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**C0746 – December 19, 2007 – The Outworking Of The Abrahamic
& Mosaic Covenants**

We're looking at The Book of the Twelve. These are the last 12 books in your English OT. They make up 67 chapters of material. The Jews put these all on one scroll in the times of Ezra, about 400 years before Christ. Most people refer to them as the Minor Prophets. They are Prophets, in fact the calculations show that if you take the average it amounts to 62% prophecy and that is considerably more prophecy than but the average book (~25%). So, they are prophecy but by no stretch of the imagination are they Minor. They are just as much the word of God as any other book and God considers them an essential part of His verbal revelation to mankind. While they are not written *to* us, they are written to Israel, they are written *for* us because all Scripture is profitable for teaching, correction, rebuke, for training in righteousness. The big benefit, the application we're going to glean from the Twelve is in three areas, Sanctification, Discipline and Prayer. Those are the three doctrines primarily associated with the Twelve.

WORLD HISTORY AND ISRAEL'S HISTORY

We've been doing a lot of leg work up front because the Twelve are difficult to understand, particularly from a Gentile perspective. So, we've been developing a few things, the context of world history and Israel's history. Remember you have these two scopes of history being developed in the OT. Gen 1-11 looks at world history and that section of history shapes modern culture. I hope you are appreciating more and more the structure God set up in the Creation, the effects of sin brought in by man at the Fall and how what we observe today is defined by those foundational events. The other branch of history in the OT deals specifically with Israel and that's Gen 12-Acts 1 where the focus is Israel and the other nations are brought in only with

respect to them. This is why you don't find anything about America in Prophecy but you do find a lot about those ancient nations like Edom, Egypt, Assyria, Greece, Rome...America is an infant among the nations and has only interacted directly with Israel for about a hundred years, maybe less.

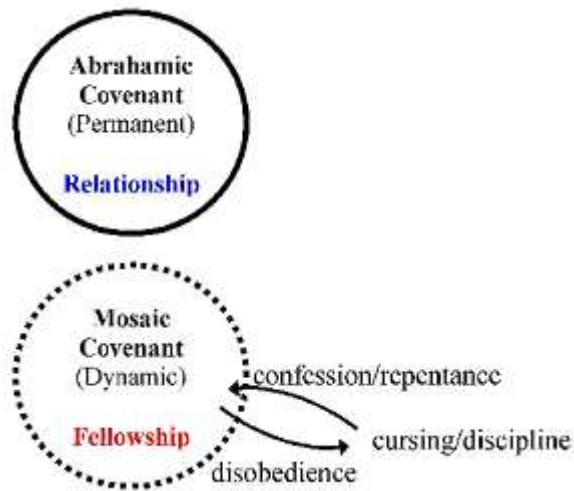
THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

But Israel's history starts with Abraham in Gen 12 and we said the first key to unlocking the Twelve is the Abrahamic Covenant. This is a contract that God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It's an "I will..." contract which indicates that God is the only party responsible to fulfill this contract. When God made the contract with Abraham He was the only one who walked between the pieces in Gen 15 so we say this is an unconditional covenant. God and God alone is responsible to fulfill it. The contract promises three things; land, seed, worldwide blessing. These promises have not been fulfilled yet so if God is faithful He must fulfill them in the future.¹ This covenant establishes our diagram of the upper circle. It is sealed indicating a permanent relationship. So, the upper circle portrays the permanent dimension of a Father-Son relationship.



THE MOSAIC COVENANT

The second key to unlocking the Twelve is the Mosaic Covenant. This is another contract God made with the nation of Israel. It's an "if...then..." contract which means this is a conditional covenant. Israel agreed to do all that the Lord commanded (Exod 19:7). If she obeyed there would be blessing, if she disobeyed there would be cursing. The blessings and cursings are outlined in Lev 26 and Deut 28. The conditionality of this covenant establishes the lower circle in our diagram which depicts the dynamic dimension of the Father-Son relationship.



Earthly father-son relationships are permanent due to biological factors but earthly father-son relationships are dynamic due to ethical factors. A similar relationship exists between God and Israel. Their Father-Son relationship is permanent due to divine essence factors but dynamic due to ethical factors. As in all father-son relationships if the son is disobedient the father disciplines the son to stimulate repentance by the son so fellowship can be restored. Israel's experience in the OT, NT and at present follows this blessing/cursing motif. As Lev 26 shows there were five degrees of cursing that went from bad to worse. Despite the fact that she underwent the 5th degree of cursing this does not destroy her permanent relationship with God in the upper circle. Israel's experience of extreme cursing and discipline is indicative of the fact that God loves her and wants her to return to Him so He can bless her.

Keep in mind throughout this that our diagram is not looking at individual Israelites, but at the nation as a whole. What was the general trend of the nation? Were they being obedient or disobedient? It was the nation of Israel that was chosen by God. He did not choose them for national salvation in the OT. Not all Israelites will go to heaven. He chose them for other reasons. Namely, to record the oracles of God and to give birth to the Messiah of God. Why did God choose Israel? Deut 4:37 says "Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them." Why did God love the fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? I don't know. I can't go any farther than that into the divine motive. But the upper and lower circles portray the permanent and dynamic dimensions of the two covenants and mirrors the individual Christian's position and experience. We have a permanent relationship with God through faith alone in Jesus Christ. Nothing can ever

change that, we are eternally secure. In fact, we are called children of God. But there is another dimension and that is the dynamics of fellowship with God. IF we disobey God we lose fellowship and undergo discipline. This serves the same purpose it served for OT Israel. To stimulate us to confess/repent and be restored to fellowship with God.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ABRAHAMIC AND MOSAIC COVENANTS

Now, last time we looked in detail at the blessings and cursings in Lev 26. Now we want to deal with the relationship of these two covenants and how they will unfold in history. Then we'll look at the general scheme three-fold scheme found in the Twelve and we will trace it all the way to the Second Coming of Christ. Let's talk about the terminology we use with the Abrahamic Covenant. We call it unconditional. Last time we met I questioned that terminology and I want to work with that for a few minutes. Turn over to Lev 26. This is the blessings and cursings of the Mosaic Covenant, the second key to the Twelve, and we outlined these last time. Blessings for obedience to the Mosaic Law in vv 1-14 and Cursings for disobedience to the Mosaic Law in vv 15-39 and then you come to v 40 and it seems that this is where you get into the relationship of the Mosaic Covenant to the Abrahamic Covenant. Notice the conditional terminology of v 40, "If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers..." verse 42, "then I will remember My covenant with Jacob and Isaac and Abraham and I will remember the land." It's hard to say there are no conditions to meet here. The only way to avoid these is to translate the Hebrew "When". "When they confess their iniquity". But most expositors agree there is a condition that the nation must meet in order for God to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant and that condition is "confession/repentance". But notice v 44, "Yet in spite of this," that is, in spite of their disobedience, "when they are in the land of their enemies," that is, when they are exiled among all the nations, He says, "I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God." So, this passage teaches that Israel will go into 5th degree cursing, exile from the land but God will not forget them. He will fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant. Turn to Dt 30:1-5. Is Lev 26 an isolated passage or is this taught in other places throughout Scripture? "So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind in all

nations where the LORD your God has banished you, ²and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, ³then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴“If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. ⁵“The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.” Note again that Israel will be disobedient, she will go into exile, she will call to mind her iniquity, return to YHWH and then God will restore them and give them the land. Turn to Jer 3:11-18, “And the LORD said to me, “Faithless Israel has proved herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. ¹²“Go and proclaim these words toward the north and say, ‘Return, faithless Israel,’ declares the LORD; ‘I will not look upon you in anger. For I am gracious,’ declares the LORD; ‘I will not be angry forever. ¹³‘Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the LORD your God And have scattered your favors to the strangers under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice,’ declares the LORD. ¹⁴‘Return, O faithless sons,’ declares the LORD; ‘For I am a master to you, And I will take you one from a city and two from a family, And I will bring you to Zion.’ ¹⁵“Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding. ¹⁶“It shall be in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land,” declares the LORD, “they will no longer say, ‘The ark of the covenant of the LORD.’ And it will not come to mind, nor will they remember it, nor will they miss *it*, nor will it be made again. ¹⁷“At that time they will call Jerusalem ‘The Throne of the LORD,’ and all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of the LORD; nor will they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart. ¹⁸“In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers as an inheritance.” So again you see the nation going disobedient, then the fact that they must return to the Lord and then they will be restored to Zion and will enjoy prosperity in the land. So, you keep seeing this three-fold trend over and over and over in the OT Scriptures.

- 1) Israel disobeys the Mosaic Covenant and comes under 5th degree of divine discipline which is exile

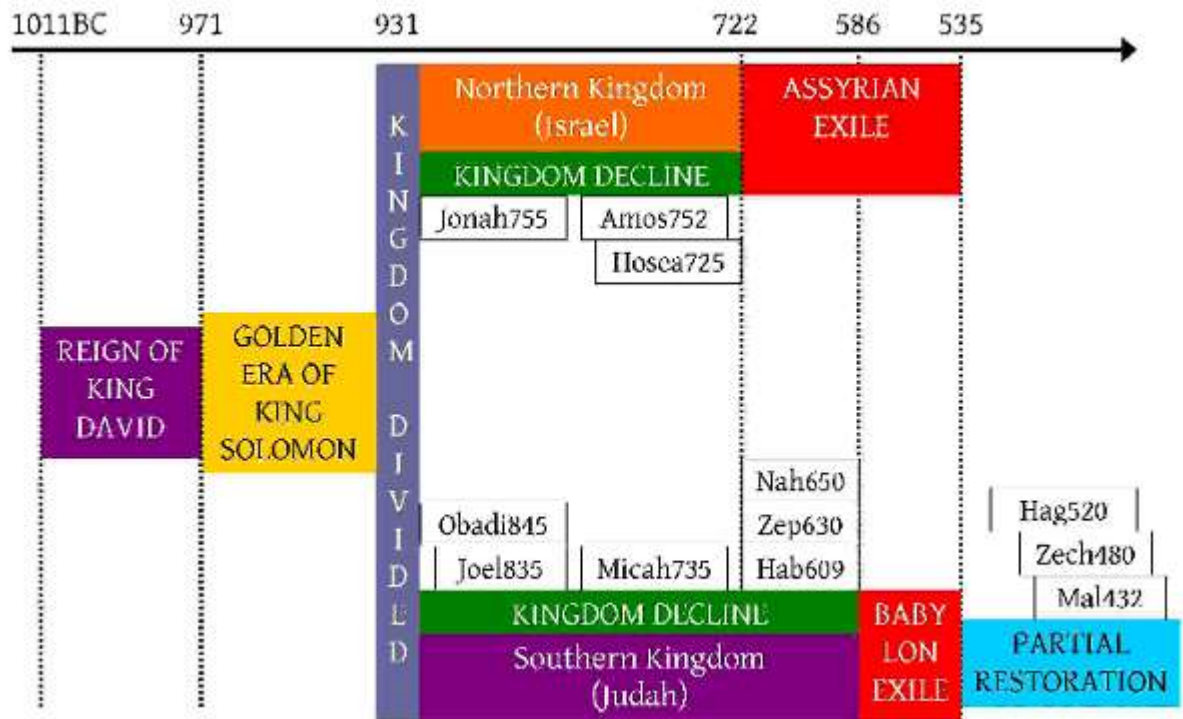
- 2) Israel confesses/repents of their disobedience
- 3) God fulfills the Abrahamic Covenant.

It's always this sequence time and again. We're going to see this pattern throughout the Twelve. Three things are mentioned as happening over and over and over. Israel is disobedient, she confesses/repents, God restores. So, there is a *condition* here for the Abrahamic Covenant to be fulfilled but God also guarantees that it will be met. We'll get into how God guarantees that condition will be met later but just note here that there is a condition Israel must meet, she must confess/repent of her iniquity, only then will God fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant. Dispensationalist Arnold Fruchtenbaum says on Lev 26, "By verse 39, the world-wide dispersion is a fact. Up to this point, Leviticus 26 has been fulfilled. In verse 42, Moses states that God has every intention of giving to Israel all the blessings and promises of the Abrahamic Covenant, especially as the covenant pertains to the Promised Land, However, before they can begin to enjoy these blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant during the Messianic Kingdom, it is first necessary for them to fulfill the condition of verse 40:...*they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers.*"ⁱⁱ So, let's summarize what we're saying here with respect to the relationship of the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant to the conditional Mosaic Covenant. Israel' has permanent title deed to the Promised Land but her enjoyment of the Promised Land is conditioned on obedience. Fruchtenbaum says, "While her enjoyment of the land is conditioned on obedience, ownership of the land is unconditional." But how will they ever become obedient. Well, they will have to have a new heart. To receive a new heart the nation must confess/repent, then she will receive a new heart and she will be obedient and enjoy the land and its produce.

HISTORIC OUTWORKING OF ABRAHAMIC AND MOSAIC COVENANTS

Now, I've given you the two keys, Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants. Now let's look at their outworking. How has this program worked out in history? In just about every Book of the Twelve you will find this three-fold scheme; Israel disobeys the Mosaic Covenant and goes into 5th degree cursing, exile; 2) Israel confesses/repents of her iniquity; 3) God fulfills the Abrahamic Covenant. So, let's look at Israel's history and see if it follows this. I want you to see this is not something I've forced on the text. We're not reading into the

text a scheme, we're drawing out from the text this scheme. Then we'll be all set to start looking at the individual books in the Twelve because you'll see this pattern again and again and again.



Let's start with the kingdom united. Israel had a monarchy in the time of King Saul, King David and King Solomon. This was Israel's period of *blessing*. Who was the greatest of those three kings? Who was the most loyal servant of YHWH? David. Saul was a sorcerer but David was a man after God's own heart. I call this period the **Reign of King David** and he led the nation in obedience to God for 40 years from 1011-971BC. As a result they experienced tremendous blessing under the covenant faithfulness of YHWH. As a covenant keeping God He is always faithful to do everything He says He will do. Because the nation followed David and obeyed the Lord God blessed them according to His promises in Lev 26:1-14. This led to what I call the **Golden Era of King Solomon** from 971-931BC. I call it the Golden Era for reasons I'll expound later in the Biblical Framework. But basically that title has to do with the fact that Israel experienced a high wisdom and culture that began to draw the surrounding nations to Israel to learn of their wisdom and their God. In other words, it had evangelistic repercussions and that was God's intention with Israel, that she would be a light to the nations. However, it is important to realize that the blessing they experienced during Solomon's reign was not due to that generation's loyalty to YHWH but to David's

generation. So, I am not saying that Solomon's generation was the most loyal to YHWH during this 40-year era. I mean they enjoyed the fruits of David's reign. We will find later that the wealth, technology, learning and wisdom in Israel peaked during Solomon's reign. But during Solomon's era a root of idolatry set in. Solomon made military alliances with other nations, married foreign wives, set up altars to foreign gods, led the people into idolatry and thus defiled the land. This covenant unfaithfulness to YHWH led the nation to fall out of fellowship, out of the bottom circle and to begin coming under the five degrees of cursing outlined in Lev 26:15-39. Immediately the **Kingdom Divided** in 931BC. So, here you can clearly see the outworking of the Mosaic Covenant. Now you had a northern and a southern kingdom. From that point on God dealt with these two kingdoms as individual entities. Notice the northern kingdom. It started in 931 and went into exile in 722. It only lasted 209 years, whereas the southern kingdom also started in 931 but did not go into exile until 586, that's 345 years. So, they were being dealt with individually, as if God had two sons. So, 931 is a critical point in Israel's history because Solomon dies and his son Rehoboam takes over the kingdom and he makes some terrible spiritual and political decisions that result in the Kingdom Divided. So, this is early in the five degrees of cursing/discipline that God sent on the nation because of covenant unfaithfulness under Solomon. They got all fat and happy and went right into idolatry.

Now, take a look at our chart of Israel's history. What do you see mixed in with the northern and southern kingdom as they decline? I call this the period of **Kingdom Decline**. And what do you see on the chart? You see the first nine prophets, the date they wrote and the kingdom they wrote too. Those nine are called the pre-exilic prophets because they ministered before the exile. The north declined more rapidly, they didn't have a single good king, they reached the 5th degree of cursing in Lev 26 and went into exile in 722BC to Assyria. There were three prophets to the north during the decline, Jonah, Amos and Hosea, actually Jonah was a missionary so he doesn't really fit our scheme. But what do you think Amos and Hosea are saying to the northern kingdom? "Hello, wake up, your being unfaithful to the Mosaic covenant. Return to the Lord and He will restore you to the land." In the south you have a slower but steady decline, you had a few good kings, they reached the 5th degree of cursing in Lev 26 and went into exile in 586BC to Babylon. There were six prophets to the south during the decline, Obadiah, Joel, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah and Habakkuk. What do you think those

prophets are saying to the southern kingdom? “Hello, wake up, your being unfaithful to the Mosaic covenant. Return to the Lord and He will restore you to the land.”

Now, they have both violated their covenant obligations, they have been through the five degrees of cursing. The whole purpose of those cursings is to get them to confess their iniquity and return to the Lord so He would bless them and they would enjoy the land. But now they are in exile, the Shechinah Glory departed from the Temple in 586BC and the rise of nations begins; Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome and along with this something else remarkable takes place. Anyone know what the 6th century BC is known for? The rise of seven major world religions. Robert Brow says in his book *Religion: Origin and Ideas*, “In the sixth century B.C. there was a tidal wave of revolt against the priestcraft of the ancient world. This wave shattered the power of the old religions, though their cults continued to exist as backwaters for centuries. Seven world religions appeared within fifty years of each other and all continue to this day. Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Jainism, Confucianism, Judaism, Taoism and Vedanta Monism (a reformed version of Hinduism). Somehow the rise of these religions is connected with the exile of the Hebrews. As they went out into the world their religious ideas were syncretized with other religious ideas and found new expressions. Then, in 535BC you have a partial restoration. Anyone know why there is a partial restoration to the land? At least of the southern kingdom? Did the nation all of a sudden confess/ repent? No. But turn with me to Dan 9. This is the longest prayer in the OT and its Daniel praying. What stimulated the prayer? Verses 1-2 say it was his study of Jeremiah 25 and 29. So, one reason has to do with this prophecy that they would be in Babylon for 70 years. But God used Daniels’s prayer as a means of fulfilling this prophecy. So, here’s a man who grew up in Jerusalem, he lived there while Shechinah Glory still dwelled in the Temple and then he was deported to Babylon as a youth in 605BC. Now he lives in the center of idolatrous rebellion, the San Francisco of the ancient world, Babylon was pagan to the core, but in that Empire he’s risen in the political ranks of Babylonian to become the prime minister of Babylon, second in command. He’s ruled across a number of political administrations. Babylon was the place to be. Now, you’d think, this guy’s got it made. He’s got wealth, he’s got power, he’s got prestige, he’s got influence. What more could you ask for? Well, Daniel did want something more. Daniel wanted God. Jerusalem is desolate (9:2). God’s dwelling place is a wreck. That once

beautiful splendor where God dwelled. I want God. So, I want you to just read through this prayer with me and I want you to think about the three-fold scheme we've developed because here's Israel in exile, the 5th degree of cursing and let's see if Daniel knows what it takes to get God back.

³So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek *Him* by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. ⁴I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed" that's a summary of this prayer and it's a prayer of confession. He's confessing the nations sin because he knows the Lord will not remember the Abrahamic Covenant and fulfill it until the nation confesses/repents. So, let's read the confession. "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, ⁵we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances." Alright, they've sinned. ⁶"Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land." We've rejected the word of God.

⁷"Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to us open shame, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You." See, he's admitted they've violated the Mosaic Covenant and that's why they're in exile.

⁸"Open shame belongs to us, O Lord, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. ⁹"To the Lord our God *belong* compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him; ¹⁰nor have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets.

¹¹"Indeed all Israel has transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has been poured out on us, along with the oath which is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him." There it is, Lev 26, we disobeyed God therefore God cursed us. What do you think Daniel is wanting here? The kingdom of God, the restoration of Israel. The dwelling of God. The Abrahamic Covenant to be filled. He doesn't want stupid Babylon. He wants God! ¹²"Thus He has confirmed His words which He had spoken against us and against our rulers who ruled us, to bring on us great

calamity; for under the whole heaven there has not been done *anything* like what was done to Jerusalem.” ¹³“As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us;” There it is again, Lev 26, Deut 28. “yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth.” There’s the condition they must meet, they must turn from the iniquity. That’s repentance. ¹⁴“Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for the LORD our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice. ¹⁵“And now, O Lord our God, who have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made a name for Yourself, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have been wicked.” There’s the confession. ¹⁶“O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people *have become* a reproach to all those around us. ¹⁷“So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. ¹⁸“O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. ¹⁹“O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

So, I think, in part, that you have a partial restoration in 536 because of Daniels’ prayer. That prayer was God’s prescribed means of fulfilling the prophecy of Jer 25 & 29. “The prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (Jas 5:16). But the whole nation did not confess. The whole nation did not repent so you only have a partial restoration. Second reason. Think about this. What tribe is the major tribe in the southern kingdom? Judah. Who’s going to be born of the tribe of Judah? The Messiah? Where is the Messiah going to be born? In the land of Israel or outside of the land? In the land, in Bethlehem, we find out later (Mal 5:2). So, they have to be partially restored if the Messiah is going to be born in Bethlehem. See why I keep telling you the text is all interrelated. Everything that’s happening in Scripture is happening for a purpose. So, God answers Daniels’s prayer partially and sets up for the

Messiah to be born in the land of Israel. If they'd been exiled finally and completely then Messiah would not be born in Israel and that would be the end of the game. So, though the northern and southern kingdoms went into exile in 722 and 586 respectively this was not the final exile. This was not the final discipline. They were only partially exiled then Daniel confessed the sin of the nation and God partially restored. Was that because of obedience? No, it was so the Messiah could be born in Israel. So, let's look ahead in Israel's history, let's look to when the Messiah was born in the Gospel of Matthew.

What message does the NT open with after Matthew records the birth of the King and His lineage? Who was the forerunner of the Messiah? John the Baptist. Why did John the Baptist come? To prepare the way for the Messiah. To get the nation ready spiritually for the King. So, what was John the Baptist's message? Matt 3:2, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand?" Does that ring any bells? Think back to the OT and the three-fold scheme. Why is John telling the nation to repent? Because for the Messiah to come and fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant the nation of Israel has to confess/repent. Turn over to Matt 4:17. What message did Jesus come preaching? Same message. "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The issue in that generation of Israel was, "Are you going to continue in the iniquity of your fathers or are you going to repent of your iniquity? What did they do? Did they repent? No. If they had repented they would have accepted the Messiahship of Jesus. But Jesus condemned that generation. he said it was an "adulterous generation" (Matt 12:39), an "evil generation" (Matt 12:45). Turn to Matt 23:29. Let's see what else Jesus had to say about that generation. You may not have understood these verses very well before. I hope this sheds some light on them. Keep in mind what we're doing here. We're looking at the fact that the nation of Israel must meet a condition for the Messiah to come in His Kingdom and fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant. And we're checking to see if Jesus' generation met that condition. John came preaching it, Jesus came preaching it. What did the nation do?

²⁹"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰and say, 'If we had been *living* in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in *shedding* the blood of the prophets.' ³¹"So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³²"Fill up, then, the measure of *the guilt* of your fathers.

³³“You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell? ³⁴“Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, ³⁵so that upon you may fall *the guilt of* all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶“Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

That generation rejected it. They did not confess/repent. Since the nation did not confess/repent the kingdom did not come. It came near. It was “at hand” but it could not come unless the nation confessed/repented. Since they did not confess/repent, the Abrahamic Covenant was not fulfilled. Note vv 37-39,

³⁷“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together,” the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.” See, it’s not that Jesus doesn’t want to gather the nation and fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant. It’s that they are unwilling. ³⁸“Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!” This is the proclamation of final exile, final discipline. It wasn’t enacted until 70AD when Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by Titus and the Roman armies. That was the final discipline and that was the final outworking of the 5th degree of cursing. This time the exile was not partial it was total and ever since Israel has been scattered among the nations, until 1948 when we find God is at work preparing the stage for bringing her to national confession/repentance and fulfilling the Abrahamic Covenant. ³⁹“For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’ ”

Okay, this is the national confession. Jesus is saying, “Look Israel, you’ve rejected me, you’ve done exactly what your fathers have done, you haven’t confessed/repented, therefore, I’m leaving and I won’t be back until you say this, until you make this confession. Listen to what Dr Toussaint of Dallas Seminary says about this. I want you to hear this from a true dispensationalist who understands the issue (9:45-11:00). Turn over to Acts.

In chapter 1 Jesus has already been crucified and resurrected. He made ten appearances and he spent 40 days with his disciples teaching them about the kingdom of God and He separated the coming of the kingdom from the coming of the Holy Spirit. That introduces a new mystery truth, the church, previously unrevealed truth. They would be Spirit baptized. That starts in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost. But what I want you to see is in Acts 3. This is Peter's second sermon. He delivered his first sermon in Acts 2, his second sermon in Acts 3. And notice the condition he lays out for Jesus to return and bring in the period of restoration. Verse 17.

¹⁷“And now, brethren,” Who are the brethren? His fellow Jews. “I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. ¹⁸“But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

¹⁹“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; ²⁰and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, ²¹whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

What's the condition in verse 19 for Jesus to return and restore all things and bring in the Abrahamic Covenant? Repent and return. If the nation of Israel will do that then Jesus will come and when Jesus comes He will fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant. But Jesus will remain in heaven until Israel repents/confesses. Only when that condition is met will all these things take place. And v 21 makes it very clear that this was the message of the OT prophets. So, we see this message in the Twelve. To see it turn to Hosea 6. Here's one of the Twelve and this is Tribulation. This is future. Right now we have, since the late 1800's a regathering of the Jews in the land. In 1948 their statehood. And more and more Jews are returning every day. But they are returning in unbelief. Isa 11 talks of two regatherings. One is happening now. The other will happen *after* the Second Coming of Christ. But the Second Coming of Christ can't happen until the nation repents and that's what Hos 6:1-3 is about. These are the last three days of the Tribulation. “Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn *us*, [that's the Tribulation] but He will heal us; He has wounded *us*, but He will bandage us. ²“He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may

live before Him. ³“So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth.” God, through His discipline of the nation during the Tribulation will bring them to confess/repent. One vital thing here. Yes there is this condition placed on the nation but that condition would never be met if Israel does not recognize her sin, confess and receive a new heart. That new heart is one of the provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant. So, God guarantees in the Abrahamic Covenant that Israel will be in obedience because He promised to give them a new heart. This is made clearer in the New Covenant which is an amplification of the Abrahamic Covenant in Jer 31:31-34. So, Israel has title deed to the land of Israel via the Abrahamic Covenant but her enjoyment of the land is conditioned on obedience. God will ensure that obedience by giving them a new heart. They agreed in Exod 19 to do all that the Lord commanded but oh that they had known their hearts. The hugest point of all is that until the nation recognizes that they can't be god enough, until they recognize that their righteousness can never please God they will never repent. The nation in Jesus' day didn't repent, they have hard hearts, they are partially blinded in the present age but God is setting things up and he's going to remove the veil and they are going to see, they are going to repent and they are going to confess and say “blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” and they will confess Isa 53, the greatest Messianic prophecy of all the OT. Here's their confession at the end of the Tribulation.

Isa 53:4-6 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. ⁶All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Then Jesus will come. But I wanted you to see this three-fold scheme, very important, disobedience to the Mosaic law resulting in the 5th degree cursing, exile, 2) confession/repentance of the nation, 3) return of the Lord and fulfillment of Abrahamic Covenant. That's the three-fold scheme we find in ten of the Twelve.

ⁱ People like to argue that in the days of Joshua Israel conquered all the land on the basis of Joshua 21:45, “Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.” But Joshua 23:5 indicates there is yet more land to be conquered that the Lord promised, “See, I have apportioned to you these nations which remain as an inheritance for your tribes, with all the nations which I have cut off, from the Jordan even to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun. “The LORD your God, He will thrust them out from before you and drive them from before you; and you will possess their land, just as the LORD your God promised you.” So, Israel never received all the Promised Land. Besides, Amos, years later proclaims the future fulfillment of the land promise to Israel (9:11-15).

ⁱⁱ Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Israelology: The Missing Link in Systematic Theology*, 781.

[Back To The Top](#)

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