
The Abrahamic Covenant

Lesson

7

Summary

Abraham 1: 1-4; Abraham seeks the blessings of the patriarchal order—He is persecuted by false priests in Chaldea—Jehovah saves him—Origins and government of Egypt reviewed.

Abraham 2:1-1; Abraham leaves Ur to go to Canaan—Jehovah appears to him at Haran—All gospel blessings are promised to his seed, and through his seed to all—He goes to Canaan, and on to Egypt.

Genesis 12:1-8; Abram shall become a great nation—He and his seed shall bless all the families of the earth—He travels from Haran to the land of Canaan—Because of famine he goes down into Egypt—Abram and Sarai tested in Pharaoh's court.

Genesis 17:1-9 Abram commanded to be perfect—He shall be a father of many nations—His name changed to Abraham—The Lord covenants to be a God unto Abraham and his seed for ever—Also, to give him the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession—Circumcision becomes token of everlasting covenant between God and Abraham—Sarai's name changed to Sarah—She shall bear Isaac, with whom the Lord will establish his covenant—Abraham and his house circumcised.

Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:

Abrahamic Covenant Before Abraham? It can be considered that the “Abrahamic covenant” was in existence before Abraham’s time. The honor bestowed on this faithful dispensation leader was to have the covenant that eternally binds God and man named after him. A few others have been honored similarly, such as in “The Law of Moses” and the “Sign of the Prophet Jonah.”

Sign or Token of the Covenant: A physical sign or ‘token’ of the Abrahamic covenant (it had hygienic as well as spiritual value) was when Abraham was commanded to circumcise himself and all male members of his family. “Abraham accepted this new commandment without faltering. Until the mitzvah of circumcision, the patriarch had been known as Abram and his wife as Sarai. Another sign of the covenant was the inclusion in their names of the Hebrew letter heh which is one of the abbreviations for the name of God.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

New Name: It is a common practice among religious Jews that a special Hebrew name is given to the newborn child. It is an additional name to the one the person is usually known by. A girl receives her name at birth and the boy at eight days of age, at the circumcision. Conversion to Judaism is always accompanied by giving a new name, for men it is usually Abraham or Ben Avraham (son of Abraham). When blessings are given for health, at marriages and at other festive occasions, often the ‘new’ or ‘special’ name is used.

Blessings Every Sabbath: On the subject of blessings, it is interesting to note that in some Jewish communities it is customary for the father to bless his children on the Sabbath eve when he returns from the synagogue.

Laying on of Hands: “Hands are also significant in the symbolic act of bestowing a blessing. In rabbinic literature the priestly blessing is known as nesiat kappayim ("raising of the hands") and is pronounced with the hands uplifted, and the fingers spread in a special formation. In fact this special formation of the hands is often engraved on the tombstones of kohanim (priests).” “In the same way that priests lift their hands in blessing, so parents place their hands on the heads of their children when they bless them. (For example, in the Bible, Jacob blessed his grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh, by placing his hands on their heads.) Placing the hands on another person is symbolic not only of transferring blessing but also of passing on authority. In talmudic times, scholars received their rabbinic ordination through the symbolic act of placing of the hands (known as semikhah).” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

A Chiasmus of Covenants: Another “chiasmus” can be noted in the positioning of the ancient covenant and the restored modern covenant.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ancient days 2. Crossroads of the East 3. Come 4. Word of God <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The Word <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Word of God 3. Sent 2. Crossroads of the West 1. Latter days 	<p>In ancient days in the Crossroads of the East (center of the ancient world) people had to come to the living prophets to receive the Word of God.</p> <p>In the Meridian of times, there was one called "The Word" - he made it possible for us to return to the Fathers' presence, the covenant.</p> <p>The Word of God is sent to the people throughout the world by living prophets living in the Crossroads of the West (which is the center of the modern world) in the latter days.</p>
---	---

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available *FREE* at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com. (Just click "LDS SUPPLEMENTS")

(1) a short e-mailed WEEKLY REMINDER

(2) a one-page two-sided SUMMARY HANDOUT (plus a "PDF" version for printing)

(3) the COMPLETE SUPPLEMENTAL MANUAL LESSONS. All are available *FREE* at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com

You may copy and print the information from any of the website versions to distribute to your class members and friends.