

# The *Old* or the **NEW** and that **UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT**

*So, what is it?*

Four covenants are recorded in the Old Testament:

- Covenant with Noah – God will never destroy the earth again with a flood.
- **Covenant with Abraham – the unconditional covenant with the man of faith.**
- Covenant with Israel – often referred to as the Mosaic Covenant.
- Covenant with King David – his line of descendants will be the royal heirs to the throne of Israel.

What is in the terms of the agreement between God and Abraham that formed an unconditional covenant?

The **UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT** with Abraham is the focus of this writing because **the promises have not been fully fulfilled**, so the covenant cannot be obsolete or replaced with the New Covenant. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who lives under His own law must fulfill His promises, if He is a God who does not sin.

The **UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT** was given to Abraham because of his great faith. God promised him:

- **National greatness:** “Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me” (Genesis 22:17-18).

With the birth of Christ through the line of David and house of Judah, this promise is largely fulfilled. **Christ, the seed of Abraham** has paid the price for our sins and now salvation is available to all people from all nations. National greatness will be fully fulfilled when the nation of Israel (all 12 tribes) are re-united and living righteously in the Holy land.

- **Abraham’s name will be great, and you will be a blessing** (Genesis 12:2)

The name of Abraham is **not** honored today; he is not a person significance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- **Those who bless him will be blessed, those who curse him will be cursed** (Genesis 12:3)

This remains unfulfilled. The world does not recognize Abraham as the great man of faith. This fulfillment will take place during Christ’s 1000-year reign.

- **Become a company of nations with countless descendants:** “Look into the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them... So shall your offspring be” (Genesis 15:5).

Abraham's descendants have become a company of nations. Today, the 21<sup>st</sup> century nations of Israel number into the hundreds of millions. In addition, as the nations in the world during the Millennium, turn to the God of Israel to obey and worship Him, they will become spiritually the children of Abraham.

- **Land – the Promised land—the Holy land:** “The land that you see I will give to you and your children forever” (Genesis 13:15, 15:18-21, 17:7-8).

Most of the Israelites have not been in the land of their fathers for hundreds of years. This remains unfulfilled.

- **To be a God to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants** (Genesis 17:7).

God does continue to work with the nations of the Israelites into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While most Jews and Christians go day-by-day unaware, there is a small group who recognize the working hand of God. God will not stop until ALL of the Israelites, the 12 tribes under Abraham's unconditional covenant have repented and He can say, “These are my people and I am their God.”

- The **covenant will remain for generations to come** (Genesis 17:2-7).
- The **covenant was passed onto Isaac and confirmed with Jacob** (Genesis 35:10-12).

“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the **father of many nations**. No longer will you be called Abram, your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make **you very fruitful**; I will make nations of you, and **kings will come from you**. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you **for the generations to come, to be YOUR GOD and THE GOD of your descendants after you** (Genesis 17:2-7)... **My covenant I will establish with Isaac**, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year (Genesis 17:21)... God said, ‘**Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel**... be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body. **The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you**, and I will give this land to your descendants after you’” (Genesis 35:9-12).

### **TO BE A GOD TO ABRAHAM AND TO ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS** – *What does that mean?*

God was obligated through His promise in the Old Covenant to teach Abraham and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob **how to worship Him by the keeping of His laws, judgments and statutes for generations to come**. God was obligated regardless of how Abraham's descendants behaved, to work with them through all types of rebellion and treachery. **God who stands by His word, will never reject the rebellious, disobedient, and treacherous Israelites** because He is obligated through His promise **to be a God to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants for generations to come**.

### **GOD STANDS BY HIS WORD:**

“Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens” (Psalm 119:89).

**GOD PROMISED TO BE A GOD TO ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS EVEN THROUGH THEIR REBELLION AND TREACHERY:**

**GOD REMEMBERS HIS COVENANT:** "God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob" (Exodus 2:24).

**ISRAEL AGREED TO AN ADDITIONAL COVENANT AT MT. SINAI—A CONDITIONAL COVENANT BASED ON BLESSINGS WHEN OBEDIENT AND CURSES WHEN DISOBEDIENT:**

- Israel, both houses, broke the covenant and fell into captivity (punishment for their disobedience).
- After 70 years of captivity, the house of Judah is allowed to return to the Holy land, but only a few returned to rebuild.
- The house of Israel (the 10 tribes) continued to rebel and was sentenced to wander through the nations seven times their punishment, before settling in new lands, not their original promised land.
- Of both houses of Israel, only a remnant ever remained loyal to God, while the rest continued and today continue to rebel backsliding deeper into sin and corruption.
- God keeps his promise to be a God to the descendants of Abraham despite their rebellion and treachery.

**GOD IS A GOD OF HIS WORD:**

"I am the LORD, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are NOT already destroyed" (Malachi 3:6).

**PROMISED TO ABRAHAM UNDER THE UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT, GOD RELENTLESSLY WORKS WITH THE NATIONS OF ISRAEL INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY TO CORRECT AND TEACH THEM. HE WILL NOT BREAK HIS PROMISE TO ABRAHAM. HE WILL BE THEIR GOD AND EVENTUALLY THEY WILL BE HIS PEOPLE. GOD'S PLAN GOES UNINTERRUPTED.**

"For the Israelites will live many days **without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods**" (Hosea 3:4).

For many days, a possible two thousand years, the house of Israel will be **without:**

- Their **KING of kings [Christ]** has not yet returned. They are also without the **princes**. These princes were the ancient gods who have been overthrown and imprisoned.
- The **SACRIFICES** to God came to an end with the destruction of the last temple in 70 AD. The **sacred stones** taught by the mystic priests as objects of power, charms of protection,

and objects to obtain favors and healings from the wrath of the gods is no longer a practice.

- The **EPHOD** is part of the official dress of the High Priest in Israel. It is symbolic of true religious practice while the household **idols** are symbolic of false practice. (Hosea 3:4).

These people will neither worship God fully and properly nor will they worship pagan gods as they did in ancient times. In their weakness and deception, they will embrace a mixture.

### **AS THE PROPHESED JACOB'S TROUBLE NEARS, BOTH HOUSES OF ISRAEL WILL REACH A FULLNESS OF SIN CAUSING THEIR CAPTIVITY A SECOND TIME:**

“From that day forward the **house of Israel** will know that I am Yahuah, their God. And **the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to me**” (Ezekiel 39:22).

“When I please, I will **punish them; nations will be gathered against them** to put them in bonds for **their DOUBLE sin**” (Hosea 10:10).

Moses wrote, “**When you are in distress** and all these things have come upon you, **in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice**” (Deuteronomy 4:30).

**THEY WILL BE RESCUED AGAIN:** “Therefore say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel **AGAIN**.’” (Ezekiel 11:17).

“The **people of Israel** are oppressed, and the **people of Judah** as well. **All their captors hold them fast, refusing to let them go.** Yet **the Redeemer is strong; Yahuah Almighty is his name.** He will vigorously defend their cause so that he may bring rest to their land, but unrest to those who live in Babylon” (Jeremiah 50:33-34).

**ISRAEL WILL NEVER BE REJECTED, NEVER TOTALLY DESTROYED BY GOD:** Ephraim repents: “How can I give you up, **O Ephraim**? How can I surrender you, **O Israel**? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart is turned over within Me. All My compassions are kindled. I will not execute My fierce anger; **I WILL NOT DEVASTATE EPHRAIM AGAIN.** For I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst. And I will not come in wrath. They will walk after the LORD, He will roar like a lion; Indeed, He will roar, And **His sons** [Note: ‘His sons’ means that they are now repentant and converted.] will come trembling from the **west** [Note: some left in the West], they will come trembling like birds from **Egypt** [Note: scattered during Jacob’s trouble], And like doves from the land of **Assyria** [Note: scattered during Jacob’s trouble]” (Hosea 8:8-11).

“‘I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more... **only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done**’, declares Yahuah” (Jeremiah 31:34-37).

**FINALLY, A REPENTANT ISRAEL:** "In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds by which you have rebelled against Me; for **then I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones, and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain.** But **I will leave among you a humble and lowly people,** and they will take refuge in the name of the LORD. **The remnant of Israel will do no wrong and tell no lies, nor will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths;** For they will feed and lie down with no one to make them tremble" (Zephaniah 3:11-13).

**AS GOD PROMISED TO ABRAHAM, HE WILL BE A GOD TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. HIS PLAN CANNOT BE THWARTED, IT IS EXACTLY AS HE PLANNED—FROM THE BEGINNING OF CREATION. ALL OF ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED.**

Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, will return and re-gather the nations of Israel and bring repentant Israel (all 12 tribes) back to the land of their father, Abraham. The unconditional promise remains intact until a new earth and new heaven is created and the old physical earth and heaven is destroyed. Until then, the unconditional covenant God made with Abraham remains active, enforceable all through the 1,000-year reign of Christ as mankind transitions from the Old Covenant promises of blessings and cursing into the New Covenant where the promises are better—the promise of the Holy Spirit that transforms a heart of stone into a willing spirited heart of flesh that desires to please God.

**"He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers"** (Deuteronomy 30:5).

**THE PROMISES OF THE OLD COVENANT ARE FAST BECOMING OBSOLETE AND GROWING OLD:**

The promises of the Old Covenant do not include the gift of salvation so, it will become obsolete as the whole world transitions into a New Covenant with better promises—the promises of forgiveness, the gift of God's Holy Spirit and life eternal.

**"In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away"** (Hebrews 8:13).

**"The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live"** (Deuteronomy 30:6).

They will not die, but at the resurrection, they will be made eternal; they will live.

**THE NEW COVENANT WILL BE OFFERED TO ALL OF ISRAEL (AND ALL NATIONS):** "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a **new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah**—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, **My covenant which they broke,** though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: **I WILL PUT MY LAW IN THEIR MINDS, AND WRITE IT ON THEIR HEARTS; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people"** (Jeremiah 31:31-33).

The New Covenant does not remove God's law, statutes or judgements.

**"For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land... I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God"** (Ezekiel 36:24, 27-28).

God's promise to Abraham to be his God and the God to his descendants will be fulfilled. "In the place where it was said to them 'You are not my people,' **they will be called 'sons of the living God'"** (Hosea 1:10).

Stubborn Israel has tried and exasperated the Almighty Creator. His promise to Abraham to be the God for him and his descendants could only be successful because the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is "a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity" (Jonah 4:2).

**THE REMNANT/THE ELECT/CHRIST'S BRIDE ALREADY PARTAKE IN THE NEW COVENANT:** They have God's Holy Spirit; they now have a heart of flesh. **They walk in God's statutes, they keep God's judgments and His law; they follow Christ wherever he goes.** "No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless. 144,000 had his [Christ's] name and his Father's name written on their foreheads... Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel" (Revelation 14:1, 3-5, 7:3-4).

The day is coming soon when God can sit back and admire the fruits of his labor and proudly say, "No longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brothers, saying 'Know the LORD' for **they shall ALL know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more"** (Jeremiah 31:34).

What God says, so it will be.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich.*