

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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The Promises of God

by Dempsey Collins
Conclusion

- a. The promise is fulfilled six hundred years later at Sinai (Ex. 19-24).
 - (1) Moses is called onto the mount and has proclaimed to him the conditions under which God will accept Israel as His holy nation. They must be obedient (Ex. 19:3-5).
 - (2) Moses delivers the conditions to Israel and all the people agree (Ex. 19:7, 8).
 - (3) God delivers the Ten Commandments- the foundation of the Mosaic law (Ex. 20:1-17). These commandments show what will basically be required of them; in this covenant relationship. This law was given exclusively to the Jews (Rom. 3:2; 9:4).
 - (4) Other laws given which further show the nature and obligations of the Mosaic covenant (Ex. 21-23). (A covenant is an agreement between two persons or parties. If it is conditional then if either party breaks the covenant the innocent party is no longer bound).
 - (5) Covenant consecrated and inaugurated with blood (Ex. 24:3-8; Heb. 9:18-22). The blood served to dedicate or seal the covenant. God's part in the agreement is represented by the "book of the covenant". (Just as an insurance company's part in an agreement is represented by a policy).
 - (6) Israel becomes a holy nation (Ex. 24:8; Deut. 5:1-3; Neh. 9:13, 14).
- b. The fulfillment of the nation promise can be illustrated by the following chart: (Chart borrowed from Ferrel Jenkins)

Gave a Book

including:

Commands (Ex. 20:3)

Promises (Ex. 20:12)

Penalties (Ex. 20:16)

To Israel

who:

1. Heard

2. Understood

3. Agreed to do all

Israel became God's own possession. His holy nation based upon the condition that they would obey His voice and keep the covenant.

2. Gen. 12:7 – The land Promise
 - a. Even though Abraham had “no inheritance in Canaan, not even a foot of ground” yet he believed.
 - b. Even though the “Canaanite was in the land” (Gen. 12:6) yet he believed.
 - c. Later the land promise is reconfirmed to Abraham and the actual boundaries of the promise are established. (Gen. 15:17, 18). “From the river of Egypt (its border) to the river Euphrates.”
 - d. The promise had definitely been fulfilled by the time of Solomon (II Chron. 9:26; I Kings 4:21).
 - e. After the Babylonian captivity, Nehemiah confirms the fact that the land promise was fulfilled (Neh. 9:7, 8). The establishment of modern Israel in 1946 has no bearing on the promise of Abraham. (See also Josh. 23:14-16; 21:45).

3. Gen. 12:3 – In Abraham shall all families of the earth be blessed.
 - a. Nineteen hundred years later this promise was fulfilled in Christ – the seed of Abraham (Matt. 1:1).
 - b. Jews first (Acts 3:25, 26).
 - c. Later, Jew and Gentile (Gal. 3:26-29). Spiritual seed.
 - d. The church constitutes the spiritual Israel (Rom. 9:6-8; 2:28, 29). No one can be a spiritual son of Abraham except by obedient faith in Christ (Gal. 3:7-9; John 14:6).
 - e. Abraham is truly the “father of a multitude.”
 - f. The people of Israel from a fleshly standpoint, are not now nor will they ever again be the people of God.
 - g. The main reason for the call of Abraham is seen in this third promise.
 - (1) In calling Abraham, God separated from the world a faithful family in order that He might bring into the world an eternal answer to sin.
 - (2) This answer is found in Christ – our sin offering (II Cor. 5:21).

Conclusion:

“To misunderstand these promises and their fulfillment is to misunderstand most of the Bible. The gospel, the church, its work, and the salvation of our souls are all involved in these promises. Further, there was a proper sequence to them that must not be destroyed. The formation of the nation and the giving of the land were preparatory to the spiritual promise. A nation had to be kept distinct. Lineages had to be recorded and kept to assure the rightful heir to bless all nations. Unto that nation the sacred oracles were committed; from them the prophets arose. All of this combined to create an indisputable array of evidence to establish the claims of Jesus Christ and to assure our salvation through him” (Connie Adams).

Two things determine the worth of God’s promises:

1. The value of what He has promised – forgiveness, peace, joy, eternal life. Hence, Peter calls them precious and magnificent promises (II Pet. 1:4).
2. The character of He who has promised (Heb. 10:23; Tit. 1:2).

Abraham looked ahead to a better country, a city prepared by God. The same hope is for us if we are his spiritual children.

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16