

PERFECT ENDING

**WHY YOUR ETERNAL FUTURE
MATTERS TODAY**

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IT BEGINS AND ENDS WITH ISRAEL

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Introduction: "What's the big deal with Israel?" you may have wondered. "What does the future of Israel have to do with my future?" Everything. Today we are going to discover how God's promise to Abraham nearly two thousand years ago is directly related to His plan for us today and throughout eternity.

- I. Overview Of God's Plan For Mankind
 - A. Theme of Genesis 1-11: Man's Alienation From God

 - B. Theme of Genesis 12-Revelation: God's Reconciliation With Man

II. The Focal Point Of God's Redemptive Plan: The Abrahamic Covenant

A. The Context of The Covenant

Joshua 24:2-3 "And Joshua said to all the people, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River, and led him through all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac.'"

Titus 3:5a "He [God] saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy..."

Genesis 12:1 "Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country, and from your relatives, and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you.'"

B. The Components of the Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12:1-3 "Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"

A Three-Fold Promise

1. A land

Genesis 12:1 "Go forth from your country, to the land which I will show you."

2. A seed

Genesis 12:2a "And I will make you a great nation and I will bless you..."

Genesis 22:17 "Indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies."

3. A blessing

Genesis 12:3b "...And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Galatians 3:6-8 "Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham saying, 'All the nations shall be blessed in you.'"

III. Characteristics Of The Abrahamic Covenant

A. Literal

Genesis 12:4-5 "So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan."

B. Eternal

Genesis 13:14-15 "And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, 'Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.'"

C. Unconditional

Galatians 3:17-18 “What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.”

Psalm 89:30-34 ³⁰ “If his sons forsake My law, and do not walk in My judgments, ³¹ If they violate My statutes, and do not keep My commandments, ³² Then I will visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. ³³ But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, nor deal falsely in My faithfulness. ³⁴ My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips.”

Genesis 15:8-10 ⁸ “And he [Abram] said, ‘O Lord God, how may I know that I shall possess it?’ ⁹ So He [God] said to him, ‘Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtle dove, and a young pigeon.’ ¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds.”

Genesis 15:12 “Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him.”

Genesis 15:17-18a “And it came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram...”

IV. The Meaning Of The Abrahamic Covenant For Us

John 10:28 "...And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of my hand."

Hebrews 7:25 "Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

Hebrews 13:5b "...for He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.'"

Conclusion