. Focus on others.
 - Sinner (tricked Pharaoh with Sarai)
 - Abram said that “she is my sister”. He obeyed and journeyed when God told him to journey but then fell into sin.
 - Wealthy/Abundance
 - Gen 13:2 “Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold”
 - Warrior – trained fighters
 - Gen 14:13-16 “Abram rescues his nephew Lot from capture. “When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them and went in pursuit.” Abram and his men ultimately divided and defeated the enemy and ran them away.
 - Honorable – not taking spoils from King of Sodom
 - Gen 14:22-23 “But Abram said to the king of Sodom, ‘I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich’”.
 - Sinner/Adulterer/lack of faith (Hagar)
 - Genesis 16: Tries to take matters into his own hands regarding offspring
 - Father of faith – Romans 4
 - Hero of the faith – Hebrews 11
 - Friend of God – James 2:23 “Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness and he was called God’s friend”.
 - Only person in the Bible to be referred to as a friend of God.

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 - • **WHY DOES GOD USE ABRAHAM AND SHOW US EXAMPLES OF HIS “GOOD” AND “BAD” QUALITIES ???**





- Encouragement to us
- Just as Adam and Noah did before him and Moses/David after him, Abraham failed in many ways **but God kept them/him.**




Scripture and Covenantal Context


- **Genesis 12:1-25:11 covers the narrative of the Abrahamic Covenant**
 - **Genesis 12 (Covenant Introduction - Land, Nation (Offspring) and Global Blessing)**
 - **Read verses 1 thru 3**
 - Blessing & Cursing – Verse 3
 - “I will bless those who bless you and him who dishonors you I will curse”
 - Land is Canaan – Genesis 12:7
 - Narrative continues: Abram journeys on. Abram deceives Pharaoh in regards to Sarai. Abram and Lot separate (Gen 13). Abram rescues Lot (Gen 14). Abram shows honor in not taking spoils. (Gen 14.)


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 - • **Genesis 15 (Covenant Ratification – Land, Offspring and Timing of Land possession)**






Read Genesis 15: Verses 1 thru 6

- 1st – Verses 1 thru 6
 - I am your shield (Abram as warrior in Gen 14 had just been through a major battle)
 - Reward shall be great (Abram turned down spoils/riches in Gen 14)
 - Abram shows disdain/impatience by his statement regarding being childless and having no heir
 - God reminds him that his own son will be his heir
 - Abram believes God
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Read
Genesis 15:
Verses 7
thru 11

- 2nd – Verses 7 thru 11
 - Same prologue by God as found in Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 19:4-6) and Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:8-11)
 - God reminding Who He is and what He has done
 - Abram doubts and needs assurance from God
 - God tells Abram to bring animals as they literally “cut” a covenant





Read
Genesis 15:
Verses 12
thru 16

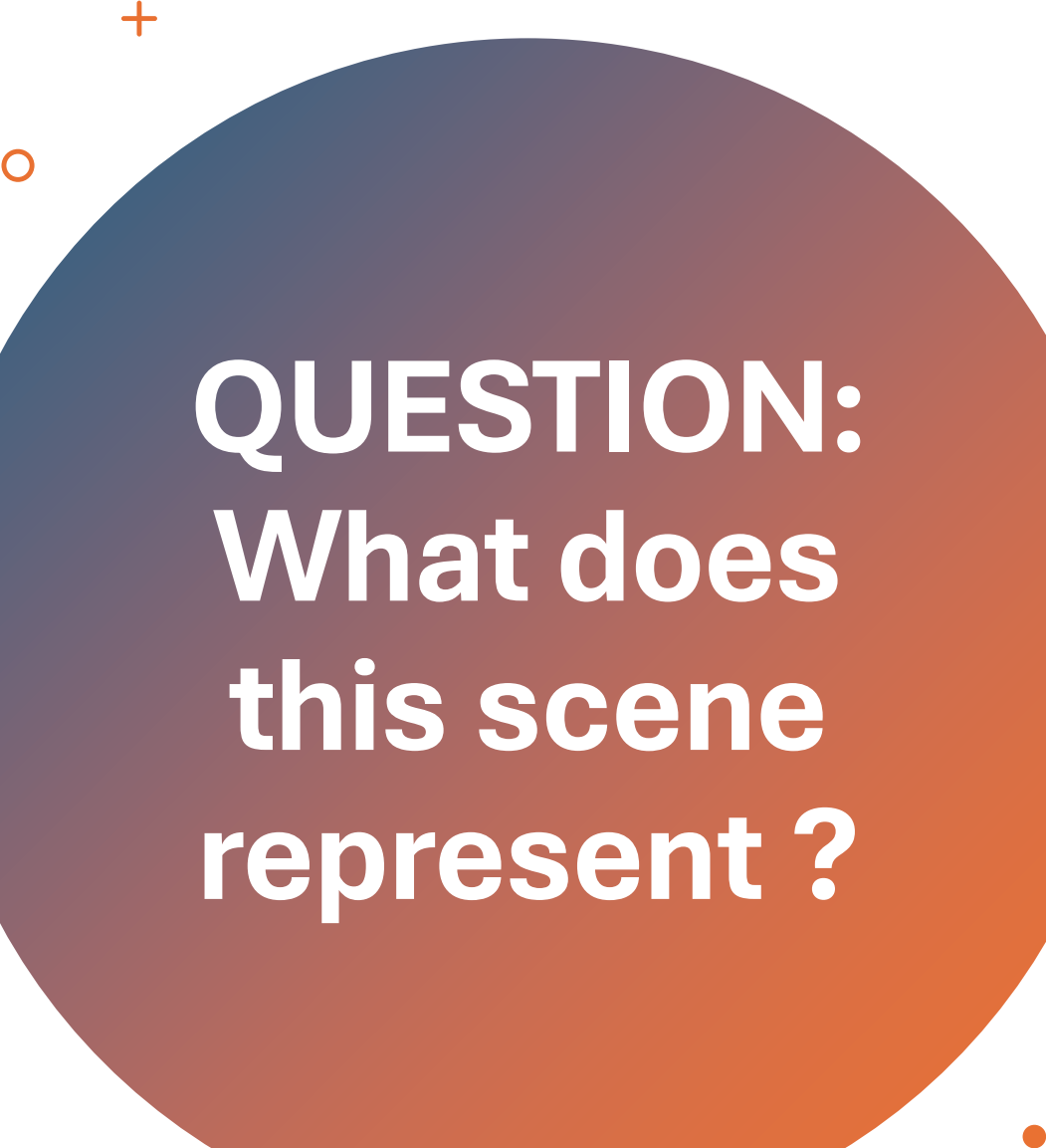
- 3rd – Verses 12 thru 16
 - Abram fell into deep sleep. Same Hebrew word (Tardemah) as deep sleep of Adam in Genesis 2
- Abram: deep sleep (same Hebrew word that Adam experienced Gen 2:21)
- Offspring, land defined and timing of land possession
 - Why did God wait 400 years ?
 - For His purposes to be fulfilled. Shows his longsuffering mercy.




Read
Genesis 15:
Verses 17
thru 21



- 4th – Verses 17 thru 21
 - God appears as a Smoking Fire Pot and a Flaming Torch and passed between the cut apart pieces of the animals
 - God establishes covenant with Abram
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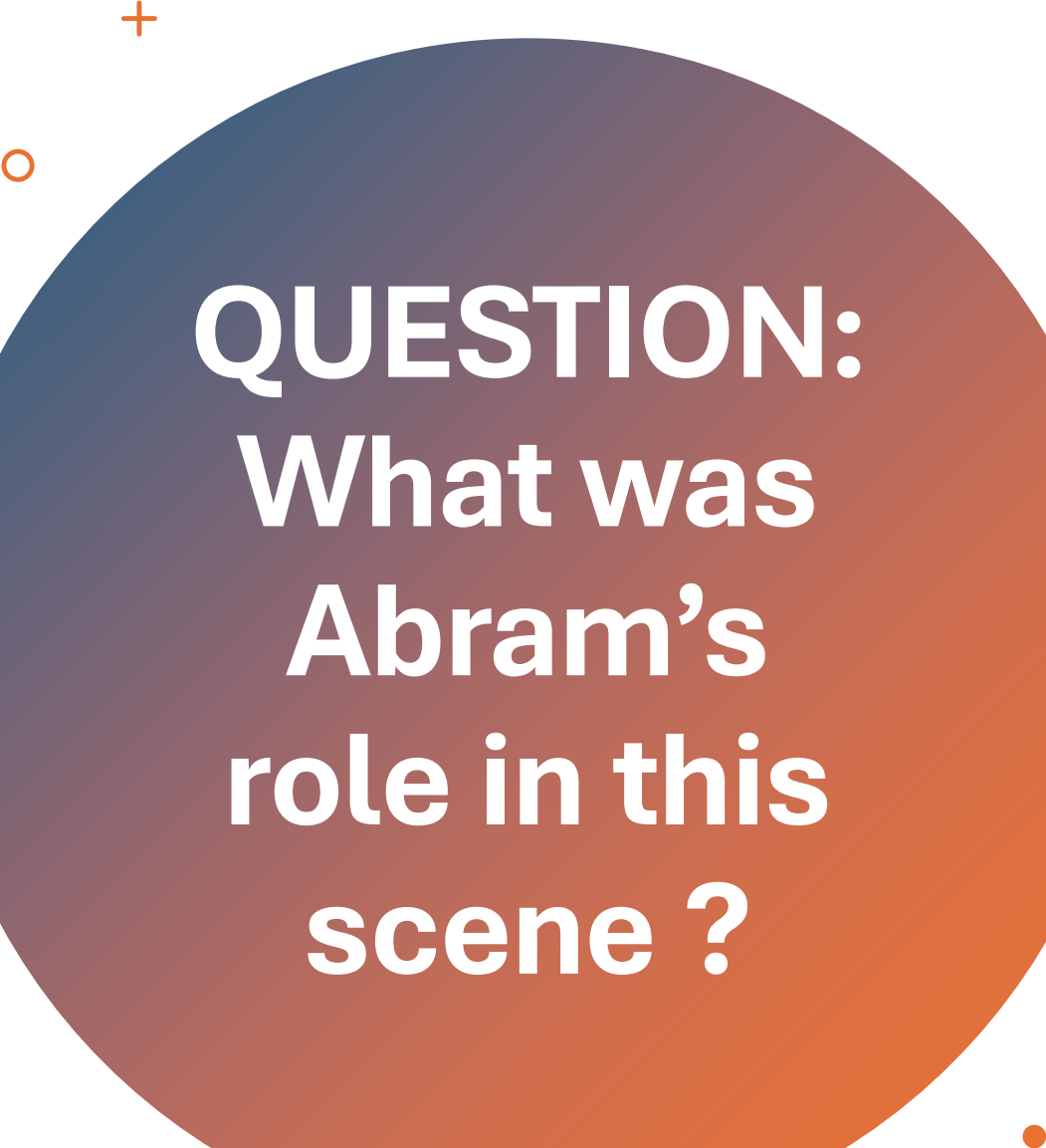
QUESTION: What does this scene represent ?

- In ancient history, two people would walk thru the cut open animals to signify what would happen to them if either of them broke the agreement
 - God is walking by Himself through the sacrificed animals promising to take the penalty upon Himself if Abram breaks the covenant (self-maledictory. Self-condemning)
 - God is promising the keep the covenant even if it means condemning Himself for the breaking of it. He is a covenant keeping God and cannot break covenant.
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Definition of
Covenant:
BOND IN BLOOD
SOVEREIGNLY
ADMINISTERED

- Bond – God is making an agreement with Abraham
- Blood – Not only the blood of the animals that have been killed and split apart but also the bloodshed that God is promising to take upon Himself if the covenantal agreement is broken
- Sovereignly Administered – Speaks for itself. God walked by Himself through the animals as He administers the stewardship of the Covenant to Abraham





**QUESTION:
What was
Abram's
role in this
scene ?**

- He's asleep! Abram is completely passive in his role in the making of the covenant with God. God makes it and keeps it all by Himself.
 - Same deep sleep as Adam in Genesis 2. When God put Adam into a deep sleep, a bride (Eve – Mother of all Living) was born. A bride from whom all of the offspring on the earth would come. When God put Abram into a deep sleep, a nation was born.
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Closing out the storyline of the narrative:



- Abram and Hagar/Ishmael (Gen 16), Covenant re-established (sign of circumcision given) and Abram name changed to Abraham (Gen 17), God rescues Lot and destroys Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen 19), Isaac is born (Gen 21), Abraham tested and God provides a sacrifice (Gen 22) Sarah dies (Gen 23) Abraham dies (Gen 25)
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Wrap Up



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QUESTION: What is the unique contribution of the Covenant with Abraham within the overall Covenant of Grace ?

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- formal establishment and clarification of the plan of redemption for all nations through a promised seed.
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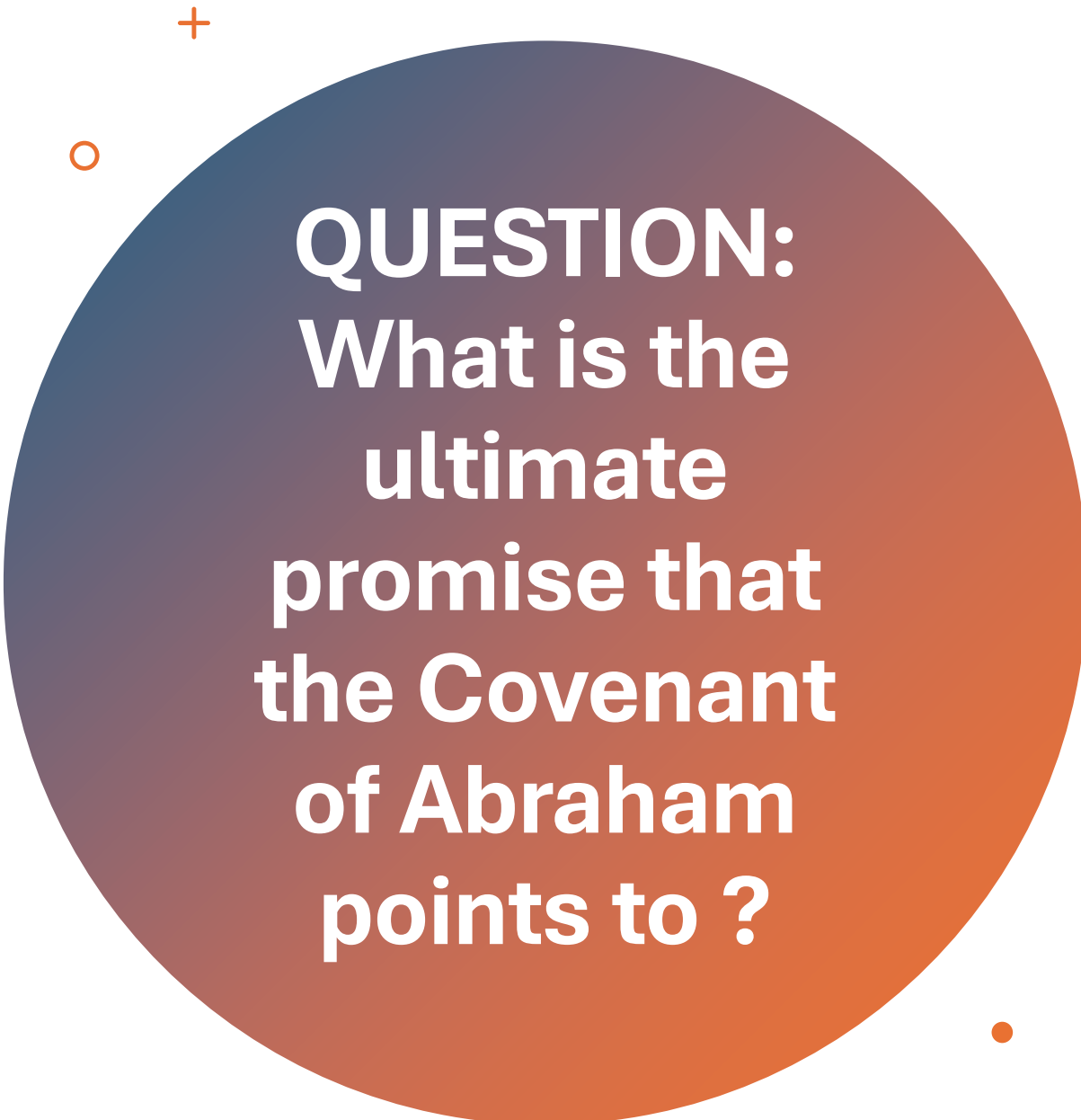
Continuity of the Promised Seed

- Adam: Genesis 3:15 – Seed of the woman is introduced
 - Noah: Genesis 6 thru 9 – Seed is preserved (Noah/Shem)
 - Abraham: Genesis 12 thru 25: Redemption plan is established and promised Seed continues (Abraham/Isaac/Jacob)
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HOPE & PROMISE

- **HOPE**
 - Not all is lost. Despite all of the chaos and sin that is going on around us and in the world, God kept his seed intact (Seth-Noah-Shem-Abraham) – i.e. chaos and sin described in Genesis 4, Genesis 8 and Genesis 11
- **PROMISE**
 - God makes a promise and He keeps it. He promised a seed in Genesis 3:15 and this continuation of the Covenant through the administration of Abraham shows that He intends to fulfill that promise.
 - He hung up his bow in Genesis 9 with the promise to not destroy the earth by flood again.
 - He formally establishes his plan of salvation through Abraham and makes a promise that only God can keep




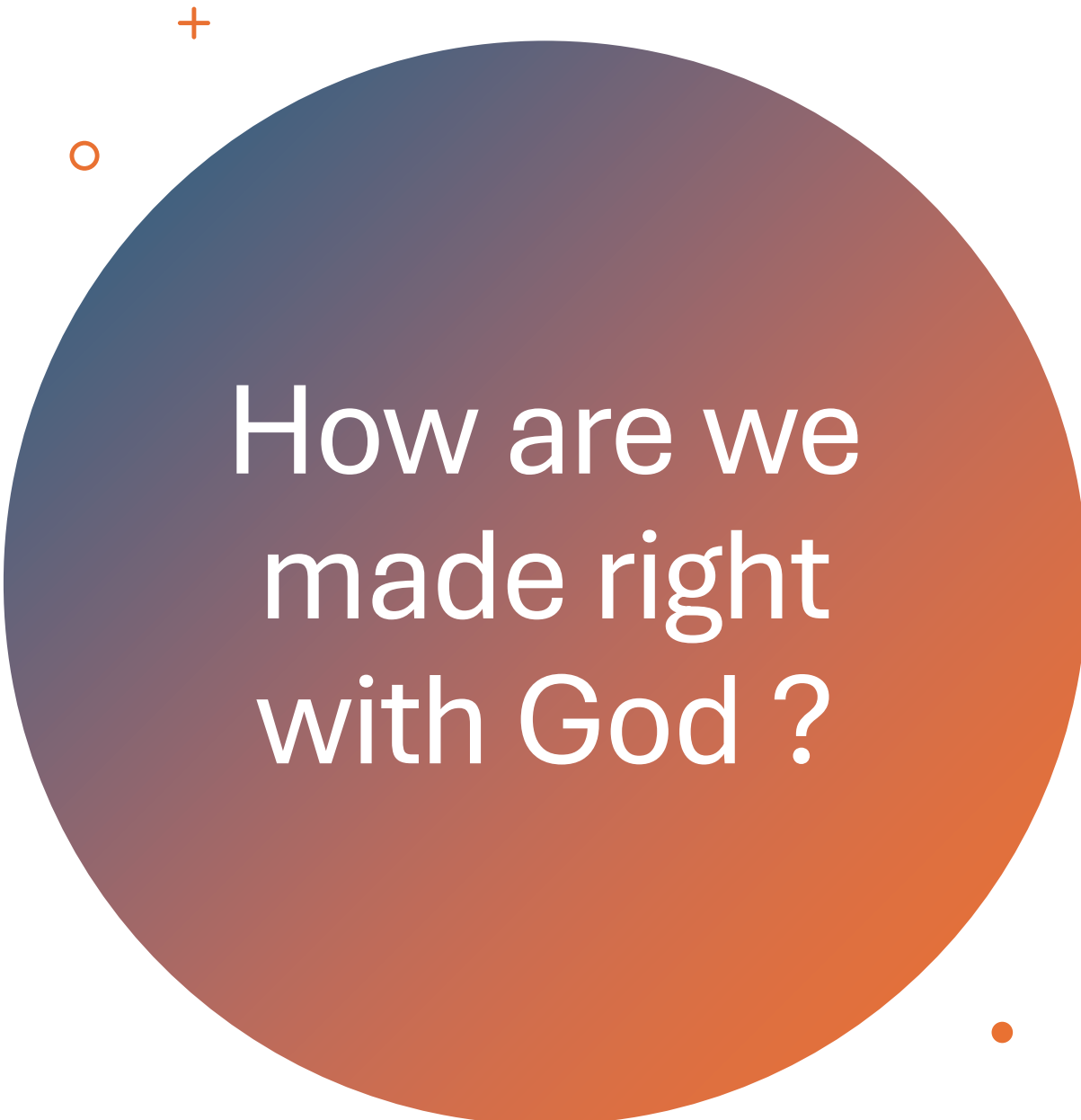
QUESTION:
**What is the
ultimate
promise that
the Covenant
of Abraham
points to ?**

- More than physical land, people and earthly blessings
- All points to and culminates in Christ
 - Jesus is the singular offspring that the Covenant with Abraham points to
 - Galatians 3:16 “Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, ‘and to offsprings’ referring to many, but referring to one ‘and to your offspring’, who is Christ.”
 - Promise that was given to Abram that through him all of the world would be blessed is fulfilled in Christ



How is Abraham made right with God ?

- As stated in Genesis 15:6, He believes God and it is counted to him as righteousness
 - Paul repeats this verse in Romans 4:3
 - Romans 4:4-8
Abraham did not work for his righteousness (he was literally asleep) but his belief was counted as righteousness
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How are we made right with God ?

- Romans 4:21-22 “Fully convinced that God was able to do what He promised. That is WHY his faith was “counted to him as righteousness”
 - Close with reading Romans 4:20-25
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