



# World Christian Fellowship

[www.wcflondon.com](http://www.wcflondon.com)  
[wcflondon@gmail.com](mailto:wcflondon@gmail.com)

## Zacharias 06 Praise- Abrahamic Covenant Luke 1:67-80

**Luke 1:67-80**, *Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: <sup>68</sup> "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, <sup>69</sup> And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, <sup>70</sup> As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, <sup>71</sup> That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, <sup>72</sup> To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup> To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, <sup>75</sup> In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. <sup>76</sup> "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, <sup>77</sup> To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, <sup>78</sup> Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; <sup>79</sup> To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace." <sup>80</sup> So the child grew*

*and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.*

We can divide Zachariah's praise then into those three parts.

Fulfilment of the Davidic Covenant,  
Fulfilment of the Abrahamic Covenant, and  
Fulfilment of the New Covenant.

All these three covenants are what we would call salvation covenants, / saving covenants.

These covenants have to do with blessings that come by salvation.

No one will experience the fullness of the Davidic Covenant apart from salvation. Everyone who is saved will participate to one degree or another in the fulfilment of the Davidic Covenant.

No one will enter the full blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant apart from salvation and all who believe will to some degree enter into the fullness of the promises and blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant.

No one will either experience the Davidic Covenant or the Abrahamic Covenant if they do not experience the forgiveness of sin provided in the New Covenant.

So, these are covenants which have to do with salvation!

- The Davidic Covenant is universal, insofar as it relates to the universal and eternal rule of Jesus Christ.
  - The Abrahamic Covenant is national, insofar as it deals primarily with promises made by God to Israel for blessing.
  - The New Covenant is personal, in that it deals with how God works for the forgiveness of sin in the life of an individual.
- 
- ✓ The Davidic Covenant, universal,
  - ✓ The Abrahamic Covenant, national,
  - ✓ The New Covenant, personal.

### **What was the Davidic Covenant?**

The Davidic Covenant was a promise to David by God that a Son would come out of David's loins ultimately who would rule in Israel and would rule over the whole earth and would rule forever.

It was not fulfilled by Solomon. After that the kingdom split and for centuries there has been no real king in Israel. But there will be a king.

God promised a greater son of David, somebody out of the Davidic line with David's blood would come to reign on the throne of Israel. That throne would bring peace and prosperity to Israel, would rule with a rod of iron and His rule would extend over the whole earth.

The Davidic kingdom looked primarily at the rescue of Israel from all the rulers around them and over them so that they would have ruled their own nation and that the Messiah would not only rule Israel but from Israel rule the world.

Zachariah's anticipation was Messiah's almost here, that means the Son of David has arrived, that means the Davidic kingdom is coming soon. Maybe even Zachariah could hang on long enough, though he was an old man, to live to see its inauguration.

He did not have any idea that they would reject the King, they would crucify the King and the kingdom would be postponed and still has not yet come.

Zacharias had a second hope. He knew this too was connected to Messiah and this is Abrahamic Covenant hope. The Abrahamic Covenant is one of those rock-bed elements to biblical interpretation.

If we understand this then we can get the big picture. There are lots of people who come to church and all they want is a little fix on something in their life. But we are not going to be able to address that today. Some days we do that.

The foundation by which we can understand the whole of redemptive history and it is all bound up in the Abrahamic Covenant.

While essentially the fulfilment of the Davidic Covenant is universal. He will literally rule the world someday and it will be a world of believers and unbelievers during the Millennial Kingdom.

- The Abrahamic Covenant is national.
- The Davidic is universal.

**V 72-75**, *To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, <sup>73</sup>The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup>To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, <sup>75</sup>In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.*

The intent of the Davidic Covenant was to deliver everybody in Israel from their enemies and set up the rule of Messiah.

The intent of the Abrahamic Covenant was to show mercy, toward our fathers.

The fathers to the Jews were Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. God's holy covenant, the oath which He swore to Abraham, our father, to grant us that we are being delivered from the hand of our enemies by the fulfilment of the Davidic covenant.

Now in the Abrahamic promise we can go ahead and serve God without fear. Always we have served God with fear, always the Jew lives in fear, always the Jew lives in mortal fear of

maintaining his own existence against all of the aggressive hostilities that surround his life. But once Davidic promise is fulfilled and the Messiah reigns, fear is gone and we will serve Him, in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

So, we can see that the Davidic Covenant and the Abrahamic Covenant were connected. The Davidic Covenant brought the rule of Messiah in Israel. The rule of Messiah brought the blessing that the Abrahamic Covenant promised.

**V 72, *To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant***

It was about mercy!

It was a covenant to show mercy.

The idea is that God was compassionate, God was merciful toward undeserving people and He made a covenant.

This mercy was shown to Abraham and then repeated to Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and then extended to the nation of Israel and then extended through Israel to the world.

So, when it says in verse 72 to show mercy toward our fathers, that is just where the stream of mercy starts. Certainly not the extent of it, because it broadens through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, the people of Israel, and the mercy of God toward sinners spreads to the world. That is the reason why we are here

today because we have received that mercy once given to Abraham.

It all began with a covenant, a promise made to the father of the Jews, the father of the nation Israel, a man by the name of Abram, who later had his name changed to Abraham once he received the covenant of God.

Now at the time of Abram there was no such thing as a Jew. There was no such nation as Israel.

That all started with one man chosen by God. To understand the essence of the Abrahamic Covenant let us go back to Genesis chapter 12.

Bit of a chronology in the book of Genesis:

Genesis starts out with the creation account, God's creation in six days of the entire universe. It is followed up with the discussion of the life of man on the earth.

Chapter 3, man falls into sin.

It progresses from there to a destruction in the universal flood where God drowns the whole earth and saves eight people.

Man progresses from the eight people rescued out of the Flood up to chapter 11.

First 11 chapters is the summary of the creation, the Fall, the Flood, and the scattering of the nations.

The first individual history starts in Genesis 12.

Here only the redemptive history really starts.

It starts with a man named Abram in Genesis 12. The rest of Genesis goes Abram, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and they take up the rest of the book of Genesis.

**Genesis 11:31**, *And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there.*

Ur, was a typical pagan place where Abram lived and God just picked him out of the crowd for reasons, of course, good reasons that God knows.

**Genesis 12:1-3**, *Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

- Get out of your country, away from your relatives, away from your family.
- Go to this place I Am going to take you the land of Canaan.

- I Am going to make a great nation.
- Out of your loins is going to come a great nation.

Now that was a problem because Abram and Sarah did not have any children.

Hard to have a nation through them if they do not have children.

**Genesis 11:30**, *But Sarai was barren; she had no child.*

Monumental promise and it is going to involve a conception miracle.

Indeed, that came to pass, obviously. The Jewish people are and have been a great nation.

- The Jewish people they have earned a great name.
- They have earned a great name in medicine.
- They have earned a great name in the arts.
- They earned a great name in education.
- They earned a great name in literature.
- They earned a great name in finance.
- They have earned great name in every category.

Nobel Prizes have been awarded to over 900 individuals, of whom at least 20% were Jews. Globally, Jews represent less than 0.20% of the world's population.

God made sure were in Abram have made a great contribution to this quite noble people among the peoples of the world. Their name is great. Their land has been the focal point of human history.

This nation is going to be a blessed nation. This nation is going to have a great reputation. This nation is going to be a blessing to others. In fact, through this nation all the families of the earth are going to be blessed.

This is the promise of the whole saving purpose of God, the whole thing is going to come through Israel.

- The law came through them.
- They were the writers of the Old Testament.
- The prophets were Jews.
- The promises came to them,
- The adoption came to them.
- They were the elect,
- They were the chosen people.
- Messiah came through them.

Everything came through them. That is why Jesus said in John's gospel, "*Salvation is of the Jews.*" (**John 4:22**)

He did not mean it is only for the Jews, He meant it is through them. They have been God's divine outlet. This was the promise of God. A great nation, blessing, a great reputation, and through them the whole world would be blessed.

But when we study the history of Israel, it did not kind of work out that way. Not all the time.

There were times of blessing, obviously there is inherent greatness. There were times when they were a blessing to others, but the idea that all the families in the earth have been blessed through them has been in some measure without their cooperation.

All the families of the earth have been through them because it is through them that we have the Old Testament and through the Jews that we have the New Testament. It is through them that we have the gospel. It is through them that we have the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. So, it is true. But they have not been able to join in on those blessings.

God has even protected them. *"The ones who bless you I will bless. The ones who curse you I will curse."*

God says I am going to protect you.

It is astonishing and an amazing thing from the human side, but not from the divine side. God has preserved these people. He is preserved them so carefully that in the end time in the book of Revelation. In the tribulation time, the seven-year destruction before the return of Christ, God will select twelve thousand Jews out of each of the twelve tribes. Each tribe will yield twelve thousand Jews who will become the 144 thousand

great preachers during that time of judgment. Now they do not know what tribe they are of, but God knows, because the lines have been kept so pure through all these centuries.

They have not really enjoyed the fulfilment of the Abrahamic promise.

**Certainly, if we were to ask Zachariah, has the promise of God to Abraham fulfilled?**

Would you say that your nation is a great nation?

That God is blessing you and making your name great?

**Israel is a blessing, and all the families of the earth are blessed through you?**

He would say no.

But we are hoping.

Right now, we are cursed, under judgment, and occupied by the insufferable Romans.

In the present time it is hard and difficult.

But the dawning of a new day is come because the forerunner to the Messiah has been born and the Abrahamic Covenant fulfilment must be on the horizon.

The Abrahamic Covenant is reiterated in **Genesis eight times, chapter 12, 13, 15, 17, 22, 26, 28 and 35.**

**Genesis 15:18-20**, *On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—<sup>19</sup> the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites,<sup>20</sup> the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,<sup>21</sup> the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."*

We know this is an actual covenant.

This covenant goes beyond what was stated in the first terms of the covenant in chapter 12. The component that is not in Genesis 12, not only a great nation, not only a great reputation, not only blessed and a blesser of others, not only through them will the families of the earth be blessed, but this will also be an immensely influential nation.

The Jewish people are the most influential people who have ever lived on this earth. They are the writers of the Bible. They are the prophets and the apostles of redemptive history. That is what He meant by that great nation, with that great power to bless.

Another component added to this one is that God is going to give them the land.

It goes as far east as the river Euphrates, the Mesopotamian Valley, the Tigris-Euphrates Valley, clear through Arab country, far into that territory.

The people mentioned here are not around anymore because God had no covenant to preserve them. God says in the end it is all going to be your land.

In the time of Zechariah, they were sitting in Jerusalem and they were not really experiencing much of the benefit because the Romans are ruling the whole land.

- Before the Romans they had a little moment's breath, but before that it was the Greeks.
- Before that it was the Medo-Persians.
- Before that it was the Babylonians.

Zacharias had never seen anything that looked remotely like the fulfilment of this. Neither has any Jew today.

The Jews saw that covenant as tied to the land. Zacharias in the midst of the Roman occupation, oppressed by these hateful Romans and their idols. They do not have the freedom and the blessing that they attached to the Abrahamic Covenant.

Now he hears the Messiah is coming, the Messiah's forerunner has been born and he understands what is happening. Now this might be the time when Messiah comes, sets up the Davidic throne, takes over the rule of the land and then He will institute the conditions of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Abram was ninety-nine years old and the Lord came to Abram.

**Genesis 17:1-2**, *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.<sup>2</sup> And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."*

This is an unconditional covenant!

God has made it unilaterally and irrevocably, but its fulfilment is dependent upon obedience.

**Genesis 17:3-5**, *Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: <sup>4</sup>"As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.*

Not only are you going to be the father of a nation, Israel, but Abraham is going to be the father of multitude of nations.

Do you realize that that is the problem in the Middle East today? Everybody traces their lineage back to Abraham.

Abraham did not think Sarah could become pregnant because she was ninety years old and had been sterile or infertile all her life. So, he got a hold of the handmaid, Hagar, and produced a child called Ishmael, and Ishmael fathered Arabs.

Isaac had sons, Jacob, and Esau. Esau sold his birth right. God cursed Esau. Esau then went and fathered the nations of the Middle East.

- Arab nations came out of Ishmael.
- Arab nations came out of Esau.

But whether you are out of Ishmael or Esau, you can trace your lineage back to Abraham. So, while Israel feels that the right to the land is theirs cause they are the sons of Abraham, so does the whole Arab world because they can trace their lineage back to Abraham and that is why you have this horrific conflict.

This is clear in the Scripture that God chose Isaac to be the line and not Ishmael. God chose Jacob to be the line and not Esau. But they are unwilling to accept that.

**Genesis 17:6-7**, *I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.<sup>7</sup> And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.*

Very important here because now, suddenly, covenant have gone beyond the land, temporal blessing, and peace in the land. This covenant gone into eternal here and these are the saving terms of this covenant. It is an everlasting covenant to be God to you.

God in the end what He want is our hearts!

God is saying that I am going to be your God, not only to you but to your descendants after you. I will give to you and your descendants after you the land of your sojourners, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and then this. I will be their God.

- Here the scripture talks about eternal.
- If God is your God, that is an eternal relationship.

God comes to Abraham in chapter 12 and says general outline, you are going to have a great nation, a great reputation, a great blessing, through you all the nations of the earth are going to be blessed.

Then God adds another component that He will give them the land. (what the land is and basically it embraces Eden.)

In the Millennial Kingdom when the Lord restores the earth to an Eden-like condition after Christ returns and sets up His thousand-year millennial rule. That is when the fullness of the Abrahamic Covenant will be fulfilled.

The Jews will have their land and their blessing,  
They will be a blessing to the whole world.

The prophets tell us every Jew will have ten Gentiles hanging on his coat asking him to take him to see the Messiah.

They will even be a great blessing to the whole world during the time of the tribulation because when the 144,000 Jews are saved. They become the greatest force for evangelism the world has ever known in Revelation chapter 7 and in a few years so many people will be saved.

Once Israel realizes who the Messiah is, looks on the One they have pierced, embraces Christ, and is saved, then they are called to do what they were called to do!

- They will be witnesses of the true and living God and proclaim the message of salvation.
- They will do it with a force and a power, the likes of which has never been seen previously.
- They will do that during the time of the tribulation.
- They will continue to do that with people who are born during the millennial era and who are brought to the knowledge of the Messiah.

God in His wonderful sovereign power worked in the heart of Abraham faith. God came to test Abraham as to his faith, to make the point that God's promises come true where people believe in Him.

An incredible miracle that Sarah could not stop laughing so she named him laughter, Isaac. The child grew and certainly the child would have been the apple of their eyes.

God came to Abraham.

**Genesis 22:2**, *Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."*

### **How can this be?**

Abraham was willing to do it. He believed that God knew what He was saying and never questioned God's Word.

**Hebrews 11:19**, *concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*

Maybe Abraham was going up the hill waiting to see a resurrection miracle because he understood the inviolability of God's promise.

He understood that if God was going to ask him to take a life, God was going to have to give it back. But the God who can bring life out of the womb of a dead woman, Sarah, dead as far as childbirth, could certainly bring life out of a dead body.

When Abraham lifted the knife to plunge it into the chest of his beloved son, he was anticipating a great resurrection miracle to occur.

**Genesis 22:12-14**, *And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”*  
*<sup>13</sup>Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>And Abraham called the name of the place, [c]The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”*

The Lord will provide a sacrifice. That is a great statement!

So, he thought he was going to see a resurrection but rather he saw a substitution. The Lord wanted to show him that if Abraham will go all the way with Him then God will provide a substitution.

**Genesis 22:15-18**, *Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, <sup>16</sup>and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— <sup>17</sup>blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. <sup>18</sup>In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”*

One of the most dramatic moments in all redemptive history. Dramatic moment confirmed the Abrahamic Covenant. It was confirmed by the faith of Abraham. Abraham was going to believe God. God had graciously produced that faith in his heart, and he was willing to believe.

- ✓ God do not ask for the life,
- ✓ God will provide a sacrifice.

That was a preview of the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who would die in the place of sinners.

So, Genesis then lays out this covenant.

The covenant God made with Abraham repeated to Isaac, Jacob, and it is referred to eight times in Genesis, was unilateral.

God who made it, did not ask somebody else to show compassion with Him. It was irrevocable, it will come to pass.

We cannot have an eternal relationship with God, we cannot have eternal blessing from God unless you have forgiveness and salvation.

So, it is a unilateral, irrevocable, and eternal saving pledge.

- A great nation,
- A nation that would be blessed,

- A nation that would possess a great land in which they would experience blessing and protection.
- A nation then that would become the source of blessing to every nation in the world; and
- A nation that would receive divine mercy through redemption provided by a substitute Redeemer.

That was in the covenant.

The covenant was unconditional in the sense of ultimate fulfilment that there will be salvation. The nation Israel will be saved. There will be a kingdom of blessing. They will occupy their land and be protected and blessed in that land and they will become that millennial blessing to the world.

It is unconditional.

But it is conditioned on the fact that it requires faith. Before God can bring it to pass, He must grant to Israel the faith to believe. They must respond to the truth with faith. When Jesus came, they did not.

Now Zacharias expected the Messiah, Davidic Kingdom, Messiah, Abrahamic fulfilment. It did not happen because they would not come to Him. They would not acknowledge Him as king. They would not believe. They would not accept Him.

So, the promises of Abraham were postponed. As to the nation Israel, the promises of David were postponed. Both will come together in the Millennial Kingdom.

## **Conclusion:**

The Davidic Covenant universal and we all get involved cause all believers of all ages will be in the kingdom.

The Abrahamic Covenant was promised particularly to Israel, but we all get in on it because part of the Abrahamic Covenant was that through the Jews, through Abraham's nation, all the families of the earth would be blessed.

So, there are elements of the Abrahamic Covenant that passed to all of us. In fact, the Abrahamic fulfilment is in the Millennial Kingdom and we will all be there.

Christian people today are sons of Abraham.

**Galatians 3:6**, *just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”*

He went up on the mountain, lifted the knife ready to kill his son because he believed God.

That was an evidence of his true faith in God.

When God saw his faith, He gave him righteousness.

**Whose righteousness did God give it to Abraham?**

Abraham did not have his own righteousness because he was sinful like all the rest of us. God gave him His own righteousness. God literally gave Abraham His righteousness.

God gave him the righteousness of Christ. He put the perfect life of Christ to Abraham's account, even though Christ had not yet come and lived and died and raised from the dead. It was still in God's economy where there is no time, an event already done and already accomplished and therefore the righteousness of Christ was granted to Abraham.

God treated Abraham as if he had lived the perfect life of Christ. God treated Abraham that way because he believed.

**Galatians 3:7**, *Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.*

Now if you believe, if you believe in the gospel, and you have embraced Christ, you are a son of Abraham.

A son of Abraham in the category of faith.

- ✓ You are in the line of faith.
- ✓ You have the same kind of faith that Abraham had.
- ✓ You are not a Jew.
- ✓ You are not in the line of Abraham ethnically, racially.
- ✓ You are not in the line of Abraham socially.

But you are in the line of Abraham spiritually because you, like Abraham, believe God and receive righteousness reckoned to you.

**Galatians 3:8-9**, *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." <sup>9</sup> So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.*

So, all believers, Jew, or Gentile, are going to receive the same Abrahamic blessing.

### **What is it?**

Righteousness imputed to you because you have believed. Abraham is not my father racially.

But Abraham is my father because I followed his faith. I believed and righteousness was credited to my account, as it was to him.

### **Romans 4:**

Abraham, the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of faith. All of us receive the benefits and the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant in the Millennial Kingdom. We have already received some of the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant because the gospel has come to us. The Scripture has come to us through Israel.

We have already been blessed by the nation Israel because we have an Old Testament, we have a New Testament, and the truth of the gospel has come, the Messiah has come. But the fullness of Abrahamic Covenant promise comes to pass in the Millennial Kingdom. We will be there because we are righteous by faith, not by works, not by keeping the law, not by circumcision, the same way Abraham was.

So that Abraham becomes then the father of all who believe in the spiritual sense.

**Romans 4:13**, *For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.*

The Abrahamic Covenant, Zacharias anticipated it was going to happen immediately. It did not because they rejected the Messiah.

It will happen and Israel will be saved.

All Israel will be blessed.

The whole world through them will be blessed.

The benefits of the Abrahamic and Davidic fulfilment through the whole of the Millennial Kingdom.

We will all be there enjoying our part in the Davidic promise, the rule of Christ over the universe and our part in the

Abrahamic promise, the unlimited blessing of God and goodness of God poured out on His people during that period.