

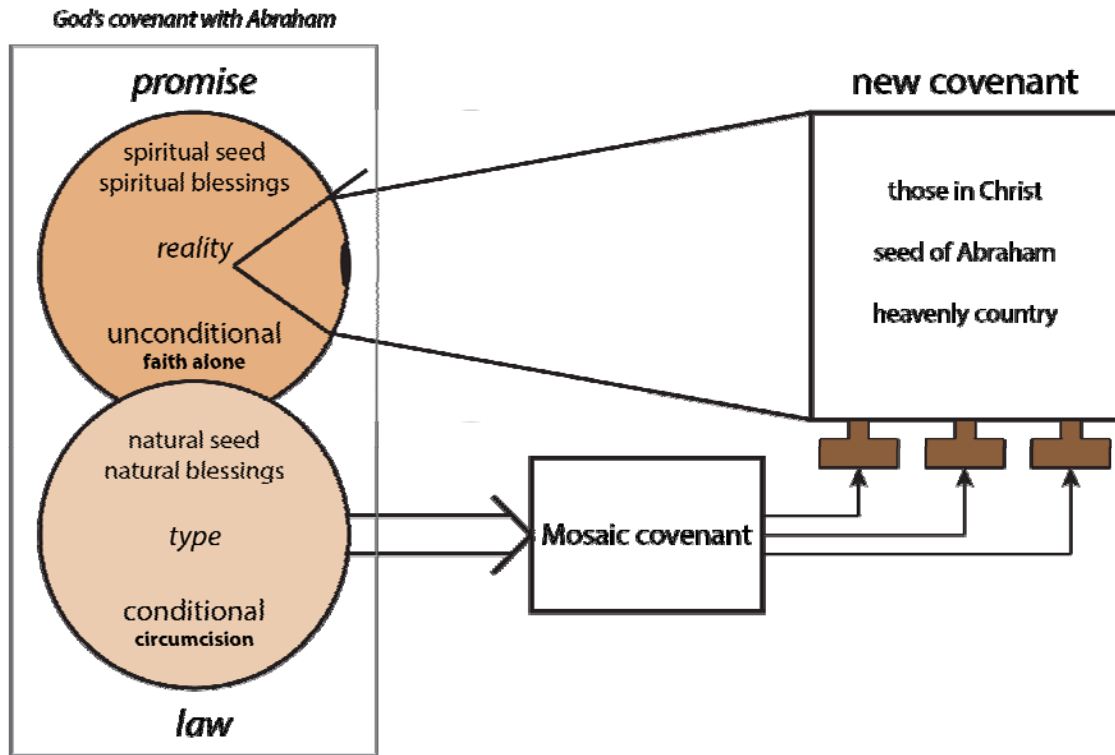
God's Covenant with Abraham

1. God made a covenant with Abraham that is pivotal in his plan to bring salvation to the fallen descendants of Adam.
 - a. Passages:
 - i. Gen. 12:1-3
 - ii. Gen. 15:1-11
 - iii. Gen. 17:4-10
 - b. Abraham himself understood this to be more than an earthly, literal promise:
 - i. Joh. 8:56
 - ii. Gal. 3:8
 - iii. Heb. 11:9
2. The covenant with Abraham was two covenants in one:
 - a. Was it conditional or unconditional?
 - b. The NT says these are two different covenants with two distinct seeds operating on contrasting principles (Gal. 4:21-31):

| Hagar/Ishmael | Sarah/Isaac |
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| <i>old covenant/covenant of works</i> | <i>new covenant/covenant of grace</i> |

- c. The proper distinction between these covenants is crucial for our theology of salvation, the law, the church, and the future.
- d. Even though the two covenants must be distinguished, they are intertwined.
- e. This perspective fits the overall two-covenant framework of the Bible with the covenant of grace being revealed but not sealed until Christ came. [Look at diagram.]

Abrahamic Covenant



3. Other ways of relating these covenants lead to contradictions and errors.
 - a. The Jews believed the fleshly covenant gave them spiritual privileges.
 - b. Dispensationalism does not recognize the temporary and conditional nature of the fleshly covenant and thus sees a separate identity and destiny for Israel after the flesh.
 - c. Paedobaptists see the entire Abrahamic covenant as an administration (an implementation or manifestation) of the covenant of grace. They see the physical seed as an ongoing principle of including the children of believers in the covenant.
4. Christ himself fulfilled the Abrahamic covenant:
 - a. Christ fulfilled the conditions of the Abrahamic covenant
 - b. Christ fulfilled the promises of the Abrahamic covenant.