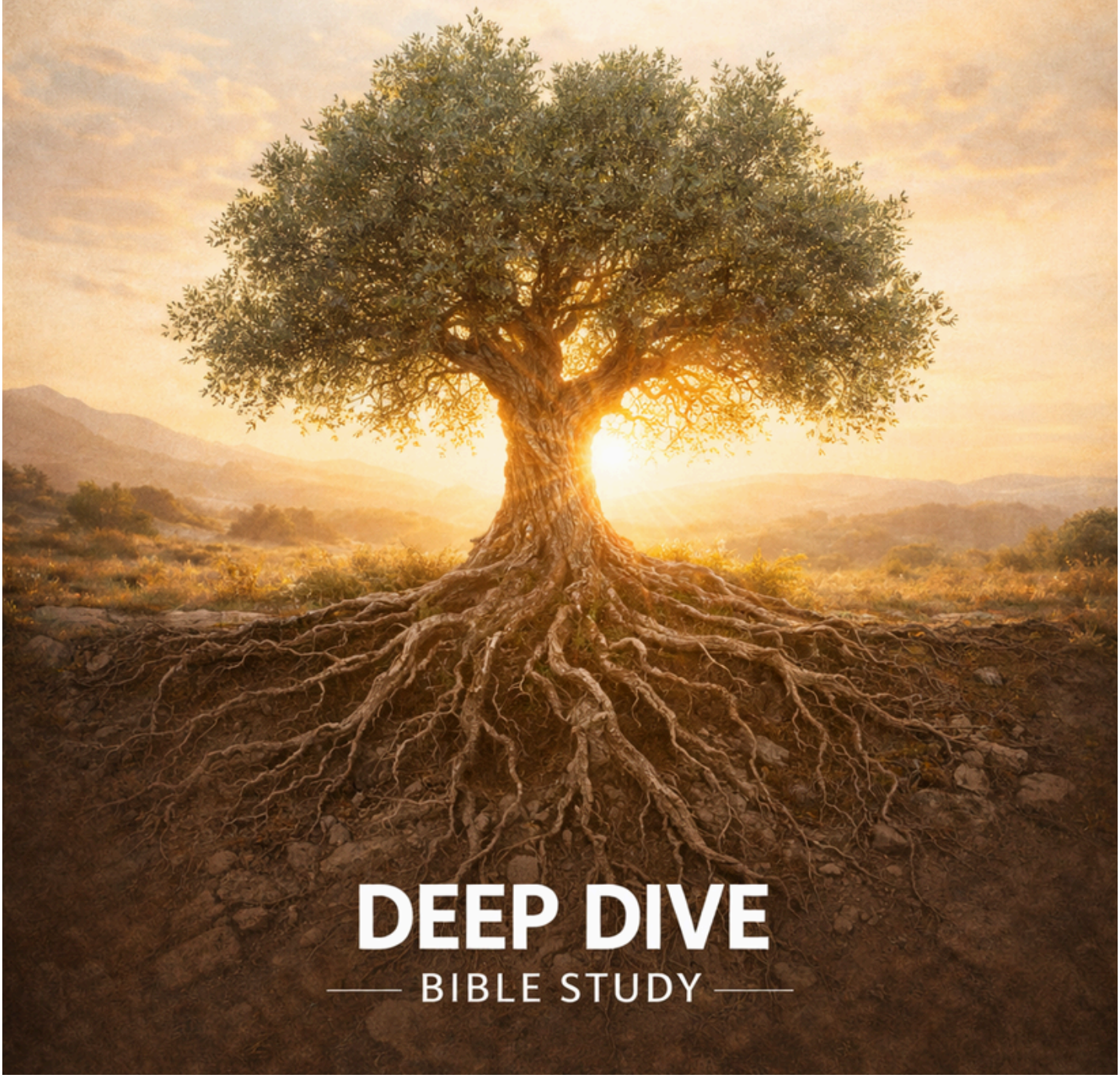
DEEP DIVE FOUNDATIONS

JESUS
THE TRUE ISRAEL

Tracing the Covenant to Christ



DEEP DIVE
BIBLE STUDY

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WHY THIS GUIDE EXISTS

Questions about Israel often surface when we read Scripture carefully.

Who are the people of God?
How do the promises made to Abraham unfold?
What does it mean that Christ fulfills the covenant?

At times, these questions have produced confusion.
At other times, they have produced division.

But Scripture does not present a fragmented story.

It presents a promise.

From the garden to Abraham,
from Abraham to Israel,
from Israel to Christ,
the covenant moves forward with clarity and purpose.

This guide is not written to settle every debate.
It is written to trace the story carefully.

The Bible begins with a promise of a coming Redeemer.
It narrows through a chosen family.
It forms a nation.
And it reaches fulfillment in Christ.

When we follow that movement patiently, we discover something steadying:

The covenant does not divide at the end.
It gathers.

My desire in these pages is simple —
to walk through Scripture calmly,
to let the text speak,
and to see how the promises of God find their center in Jesus Christ.

If we begin there, we will not drift.

SECTION 1

A PROMISE BEFORE A NATION

Genesis 3:15

"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."

The story of redemption does not begin with a nation.
It begins with a promise.

Before there is Abraham.
Before there is Israel.
Before there is land.

God speaks.

He speaks of conflict.
He speaks of offspring.
He speaks of victory.

The promise is given long before a covenant sign is given.
The direction of Scripture is set before a people is formed.

If we want to understand Israel, we must begin here.

Israel does not create the promise.
Israel carries it.

The story moves forward not because a nation is strong,
but because God has spoken.



Anchor Thought

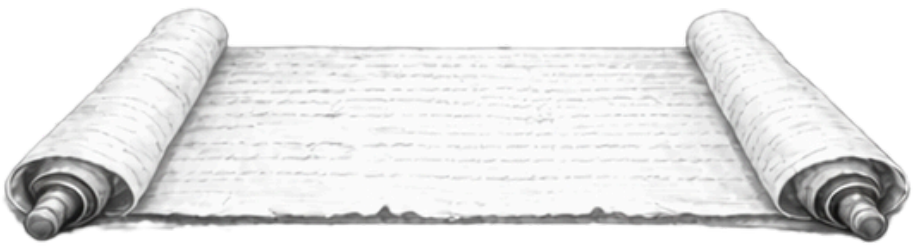
The covenant story begins with a promise of a coming Redeemer, not with the formation of a nation.

PAUSE & REFLECT

1. Why is it important that the promise of redemption appears before Israel is formed as a people?

2. How does beginning in Genesis 3 shape the way we understand the rest of Scripture?

3. What does this passage teach us about the direction of the biblical story?



SECTION 2

THE PROMISE NARROWS

Genesis 12:1–3
"Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 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. 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.'"

The promise spoken in the garden does not disappear.
It narrows.

God calls one man.
He gives him a word.
Through him, a nation will rise.

But the promise is larger than the nation.

From the beginning, the blessing is meant to reach the families of the earth.

Israel is chosen.
Not as an end in itself.
But as a vessel of promise.

The covenant moves forward through Abraham,
but it is still moving toward fulfillment.

The story is narrowing —
so that one day it may widen again.



Anchor Thought.

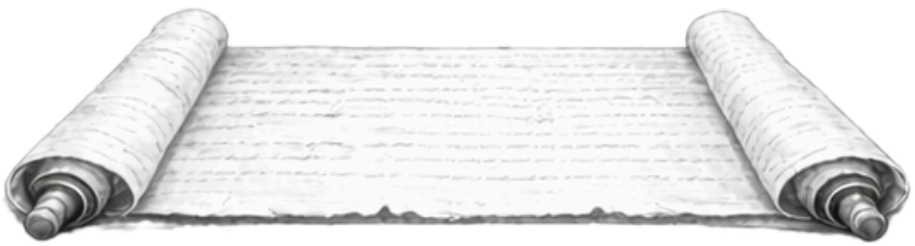
The covenant promise narrows through Abraham, but it is always intended to bless the nations.

PAUSE & REFLECT

1. Why do you think God chose to narrow His promise through one man instead of revealing everything at once?

2. How does the phrase “all the families of the earth” shape the way you understand the purpose of Israel?

3. In what ways does seeing Israel as a vessel of promise (rather than the final destination) clarify the direction of the biblical story?



SECTION 3

THE PROMISE FULFILLED IN ONE

Galatians 3:16
"Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, 'And to offsprings,' referring to many, but referring to one, 'And to your offspring,' who is Christ."

The promise given to Abraham was never meant to rest in a nation alone.

Paul tells us plainly that the promise was moving toward one.

The covenant narrows again.

Not to a tribe.
Not to a territory.
Not to a political structure.
To Christ.

The offspring of Abraham is ultimately not a collective identity.
It is a Person.

This does not erase Israel.
It clarifies Israel.

The nation carried the promise forward.
Christ fulfills it.

In Him, the covenant reaches its center.



Anchor Thought.

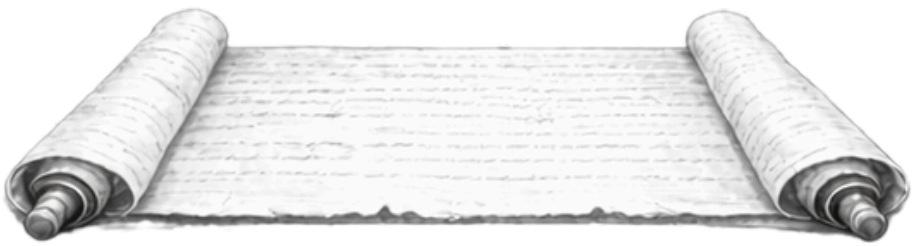
The promises to Abraham find their fulfillment in Christ.

PAUSE & REFLECT

1. Why is it significant that Paul identifies the "offspring" of Abraham as Christ?

2. How does understanding Christ as the fulfillment of the promise change the way we read the Old Testament?

3. What difference does it make personally to know that the covenant finds its center in a Person rather than in a political nation?



SECTION 4

SONS THROUGH FAITH

Galatians 3:26–29

"For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."

The promise does not disappear in Christ.
It opens.

Paul does not say that the covenant is abandoned.
He says it is fulfilled.

Those who belong to Christ are called Abraham's offspring.

Not by ethnicity.
Not by geography.
Not by ancestry.

By faith.

The dividing lines that once marked identity no longer determine covenant belonging.

The promise that narrowed to One now widens to all who are in Him.

This does not create two peoples moving in separate directions.

It forms one people in Christ.

The story that began with a word in a garden now gathers sons and daughters from every nation.



Anchor Thought.

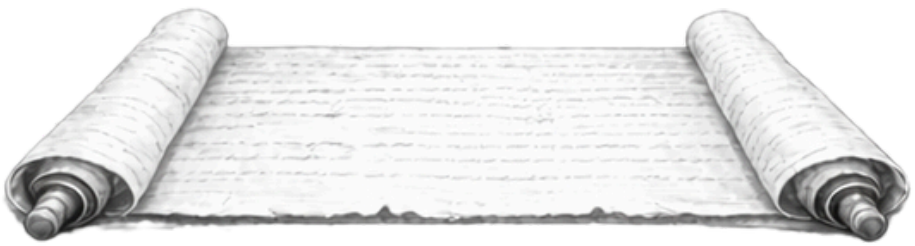
All who belong to Christ share in the promise given to Abraham.

PAUSE & REFLECT

1. According to this passage, what makes someone Abraham's offspring?

2. How does being "in Christ" redefine identity?

3. What comfort does it bring to know that covenant belonging rests on faith rather than lineage?



SECTION 5

THE TRUE SON

Matthew 2:15
"...Out of Egypt I called my son."

Matthew 4:1
"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness..."

Hosea first spoke those words about Israel.

Israel was called God's son.
Israel was brought out of Egypt.
Israel passed through the waters.
Israel entered the wilderness.

And Israel failed.

Matthew tells us those same words reach their fulfillment in Christ.

Jesus goes down to Egypt.
Jesus comes out again.
Jesus passes through the waters of baptism.
Jesus enters the wilderness.

But where Israel grumbled,
Jesus obeys.

Where Israel tested God,
Jesus trusts Him.

The pattern is not accidental.

Jesus is reliving Israel's story —
not to repeat its failure,
but to fulfill its calling.



Anchor Thought.

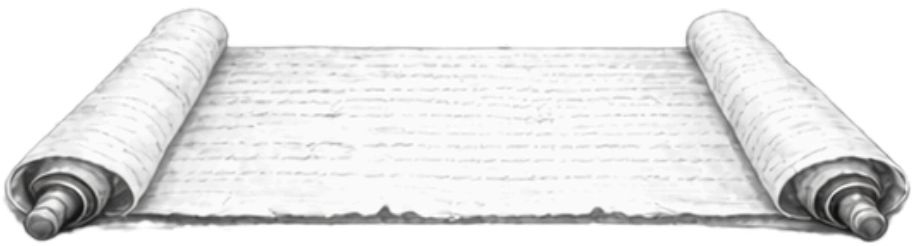
Jesus embodies Israel's story and succeeds where the nation failed.

PAUSE & REFLECT

1. Why does Matthew intentionally connect Jesus to Israel's history?

2. What does it mean that Jesus succeeds where Israel failed?

3. How does this strengthen your understanding of Christ as the fulfillment of the covenant?



SECTION 6

ONE NEW MAN

Ephesians 2:14–16
"For he himself is our peace… that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace."

Christ does not build two separate peoples.
He makes one.

Paul speaks of division that once existed.
He speaks of hostility.
He speaks of separation.

And then he speaks of peace.

That peace is not external.
It is covenantal.

The dividing wall is broken down in Christ.

Not by erasing history.
Not by denying ethnicity.
But by fulfilling the promise.

Jew and Gentile do not stand beside one another as parallel covenant peoples.

They are joined together in Him.

The promise that narrowed to one Seed now gathers many into one body.



Anchor Thought.

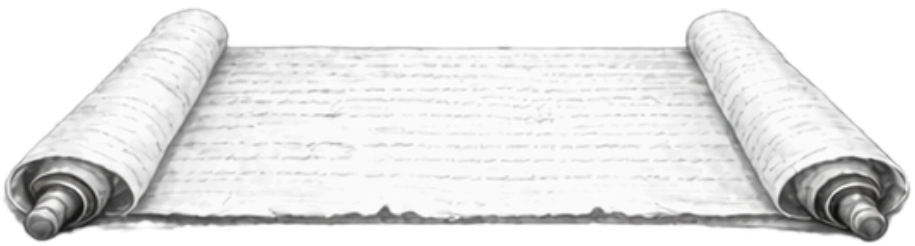
In Christ, God forms one covenant people from Jew and Gentile alike.

PAUSE & REFLECT

1. What does Paul mean by “one new man”?

2. How does this passage reshape the way we think about division within the people of God?

3. Why is it important that unity is created “in Christ” rather than through political alignment?



SECTION 7

THE ROOT AND THE TREE

Romans 11:17–18
"You, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree… remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you."

Paul does not describe two separate trees.

He describes one.

There is a root that supports the branches.

Gentiles are not given a new tree.
They are grafted into an existing one.

The covenant story does not begin in the New Testament.
It reaches fulfillment there.

The root is older than the branches.

The promises made long ago still nourish the people of God today.

This is not replacement.
It is restoration.

It is not division.
It is grafting.

The tree lives because the root holds.

The root is not found in national identity.
It is found in promise.

The story that began with a word in a garden,
that narrowed through Abraham,
that was fulfilled in Christ,
now gathers people from every nation into one living tree.

And Christ stands at the center of it all.



Anchor Thought.

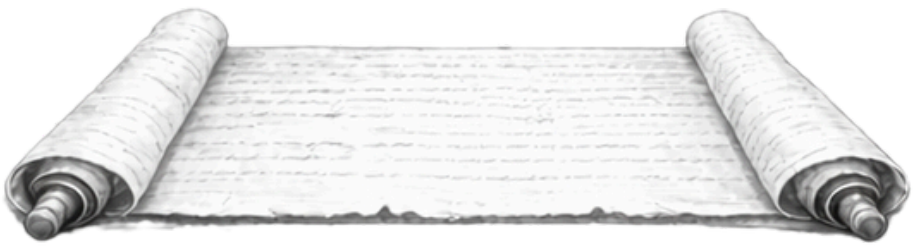
There is one covenant tree, rooted in promise and fulfilled in Christ.

PAUSE & REFLECT

1. What does it mean that Gentile believers are grafted into an existing tree?

2. Why is it important to remember that the root supports the branches?

3. How does this image encourage humility and unity among believers?



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