

# THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the  
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

1. **What is the Abrahamic Covenant?**
2. **How does this Covenant affect us today?**
3. **What is the nature of the Covenant?**
4. **What is the sign of the Covenant?**

## Genesis 17

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty. Walk before Me and be blameless.

2 I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly.”

3 Then Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,  
4 “As for Me, this is My covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.

## Genesis 17

6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will descend from you.

7 I will establish My covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

8 And to you and your descendants I will give the land of your sojourn—all the land of Canaan—as an eternal possession; and I will be their God.”

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

### 1. What is the Abrahamic Covenant?

- What is a covenant?
- What are the promises in this Covenant?

Land

Offspring

Blessing

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

### 1. What is the Abrahamic Covenant?

- What is a covenant?
- What are the promises in this Covenant?
- The Covenant followed Isaac (not Ishmael)

## Genesis 17

18 And Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael might live under Your blessing!”

19 But God replied, “Your wife Sarah will indeed bear you a son, and you are to name him Isaac. I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

## Genesis 17

20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you, and I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly.

21 But I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year.”



# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

### 2. How does the Abrahamic Covenant affect us today?

- It was the foundation for the New Covenant we have through Christ

The promises given to Abraham had a fulfillment for Abraham and his physical descendants...

...But they also have a future, spiritual, and **MUCH, MORE GRAND** fulfillment for his ‘faith’ descendants

## Galatians 3

7 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”

9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

**2. How does the Abrahamic Covenant affect us today?**

➤ **It was the foundation for the New Covenant we have through Christ**

**Land - Promised Land - A New Heaven and New Earth**

**Offspring - Isaac - Christ - A family of God**

**Blessing - Blessing - the Gospel - eternal life**

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

### 3. What is the nature of the Abrahamic Covenant?

- It is an unconditional Covenant

## Genesis 15

9 And the LORD said to him, “Bring Me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, along with a turtledove and a young pigeon.”

10 So Abram brought all these to Him, split each of them down the middle, and laid the halves opposite each other. The birds, however, he did not cut.

11 And the birds of prey descended on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

## Genesis 15

12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and suddenly great terror and darkness overwhelmed him.

13 Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not their own; they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.

14 But I will judge the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will depart with many possessions.

## Genesis 15

15 You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.

16 In the fourth generation your descendants will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

## Genesis 15

17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the halves of the carcasses.

18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram



# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

### 3. What is the nature of the Abrahamic Covenant?

- It is an unconditional Covenant
  - Only one party (God) made promises
  - Only one party (God) is responsible for keeping it
  - Only one party (God) paid the required price
- We become a part of this Covenant not by doing - but by being - by being an heir through Christ

## Galatians 3

**26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.**

**27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.**

**28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

**29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.**

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

**The question is not:**

**Will God keep His covenant promise?**

**The question is:**

**Am I an heir to the covenant through faith?**

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

4. **What is the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant?**

➤ **Circumcision**

## Genesis 17

9 God also said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep My covenant, you and your descendants for the generations to come.

10 This is My covenant with you and your descendants after you, which you are to keep: Every male among you must be circumcised.

11 You are to circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and this will be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

## Genesis 17

9 God also said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep My covenant, you and your descendants for the generations to come.

10 This is My covenant with you and your descendants after you, which you are to keep: Every male among you must be circumcised.

11 You are to circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and this will be a **sign of the covenant** between Me and you.

## Genesis 17

12 Generation after generation, every male must be circumcised when he is eight days old, including those born in your household and those purchased from a foreigner—even those who are not your offspring.

13 Whether they are born in your household or purchased, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh will be an everlasting covenant.

14 But if any male is not circumcised, he will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

**Genesis 17:23** Then Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or purchased with his money—every male among the members of Abraham’s household—and he circumcised them that very day, just as God had told him.

**24** So Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised, **25** and his son Ishmael was thirteen;

**26** Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised on the same day.

**27** And all the men of Abraham’s household—both servants born in his household and those purchased from foreigners—were circumcised with him.



# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

### 4. What is the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant?

#### ➤ Circumcision

#### A. This was a sign - not a condition

- only those who had the sign of the covenant were heirs of its promises

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

### 4. What is the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant?

#### ➤ Circumcision

**B. Just as there was a physical circumcision, there is a spiritual circumcision**

- circumcision of the heart

- new birth – regeneration – new Spirit being

## Romans 2

28 A man is not a Jew because he is one outwardly, nor is circumcision only outward and physical.

29 No, a man is a Jew because he is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise does not come from men, but from God.

## Isaiah 9

25 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD,  
“when I will punish all who are circumcised yet  
uncircumcised:

26 Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab, ...

All these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the  
whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart.”

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- circumcision of the heart

- new birth – regeneration – new Spirit being

**John 3:5** Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

**6** Flesh is born of flesh, but spirit is born of the Spirit.

**John 1: 11** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

**12** But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— **13** children born not of blood, nor of the desire or will of man, but born of God.

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

### 4. What is the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant?

#### ➤ Circumcision

**C. Circumcision separated those that were of God from those who are of the world**

## Psalms 51

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.



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## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

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#### ➤ Circumcision

**C. Circumcision separated those that were of God from those who are of the world**

**Circumcision of the heart separates the flesh from the Spirit**

## Colossians 2

11 In Him you were also circumcised in the putting off of your sinful nature, with the circumcision performed by Christ and not by human hands.

12 And having been buried with Him in baptism, you were raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.

13 When you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ.

## Colossians 2

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13 When you were **dead** in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you **alive** with Christ.

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

### 4. What is the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant?

#### ➤ Circumcision

**D. Circumcision separated those that were of God from those who are of the world**

**Circumcision of the heart separates those who are of God from those who are of the world**

## 1 Peter 2

9 But you are **A CHOSEN RACE,**  
**A royal PRIESTHOOD,**  
**A HOLY NATION,**  
**A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION,**  
so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who  
has called you out of darkness into His marvelous  
light;

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the  
people of God; once you had not received mercy, but  
now you have received mercy.

## 1 Corinthians 11

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: that the Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

25 In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in My blood**; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

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