

The Association of the Mosaic Covenant to the Abrahamic Covenant

To understand the significance of the Mosaic Covenant, one must do a lot of Old Testament study with a sense of ancient history. This short overview introduces how the Mosaic Covenant is associated with the Abrahamic Covenant.

1. Read Genesis 15:18-19. When the Abrahamic Covenant was ratified, what were the dimensions of the land promised to the descendants of Abraham?

2. How many years after the Abrahamic Covenant did God make a covenant with the nation of Israel? What does the former Pharisee Paul tell us in Galatians 3:16-17?

3. Before the covenant with the nation of Israel is made, God makes an offer.

“You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself. Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Ex 19:4-6, NASB)

What does a kingdom and nation require?

4. By 586 B.C., Jerusalem is sacked and the Temple is destroyed. The Southern Kingdom of Judah no longer exists, and all but the poorest of Jews have been deported and scattered about the Neo-Babylonian empire.

Then the Lord said to me, “A conspiracy has been found among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They have turned back to the wrongdoings of their ancestors who refused to hear My words, and they have followed other gods to serve them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers.” (Jer 11:9-10, NASB)

You shall say to the rebellious ones, to the house of Israel, “This is what the Lord God says: ‘Enough of all your abominations, house of Israel, when you brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary to profane it, My house, when you offered My food, the fat, and the blood and they broke My covenant—this in addition to all your abominations. And you have not taken responsibility for My holy things yourselves, but you have appointed foreigners to take responsibility for My sanctuary.’” (Ezek 44:6-8, NASB)

Both Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesize of the fall of Jerusalem and live to see / experience the Exile and destruction of the Temple.

With the hindsight of history, what is the significance of all this to the nation of Israel?

5. In light of this, how does a descendant of Abraham gain entrance into the Promised Land?

The Teacher Note for this lesson is at:
<http://Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/25Curriculum/Class9-12/print/God.Covenant.MosaicAbrahamic.9-12.pdf>

The Association of the Mosaic Covenant to the Abrahamic Covenant Teacher Notes

To understand the significance of the Mosaic Covenant, one must do a lot of Old Testament study with a sense of ancient history. This short overview provides an introduction to how the Mosaic Covenant is associated with the Abrahamic Covenant.

1. Read Genesis 15:18-19. When the Abrahamic Covenant was ratified, what were the dimensions of the land promised to the descendants of Abraham?

On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying,
 “To your descendants I have given this land,
 From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:
The land of the Kenite, the Kenizzite, the Kadmonite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Rephaim, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Girgashite, and the Jebusite.” (Gen 15:18-19, NASB)

To the descendants of Abraham, God promised the land between the Nile and Euphrates Rivers.

2. How many years after the Abrahamic Covenant did God make a covenant with the nation of Israel? What does the former Pharisee Paul tell us in Galatians 3:16-17?

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as one would in referring to many, but rather as in referring to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ. What I am saying is this: the Law, which came 430 years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. (Gal 3:16-17)

The time between both covenants is 430 years.

Help the student understand the context of time, because there are long spans of time. The Law of Moses was established roughly around 450 B.C.; thus, the Abrahamic Covenant was established roughly around 1880 B.C.

3. Before the covenant with the nation of Israel is made, God makes an offer.

“You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself. Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Ex 19:4-6, NASB)

What does a kingdom and nation require?

A kingdom and nation require land.

Help the student realize one significance of the Mosaic Covenant – Exodus 19:4-6 shows that the stipulations of the Mosaic Covenant determine who will be of God’s own possession, kingdom of priests and holy nation. Those who obey God’s voice and keep His covenant gain entrance into the Promised Land set apart for the service of God.

4. By 586 B.C., Jerusalem is sacked and the Temple is destroyed. The Southern Kingdom of Judah no longer exists, and all but the poorest of Jews have been deported and scattered about the Neo-Babylonian empire.

Then the Lord said to me, “A conspiracy has been found among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They have turned back to the wrongdoings of their ancestors who refused to hear My words, and they have followed other gods to serve them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers.” (Jer 11:9-10, NASB)

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With the hindsight of history, what is the significance of all this to the nation of Israel?

The conditional Mosaic Covenant was irrevocably broken by the kings and priesthood of both Northern and Southern kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom Israel completely fell to the Assyrians in 722 B.C. and survivors were deported into captivity (2 Ki 17:5-17; 1 Chron 5:26).

Help the student understand the context of time. A timeline showing when both Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants were made and the fall of both Northern and Southern kingdoms may be helpful.

With the demise of the Southern Kingdom Judah, the Jews lost both their Promised Land and Temple in Jerusalem, which was necessary to make their sacrifices for sin. It appears God’s view of the Jews’ compliance to the Mosaic Covenant was akin to not having a Temple at all.

5. In light of this, how does a descendant of Abraham gain entrance into the Promised Land?

Allow the student to explore and discuss this question. Encourage and challenge his thinking with probing questions. Help the student look for his answer in the Bible with tools like a concordance where a search can be made by key words.