

# Abrahamic Covenant

## Review

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## Exodus Background

### Acts 7:2-6 [ESV]

<sup>2</sup> And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, <sup>3</sup> and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.' <sup>4</sup> Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. <sup>5</sup> Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. <sup>6</sup> **And God spoke to this effect- that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years. <sup>7</sup> 'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.'**

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## Abrahamic Covenant(s) Multiple Blessings and Promises

- I. Promise of Blessing
  - A. Unconditional Blessing
  - B. Conditional Curses
- II. Promised Seed Covenant
  - A. Isaac
- III. Promised Land Covenant
  - A. Promised Land Delivered as Promised
- IV. Earth Covenant
  - A. Inheritance of the Earth
- V. Covenant of Circumcision
  - A. Covenant of Membership
  - B. Christ – Circumcised or “Cut-off” on our behalf!

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## The Promise of Blessing Genesis 12:2-3

<sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” [ESV]

וְאֶעֱשֶׂךָ לְגוֹי גָדוֹל וְאֶבְרַכְךָ וְאֶנְדְּלָה שְׁמֶךָ וְהָיָה בְרַכָּה:  
וְאֶבְרַכְהוּ מִבְּרַכְיֶיךָ וּמִקְלָלֶיךָ אֲאָר וְנִבְרַכְוּ בְּךָ כָּל מִשְׁפְּחוֹת  
הָאָדָמָה:

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## Promised Land Covenant Genesis 15:13-17 Analysis

### Oath

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that

### Stipulations

- 1) your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs...
- 2) [they] will be servants there...
- 3) they will be afflicted for four hundred years...
- 4) ... I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve ...
- 5) afterward they shall come out with great possessions.
- 6) As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace...
- 7) you shall be buried in a good old age.
- 8) And they shall come back here in the fourth generation [ or "age"], for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

### Fulfillment

Exodus 1:1  
Exodus 1:13  
Exodus 12:40-41  
Acts 7:7  
Exodus 12:36  
Genesis 25:8  
Genesis 25:8  
Joshua 5:5  
Joshua 10:12

### Curses

<sup>17</sup> **When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.**

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## Covenant of Circumcision Genesis 17:10-14 [ESV]

<sup>10</sup> **This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.** <sup>11</sup> You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. <sup>12</sup> He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, <sup>13</sup> both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. <sup>14</sup> **Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."**

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# Abrahamic Covenant

## Key Points

- I. Promises of Blessing/Curse
  - A. How should one treat Abraham's seed?
- II. Promise of Deliverance
  - A. What did God promise would happen?
  - B. What did God promise he will do?
- III. Covenant of Circumcision
  - A. What does it mean to circumcise?

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# Exodus 1-2

## The Punishment Fits the Crime

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## Israel in Egypt

### Exodus 1:1-12 [ESV]

<sup>1</sup> These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: <sup>2</sup> Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, <sup>3</sup> Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, <sup>4</sup> Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. <sup>5</sup> All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. <sup>6</sup> Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. <sup>7</sup> But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them. <sup>8</sup> Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. <sup>10</sup> Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." <sup>11</sup> Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel.

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## Hebrew Midwives

### Exodus 1:13-22 [ESV]

<sup>13</sup> So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves <sup>14</sup> and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves. <sup>15</sup> Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup> "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" <sup>19</sup> The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." <sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. <sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."<sup>10</sup>

## Moses in the Ark

### Exodus 2:1-9 [ESV]

<sup>1</sup> Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup> When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. <sup>4</sup> And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. <sup>5</sup> Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. <sup>6</sup> When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." <sup>7</sup> Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" <sup>8</sup> And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup> And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. <sup>11</sup>

## Moses Kills the Egyptian

### Exodus 2:10-15 [ESV]

<sup>10</sup> When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water." <sup>11</sup> One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. <sup>12</sup> He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. <sup>13</sup> When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?" <sup>14</sup> He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known." <sup>15</sup> When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

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## Moses in Midian

### Exodus 2:16-25 [ESV]

<sup>16</sup> Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. <sup>17</sup> The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. <sup>18</sup> When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come home so soon today?" <sup>19</sup> They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock." <sup>20</sup> He said to his daughters, "Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." <sup>21</sup> And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. <sup>22</sup> She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land." <sup>23</sup> During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. <sup>24</sup> And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup> **God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.**

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## Who are the Heroes?

### Exodus 1-2

- I. Midwives
  - A. Shiphrah
  - B. Puah
- II. Moses' Mother
- III. Daughter's Servant
- IV. Pharaoh's Daughter
- V. Moses' Sister (Miriam)

What do they all have in common?

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## The Fall Revisted

### Genesis 3:14-16 [ESV]

<sup>14</sup> The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” <sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

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## Why Was Israel in Slavery?

### “The Punishment Fits the Crime”

- I. The result of God’s oath with Abraham?  
(Genesis 15:13-17)
- II. Because a king arose who did not know Joseph? (Exod 1:8)
- III. Because Israel settled in Goshen and did not return? (Gen 47:11)
  - A. Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years (Gen 47:28)
- IV. Was it retributive for selling Joseph into slavery in Egypt? (Gen 37:28)

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## Why did Egypt Afflict Israel?

### “The Punishment Fits the Crime”

- I. Domestic Security? (Exod 1:9)
- II. Need for workers to build pagan temples, monuments, etc? (Exod 1:11)
- III. Fear? (Exodus 1:12)
- IV. Economic reasons?
- V. Was it retributive for Joseph enslaving the Egyptians? (Gen 47:13-31)
- VI. Gods’ People? (Gen 50; Exod 2, etc.)

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## What Were the Egyptians Doing?

### “The Punishment Fits the Crime”

- I. King of Egypt’s Order to the Midwives (Exod 1:15)
- II. King’s order to throw the male children into the Nile? (Exod 1:22)

**How does this relate to circumcision?**

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## What Is God Going to Do? “The Punishment Fits the Crime”

- I. Egypt’s Crimes
  - A. Racism Against the Hebrews
  - B. Egypt afflicting/cursing Israel
  - C. Pagan idolatry in a “Serpent Cult”
    1. Israel not entirely innocent (Joshua 24:14)
  - D. Blaspheming the circumcision covenant
  - E. Genocide against Israel
- II. Afflicting “God’s People” – God’s Son

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## Closing Thoughts

### Exodus 2:14-18 [ESV]

<sup>14</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. <sup>15</sup> Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water. Stand on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that turned into a serpent. <sup>16</sup> And you shall say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, “Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness. But so far, you have not obeyed.” <sup>17</sup> Thus says the Lord, “By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood. <sup>18</sup> The fish in the Nile shall die, and the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile.” ’ ”

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## Closing Thoughts

### The River Nile Turned to Blood

ANE “Catalog of Catastrophe” describing Egyptian Disasters, a copy of which records, from the period between 1350 and 1100 BC, the time in which the exodus almost certainly took place. The pertinent lines read as follows:

Why really, the River is blood. If one drinks of it,  
one rejects (it) as human and thirsts for water

**Why did God change the Nile from water to blood?**

**Why Moses? The one “drawn out” of water?**

Source: Prichard, B., Ancient Near Eastern Texts, 3rd ed. with Supplement

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