Covenant Theology

The Abrahamic Covenant

Review:

Covenant vs Contract -

Contract - Your performance is based on the performance of the other person in the contract. If they do not perform their end, you are not bound to perform yours.

Covenant - Your performance is based on your character, your ability to keep your promise, regardless of the other person's performance.

Covenant	**By Choice**	**By Grace**
#3 Abrahamic - promise of many descendants/ through his descendants bless the world	Gen. 12:2,3	Gen. 15:1-6

Context of the Covenant

I. After the Tower of Babel (the end of the primeval prologue)
   A. Many languages, many nations ('ethna')
   B. Descent from Monotheism, to Henotheism, to Polytheism, to Animism, to Mana/Fetishism
      1. Debunking the Evolutionary theory of the development of religion
      2. Neighboring Faiths, by Winfried Corduan

II. The religion of Ur
   A. Religious and Civil power are one
   B. Child sacrifice
   C. Thoroughly pagan—in sense of you must do things to either placate the wrath of the gods or curry their favor; this is the purpose of sacrifices

III. The Call of Abram
   A. "Leave your people, your land, your family, and follow Me." Genesis 12:1-3
   B. The promise— "I will make you a great nation …"
   C. And Abram does!
   D. Abram and Sarai in Egypt
   E. Abram and Lot separate
   F. Abram rescues Lot
   G. Abram blessed by Melchizedek

The Abrahamic Covenant

I. The Covenant with Abram
   A. Bilateral—with Abram —Genesis 15:1-21
   B. Gracious—Abram was not sinless, but God counted his faith as righteousness—Genesis 15:6
   C. "Cutting" a covenant—Genesis 15:7-11
   D. It included Ishmael, but with a twist—Genesis 16:11-12

E. After Isaac, it was marked by circumcision—17:10-14
F. After Isaac, he is renamed Abraham—father of many nations—Genesis 17:5
G. After his obedience on Mt. Moriah, no sacrificing of children—Genesis 22:14 (Substitutionary atonement)

VI. Implications
A. Human agency
B. We are saved by grace through faith—as it was with Abraham!