

The Abrahamic Covenant

Introduction:

An exhaustive study of all cases of *bĕrît* in the Hebrew Bible reveals a completely consistent usage: the construction “to cut a covenant” (*kārat bĕrît*) refers to covenant initiation while the expression “to establish a covenant” (*hēqîm bĕrît*) means to affirm (verbally) the continued validity of a prior covenant, i.e. to affirm that one is still committed to the covenant relationship established in a preexisting covenant.¹

But I will **establish** my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark with your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives. (Gen 6:18)

Then God said to Noah and his sons with him, “Understand that I am **establishing** my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you—birds, livestock, and all wildlife of the earth that are with you—all the animals of the earth that came out of the ark. I **establish** my covenant with you that never again will every creature be wiped out by floodwaters; there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth.” (Gen 9:8-11).

God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have **established** between me and every creature on earth.” (Gen 9:17)

And I will require a penalty for your lifeblood; I will require it from any animal and from any human; if someone murders a fellow human, I will require that person’s life. Whoever sheds human blood, by humans his blood will be shed, for God made humans in his image. (Gen 9:5-6).

1. Babel (Babylon, same Heb word)

1.1. Direct Disobedience

¹ Gentry, P. J., & Wellum, S. J. (2015). [*God’s Kingdom through God’s Covenants: A Concise Biblical Theology*](#) (p. 60). Crossway.

“Come, let’s build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. Let’s make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered throughout the earth.” (Gen 11:4)

1.2. The City of Man

You [the king of Babylon] said to yourself, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will set up my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of the gods’ assembly, in the remotest parts of the North. I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you will be brought down to Sheol into the deepest regions of the Pit. (Isa 14:13-15)

Then he carried me away in the Spirit to a wilderness. I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, jewels, and pearls. She had a golden cup in her hand filled with everything detestable and with the impurities of her prostitution. On her forehead was written a name, a mystery: Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the Detestable Things of the Earth. Then I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. (Rev 17:3-6)

2. Abraham Promised Great Things

2.1. Multitudinous Descendants

2.1.1. A Nation (Kingdom)

2.1.2. Kings and Nations

2.2. Land

2.2.1. Beautiful and Fruitful

2.2.2. Strategic

2.3. A Blessing to the Nations

2.4. God Himself

