

	5. After Abraham dies, God reaffirms the Abrahamic covenant with Isaac (Abraham's son) and Jacob (his grandson). Note that it	 Some additional comments about Abraham. Abraham gives us an example to follow: He teaches us PATIENCE! We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. Hebrews 6:12, 15 (NIV) According to Jesus: Abraham anticipated Jesus' "day"! "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." John 8:56 (NIV) This may refer to: O the birth of Isaac (which set in motion the fulfillment of the promises that led to worldwide blessings through Christ). Or it may refer to: O the time when Abraham offered Isaac on the altar (and God provided a ram as a substitute – which was a picture of what Jesus would one day accomplish on the cross).
(TO ISAAC.)	is because of what <u>Abraham</u> did, that God did this. " I will be with you and bless you. For I will give all these lands to you and your offspring, and I will confirm the oath that I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky, and I will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations of	
(TO JACOB.)	the earth will be blessed, because Abraham listened to My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Genesis 26:3b-5 (BSB); also v. 24. "I will give you and your descendants the land on which you now lie. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and east and north and south. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your offspring." Genesis 28:13b-14 (BSB)	

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Trust and obedience characterized the lives of the patriarchs (Israel's ancestors).

It wasn't just when they were being promised something! (Lapses of faith sometimes occurred, but it was <u>not</u> the general pattern of their lives.)

By faith Abraham ... Sarah ... Isaac ... Jacob ... Joseph. Found in Hebrews 11:8-22

EXAMPLES FROM THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM:

✓ God is given the praise for Abraham's victory over a confederation of kings – Genesis 14 (especially vs. 17-24).

- ✓ God calls Abraham a prophet (Genesis 20:7), in spite of what may have been a lapse of faith on Abraham's part (v. 11+).
- ✓ Abraham's trust was the reason for the requirements regarding who his son (Isaac) would be allowed to marry – Genesis 24:1-9.

EXAMPLES FROM THE LIVES OF THE OTHER PATRIARCHS:

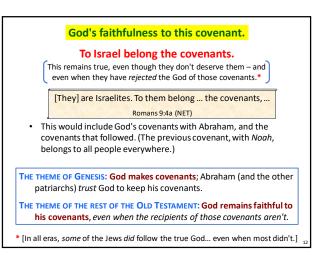
♦ ✓ Isaac told his son (Jacob) to not marry a Canaanite – Genesis 28:1.

- ✓ Jacob makes a vow to God, on his journey to Haran Genesis 28:20-22. He later returns to the place of his vow – Genesis 31:13; chapters 32+. (In this 20-year time period, his faith went from weak to strong. He recognized that he did <u>not</u> deserve the blessings God had given him – Genesis 32:9-10.)
- ✓ Joseph anticipated the fulfillment of God's promises (which would occur *centuries* after he had died), and asked that the people take his bones to Canaan, when they returned there Genesis 50:25.

Why the marriage requirements?

 One of the aspects of the covenant was that the LORD God – the true God – would be their God... not only in their lives, but also in the lives of their children. This rarely happens when God's people choose to marry those who do NOT follow the God of the Bible.

GODLY OFFSPRING IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY SCRIPTURE WARNS US AGAINST MARRYING AN UNSAVED PERSON.		
Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, because they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods . Then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and He will swiftly destroy you.		
a Deuteronomy 7:3-4 (BSB)		
A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, as long as he belongs to the Lord.		
a 1 Corinthians 7:39 (BSB)		
 Believers and unbelievers may have common interests in surface issues. But when it comes to ultimate values, they have very little in common – 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1. 		
 If you are in such a situation (even if it wasn't a deliberate act on your part), 1 Corinthians 7 gives you your options. 		



Theme: God "remembers" his covenant; he does not "forget" it. He is faithful.

These words "remember" and "forget" are from *our* perspective, for God does not change. "Remembering" the covenant refers to situations in which God begins to actively do something related to it.

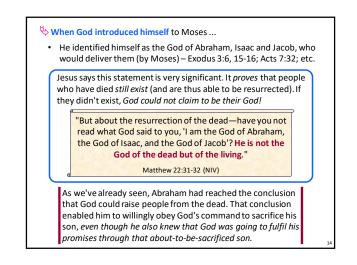
When it was time for the Israelites to leave Egypt..

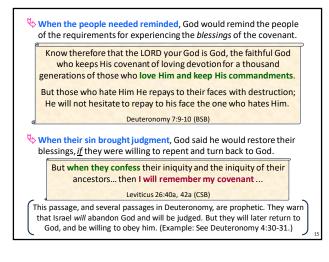
 He "remembered" his covenant – i.e., it was time for him to fulfil his promise to Abraham (see Genesis 15:13-16) – Exodus 2:24.

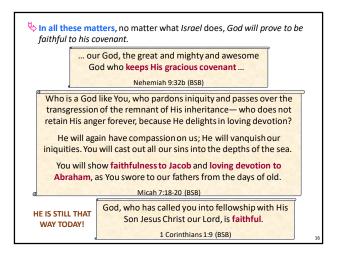
But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. ... God heard their groaning, and **he remembered his covenant promise** to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Exodus 2:23b, 24 (NLT)

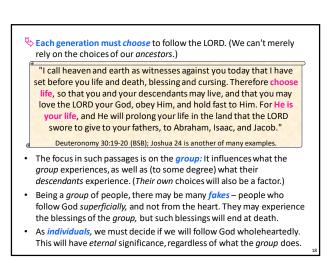
 Later on their journey, Israel sinned greatly against God, and God threatened to destroy them. All Moses had to do was to "remind" God about his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – Exodus 32:13; Deuteronomy 9:27 – and he did not destroy them.







Theme: The people have an obligation to not forget God, and to choose to obey the covenant. When *people* "forget" the covenant, it's because they have *abandoned* it – and that determines the consequences they will experience. Don't forget God! And when the LORD your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that He would give you-[many blessings listed here]—be careful not to forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Deuteronomy 6:10a, 12 (BSB) Forgetting God results in the loss of the blessings that come with serving God -mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:18-20, and many other passages. Yet (as we have already seen), though people may forget the covenant, God continues to remember it.



Theme: The people *did* forget God and the covenant. But God didn't... and won't. That means there is hope!

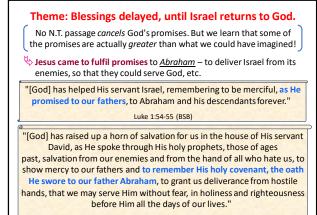
God warned them about the horrible consequences that would occur – destruction, exile, etc. But they *still* chose to abandon God. Even so, nothing they did could cause *God* to break his promises!

Even today, their sin cannot affect these promises. The promises were made to their ancestors, not to them! Here is one O.T. example:

Hazael king of Aram oppressed Israel throughout the reign of Jehoahaz. But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion and showed concern for them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. To this day he has been unwilling to destroy them or banish them from his presence.

2 Kings 13:22-23 (NIV)

 God's covenant with Israel is as certain as his covenant with the laws of nature – Jeremiah 33:19-26. (This passage mentions several of the covenants that God has made. None will be broken.)



Luke 1:69-75 (BSB)

Israel rejected Jesus (at the present time). Yet after Jesus' resurrection, they still had an opportunity to change. Here is the offer:

"And [Israelites] are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, "Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed." When God raised up his servant [Jesus], he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

Acts 3:25-26 (NIV)

God has blessed the Gentiles with the opportunity to be saved, because of Israel's ongoing rejection of Christ. When, in the future, Israel returns to their God, it will mean even greater blessings for all!

But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring! ... For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

Romans 11:12, 15 (NIV)



 Learn from <u>Abraham</u>. Take to heart his examples of trust in God, and patience while waiting for God to do what he has promised he will do.

Sthere is no legitimate reason for us to <u>not</u> trust God!

 Learn from God's <u>covenants</u> with Abraham. Through Christ, we have a direct connection to them.

Christ is the "seed" (offspring) through whom all peoples and nations would be blessed. We who are *united* with Christ in salvation share in the blessing that belongs to Abraham's offspring. *That's because Christ – the one we are united with – is Abraham's offspring.*

Credits

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