

9<sup>th</sup> September 2018

[Genesis 17:1-14](#), **The Kingdom and the Covenant**

In Genesis 12, God finds a man, chooses a man, and promises to him. So you can see the promise and calling of Abraham. God promises Abraham a land, a specific location for his people; descendants, contextually, that would mean righteous descendants; and blessing, blessing to all the nations. The covenant with Abraham is a promise of the kingdom of God.

Today's text, Genesis 17 is very similar to Genesis 12 but it is little bit more specific. *'The content of the covenant is the kingdom of God'* and each phases of kingdom is about God's people in God's place under His rule and blessing. So, it is helpful to categorise this passage and look at three different headings, three different words to help us place things in this passage.

So firstly people: what are some of God's promises when it comes to people? God's first given command, *'to be fruitful and multiplied'* on earth was fulfilled through offspring of Abraham. Secondly, God's Place: where do you see the place? The Promised Land, Canaan. And then finally Blessing: how would you see blessing? I think the land is certainly a part of blessing and everlasting generation after generation is another. God's plan is bigger than anyone can see. It is just built again and again through the scripture.

I guess it must have been hard for Abraham to believe that it would all take place, but he did (15:6). He was accepted by God, not on the basis of his own goodness, but by faith in the promises of God. That has always been the way of salvation for sinful human beings. We can never deserve a place in God's family but as we believe and trust in Jesus Christ we can be His kingdom people and enjoy the blessing of God.

... .. *Rev. IL-WOONG KIM*