

God's Initial Covenant with Abraham

- *Now the Lord had said to Abram: "**Get out of your country,** From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you... And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*
- ***Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him,** Gen 12:1-4*
- *Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. Gal 3:15*

A Second Aspect of the Covenant

• *And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." ... 4 "As for Me, behold, **My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. ... 10 This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;***

• *every male ... circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very same day, as God had said to him. Gen 17:1-24*

• *Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. Gal 3:15*

Third Component to the Covenant

- *Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning ... and went to the place of which God had told him. Gen 22:1-40*
- *Then they **came to the place** ... Abraham **built an altar** ... he **bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar**, And ...**stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son**. Gen 22:9-10*
- *Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. Gal 3:15*

The Covenant Confirmed with Oath

- *Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said: "**By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord**, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — blessing I will bless you, and multiplying **I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore**; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 **In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.**" Gen 22:15-18*

Confirmed Covenant to Us

- *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." Heb 6:13-15*
- *Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, **we might have strong consolation,** who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. Heb 6:17-18*

The Covenant Confirmed to us

- *and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."*
- *23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, Rom 4:19-25*
- Everyone who believes God raised up Jesus shall also have this imputed.

The Covenant Confirmed to Us

- God's side of the Covenant was determined with Abraham. It was fixed then and now "*confirmed no one annuls or adds to it.*"
- *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*
- This was the promise of Peter's Sermon (Acts 2)
- This was the promise of the gospel (Rom 1:15-17)
- This was the promise of Eph 2:9-10

The Covenant Confirmed to Us

- *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2:8-10*
- God's side of the covenant that *no one can annul or add to is salvation by grace through faith.*
- There are no works we can do to atone for our sins, have them atoned for and removed.

Only God can Define this Faith

- *Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. Gal 3:15*
- No one can annul either side of this covenant.
- God gave the grace ... God gave the faith ...
- What does this mean?

The Grafting in of Gentiles

- *For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, 18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. Rom 11:16-24*

Do Not be Haughty But Fear

- *19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." 20 Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. 22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. 23 And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24*

The Example of the Wilderness

- A quotation from Ps 95 – An Inspired commentary:
- *Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. 10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.' 11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'" Heb 3:7-11*

The Application to Us

- *Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Heb 3:12-14*
- *For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Heb 3:16-19*

The Exhortation to Us

- *Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. 3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,'" Heb 4:1-3*

The Exhortation to Us

- *Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*
Heb 4:11-13

The Quality of Faith is the Key

- *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Heb 8:10-13*
- God identifies the quality of faith.
- Only a faith that allows God to write His laws in our mind and write them in our hearts.
- This is the point James is making in Jas 2.
- He doesn't contradict Paul. He only describes the quality of faith as Paul did in Rom 11.