



## God's Three Great Promises! Which One is For You?

**Genesis 22:17-18:** (NASB) *<sup>17</sup>Indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed 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.*



We as Christians say that God is love - and that is true. But what does that really mean? Who does God love and how do we know? Sometimes the answer to that question is difficult to see as we live in a world of sin and sadness. We must remember that God's love is expressed through His word and His word, though veiled at times, is still His Word and God is as good as His word, for He is a promise-keeping God. God has made promises to us - big promises! What are they and to whom do they apply?

Each of God's promises do not apply to all people in all time periods. We want to study what promises apply when and to whom.

We do know that God is a God of clear intention and fulfilled promises!

**Promise:** (Merriam Webster Online Dictionary) a statement telling someone that you will definitely do something or that something will definitely happen in the future.

Some Old Testament words that are translated "promise:"

**Promise:** Strongs #1696, to speak, declare, converse, command, promise, warn, threaten, sing.

In the King James Bible, this word is translated "speak" 840 times and "promise" only 31 times. We get the sense that "spoken" and "promise" from God are the same.

**Jeremiah 33:14:** (KJV) *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have **promised <1696>** unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.*

**Promise:** Strongs #562 'omer (o'-mer); something said, AV-word 2, speech 2, thing 1, promise 1;

**Psalms 68:11:** (KJV) *The Lord gave the **word <562>**: great was the company of those that published it.*

**Psalms 77:8** (KJV) *Is his mercy clean gone forever? Doth his **promise <562>** fail for evermore?*

Here again, the word for *word* and *promise* is interchangeable. There is an uncanny connection between a spoken word and a promise, especially when it comes from God. In ancient days, your word WAS your bond, as it should be now. Your spoken word was a reason for trust.

A "Rick" definition: **A promise is a decision to transform a stated intention into a reality.**

God's intention is to bless the entire world. How will this be accomplished? Through the three great promises, also called covenants, we will discuss in this program. A covenant is a promise usually made with God as a witness between two parties. Marriage, for example, is a covenant.



A covenant usually involved a solemn ceremony that showed how important it was to keep the words of the promise. An example is the covenant God made to Noah using the sign of the rainbow.

### God's clear intention:

**Genesis 1:27-28:** (NASB) <sup>27</sup>God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup>God blessed them; and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

God's intention was to put Adam and Eve in charge of the garden, giving them a place they could flourish and honor Him and one another. God intended to have a relationship with all of His human creation.

What happened? Sin entered and derailed humanity, but it does not derail God's intention, for He knew the entrance of sin would eventually serve as an eternal reminder of evil. God's intention was the blessing of His creation, and His plan would enable that to happen.

### So, how does God's plan get there? Enter Abram and a promise:

**Genesis 12:1-3:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; <sup>2</sup>And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; <sup>3</sup>And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. **And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.**

In this promise with Abram was a foreshadowing of three GREAT promises we will study next.

Once Abraham (formerly called Abram) proved faithful in his willingness to offer his son, God restated His original promise but refocuses and expands its meaning...now it is all about Abraham's offspring.

**THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE** **Genesis 22:15-18:**(NASB) <sup>15</sup>Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, <sup>16</sup>and said, by Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son...

- Isaac, as Abraham's offspring, was the testing ground of a profound faith! Abraham had waited his entire life for this child of promise to be born but God seemingly was going to take him away. Abraham was tested to see whether or not he would be obedient to God to the extreme.

<sup>17</sup>indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand, which is on the seashore...

- No longer was it just that God would make from Abraham a great nation, but now Abraham's offspring would show us two parts of the chosen's blessing: 1. *the stars of the heavens* and 2. *the sand on the seashore*. This is not merely poetic.

...and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.

- This two-part chosen family will have complete victory!

<sup>18</sup>In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.



- This two-part chosen family will be the tools of God’s love embracing all of humanity. We have talked about three different parts of humanity: *the sand of the seashore* - the physical seed of Abraham, i.e. the Jewish nation, *the stars of heaven* - the spiritual seed of Abraham - and *all the families of the earth who will be blessed* - the “everybody else.”

In this single promise to Abraham, we see three different parts of God’s intention of blessing everyone. These blessings are fulfilled in stages. The Abrahamic promise gives us a hint as to how those steps will take place.

When we look at Scriptures that promise blessing, we have to be careful to place them where they belong and to whom they belong. The three great promises of God all take place at different times in history.

**What was the first of the three great promises?**

For humanity to be able to receive God’s originally intended blessing they need to be able to clearly identify the differences between good and evil. God’s first great promise was given to do just that.



The Law promised everlasting life to whomever could keep the Law perfectly. Of course, no one (except Jesus) could live up to that standard. God’s intention was to give the people a way to follow God and live a prosperous human life.

**How was this promise delivered to the people? Through Moses:**

Exodus 19:3-9: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: <sup>4</sup>You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself. <sup>5</sup>Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; <sup>6</sup>and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel. (Moses was the mouthpiece speaking the words of God to the people.) <sup>7</sup>So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8</sup>All the people answered together and said, all that the LORD has spoken we will do! And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD. (Notice the people did not go directly to God - they communicated through Moses.) <sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Moses, behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever. Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.





Moses mediated between the people and God.



What did this have to do with **THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE** back in Genesis? The Abrahamic Promise said God would make a great nation through Abraham. His seed would be like *the sand of the seashore* and *the stars of heaven*. Through his seed would all the families of the earth be blessed. This Law Covenant is the *sands of the seashore* part of the promise!

God makes this first great promise in the Law to the nation of Israel through Moses, explaining how they were to live in a godly way.

**Why was this covenant delivered? It was to separate them onto a godly path:**

**Exodus 20:1-3:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Then God spoke all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>3</sup>You shall have no other gods before Me.*

**Amos 3:2:** (NASB) *You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.*

This gave the people rules to live by and punishment and consequence as a result.



**When you see the phrase *sand of the seashore* in Scripture, it represents the physical nation of Israel.**



**A Shadow is the shape of the reality and it will lead you right to the reality.**

**Was there something wrong with that first promise?**

The first covenant identified sin and made Israel, God's chosen ones, accountable. But it could not free Israel from sin. They also did not have a complete relationship with God - they had to go through Moses. But this was only the first step. God was laying the groundwork through which He could develop His original stated intention: Be fruitful and multiply and have dominion over the earth. How do you get there with all of mankind? He started with one group first and showed them how bad sin is.

**Hebrews 10:1-4:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. <sup>2</sup>Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? <sup>3</sup>But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (Even though the sacrifices did temporarily atone for their sins for that particular year.)*



The Law made the people realize they had to atone for sin. The atonement sacrifices were a shadow of Jesus - that one sacrifice that took away sins forever. The Law was like a roadmap that pointed people to God.

So, we can see that the first covenant was not defective, rather it was a necessary stepping stone to the second great covenant, which would be the reality that the first could only emulate.



A caller from Connecticut suggests that the promises to Israel were very significant. Acts 15:16-18: (Good News Bible) *The words of the prophets agree completely with this. As the Scripture says: After this I will return, says the Lord, and restore the kingdom of David. I will rebuild its ruins and make it strong again. And so all the rest of the human race will come to me, all the Gentiles whom I have called to be my own. So says the Lord, who made this known long ago.*

Our caller's comment refers to the third great promise we will discuss later.



The shadow, the Law Covenant, was to lead us to the reality - Jesus. Jesus' followers are part of this second great promise of God, this Covenant of Grace.

**Remember the first aspect of Israel's Law was the Passover sacrifice:**

Galatians 4:21-26, 28: (NASB) <sup>21</sup>Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law? <sup>22</sup>For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. <sup>23</sup>But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. <sup>24</sup>**This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants:** one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. <sup>25</sup>Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup>But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. (Sarah became a mother by grace!) <sup>28</sup>And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.

One of the problems of the church in Galatia was that they were focusing too much on the Old Testament Law. The Apostle Paul said something very interesting - he reminds the church that Abraham had two sons - Ishmael, who was not the promised seed, and Isaac, who was. He specifically states the two women were used as allegories or symbols to tell a story.

Paul tells us that Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, represented the Law Covenant given to the nation of Israel.



Sarah, the mother of Isaac, represented a promise of grace. She was not supposed to get pregnant at age 90, but she did. Sarah represents the Grace Covenant. This promise is to the children of “spiritual Israel.”

Paul is telling these new Christians they are no longer under the Law, that first promise. The second promise applied to them. They did not have to fulfill the Law in order to be a Christian.

**A look at THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE now repeated to Isaac. There is a famine and he wants to go to Egypt:**

Genesis 26:2-4: (NASB) <sup>2</sup>The LORD appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. <sup>3</sup>Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. <sup>4</sup>I will multiply **your descendants as the stars of heaven**, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;



Why are only the *stars of heaven* mentioned? This confirms the spiritual side of the promise! Isaac was the son of the promise. Isaac was a picture of Jesus. The *stars of heaven* represent the spiritual seed of Israel.

**Who is the spiritual seed of Israel?**

Galatians 3:29: (NASB) *And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.*

God repeated **THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE** to Jacob, who represented the physical nation of Israel. After all, his name was literally changed to “Israel.” His twelve sons would become the twelve tribes of Israel.



**Jacob’s dream of the stairway to heaven:**

Genesis 28:13-14: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. <sup>14</sup>**Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth**, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Now the *stars of heaven* are missing! Only the *dust of the earth* (an earthly picture like the *sands of the seashore*) is described. His descendants would grow to become the physical nation of Israel.



### THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE

**Genesis 22:15-18:** God would multiply Abraham's seed in two parts:

1. As the stars of the heavens and
2. As the sand on the seashore.

In this (two-part) seed would "ALL the nations of the earth be blessed."



**One son with Hagar: Ishmael**  
Represented the Law Covenant  
(Galatians 4:24,25)

**One son with Sarah: Isaac**  
Represented the Grace Covenant  
(Galatians 4:24,26)

**THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE** repeated but only refers to the stars:  
*I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven*



**THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE** repeated to Isaac's son, Jacob, but only refers to the earthly portion, now called the dust of the earth:  
*Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth*



There are some basic differences between the first and the second great Covenants of God.

**The Law had to be given by a mediator:**

**Galatians 3:19:** (NASB) *Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.*

What does a mediator do? A mediator is a "go between" between two parties who are at odds.



**LAW COVENANT:**

**Moses' role for Israel was as a MEDIATOR**

**Galatians 3:19**



**A MEDIATOR is a translator, someone who intervenes between two sides at odds to bring them together.**

Does Jesus mediate the second great Covenant? No, because his true followers are not at odds with God. This is why we pray, "In Jesus' name..."

**For the second Covenant, we have an advocate:**

**1 John 2:1-2:** (NASB) *'My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

So, this "advocate" relationship describes those whom Jesus stands for vs. those whom he mediates for later - two different classes of people with positive effects from the ransom!

**GRACE COVENANT:**

**Jesus' role for the BELIEVER is as an ADVOCATE**

**1 John 2:1-2**



**An ADVOCATE is someone who sits with you on your side, one who pleads another's cause before a judge.**





Jesus finally acts as mediator for the whole world in the third covenant we will discuss, the New Covenant:

1 Timothy 2:5-6: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

This "mediator" relationship is describing the role of Jesus with the whole world before God.

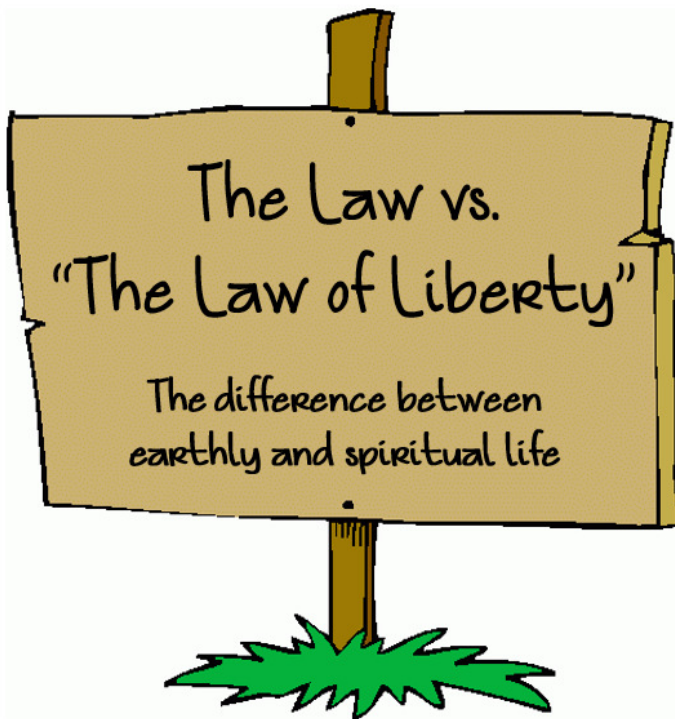
NEW COVENANT:

Jesus' role for the Non-BELIEVER is as a MEDIATOR

1 Timothy 2:5-6



**A MEDIATOR is a translator, someone who intervenes between two sides at odds to bring them together.**



Galatians 5:1-6: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. (the Law) <sup>2</sup>Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision (a rite of the Law), Christ will be of no benefit to you. <sup>3</sup>And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.

It is a matter of moving forward or backward. The first great Covenant served its purpose of accountability and the revealing of sin. It now is no longer important, as the second promise is in force.

<sup>4</sup>You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. <sup>5</sup>For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. <sup>6</sup>For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

The age of following Christ, not the Law, came by way of a transition. First only Jews were called to follow. Then the call to be footstep followers of Jesus broadened to the Gentiles with Cornelius as the first Gentile convert.



## So, what does the transition between the second and third great promise of God look like?

### First, there is the clear call to a high calling:

**1 Peter 2:4-12:** (NASB) <sup>4</sup>And coming to him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, <sup>5</sup>you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The Law Covenant was all about a physical life; the Grace Covenant is about leading a spiritual life.

### It requires leaving the first promise behind...

<sup>7</sup>This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, the stone which the builders rejected, this became the very corner stone, <sup>8</sup>and a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom (the Law could not bring them to perfection) they were also appointed.

Those who followed after the Law rejected Jesus. We must look to Jesus, *the author and finisher of our faith.* (Hebrews 12:2)

### ...to become a part of a new family - the brotherhood of Christ...

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...

### ...to be a witness to the world now AND later, when the third great covenant is inaugurated!

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. <sup>12</sup>Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

### The promise of the Grace Covenant:

Revelation 2:10: *Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life.*

Through the Advocate Jesus, we are promised to be lifted up to a heavenly inheritance. Israel was given an earthly inheritance. Spiritual Israel (the footstep followers of Jesus) are given a spiritual inheritance.

John 14:2: *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

**THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE** This is what it means to be a part of the stars of heaven class of descendants.



I Accept

A caller from Connecticut suggests Luke 1:45: *Blessed is she who believes that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.* In a word of grand promises and fine print, it is hard to trust. We click "I ACCEPT" on contracts we don't even bother to read because what's the point? Assurance is casual and cheap. Luke 2:25,26: *Simeon was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested upon him.* God's promises are different. He meets us more than halfway. If we make the effort to believe His promises, He will reward us with faith. When we "I ACCEPT" God's promises, He blesses us with trust. Hebrews 11:11: *By faith, Abraham received because he considered Him faithful who had promised.*



When the call to follow Jesus and participate in the Grace Covenant is over, his kingdom will be inaugurated on the earth. The “everybody else” who will be resurrected will be living under the New Covenant, also called the New Law Covenant.

**Hebrews 9:15-20:** (NASB) <sup>15</sup>For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

**The price is paid and Jesus’ blood has “purchased” the entire sinful race:**

<sup>16</sup>For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. <sup>17</sup>For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives. <sup>18</sup>Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood.

Blood is a symbol of the fulfillment of justice. The Old Testament Law was a picture of justice being fulfilled with all of the animal sacrifices, but it was not the actual fulfillment. Jesus was that fulfillment.

**The need for blood is founded in the need to satisfy justice - to give something of great value (Jesus’ life) for the redemption of something of great value (Adam’s life):**

<sup>19</sup>For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, <sup>20</sup>saying, this is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you.

God was satisfied with the temporary animal sacrifices, but they always needed renewal.

It was a little like virus protection on our computers that has to be renewed for a price every year. Animal sacrifices were like “virus protection.” They needed renewal year after year. We can liken Jesus to a lifetime subscription for virus protection!

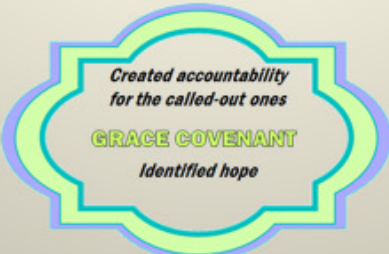



The Old Law Covenant was a picture to point the people to Jesus. The Grace Covenant was the actual fulfillment of the Law. The New Covenant is the application of Jesus’ sacrifice that eventually goes out for the benefit of the whole world.

The New Covenant is for the “everybody else” - **THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE** *all the families of the earth will be blessed*. This fulfills God’s original intention for mankind.

**THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE**


**Genesis 22:15-18:** God would multiply Abraham’s seed in two parts:

1. As the stars of the heavens and  


*Created accountability  
for the called-out ones*  
**GRACE COVENANT**  
*Identified hope*
2. As the sand on the seashore (later “dust of the earth”)  


*Created accountability  
for Israel*  
**JEWISH LAW COVENANT**  
*Identified sin*

In this (two-part) seed would “**ALL** the nations of the earth be blessed.”



*Will create accountability  
for the world*  
**NEW COVENANT**  
*Identified life eternal*

**This New Covenant cannot yet begin - it waits for its proper time when the covenant of grace has completed its work:**

**Romans 8:18-22:** (NASB) <sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us (the recipients of the second great promise of Grace, the true church). <sup>19</sup>For the anxious longing of the creation (the “everybody else” who will receive the third great promise) waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God (the true church). <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.



The whole creation is groaning under the weight of sin. The recipients of the second promise of Grace have been lifted from that into a heavenly calling. From there, the rest of the world will get *their* promise in the future - it identifies the opportunity for life eternal for all of humanity.

### So what do these three promises all add up to?



Jesus, as a Jew, grew up under and fulfilled this Covenant. He then opened the door for the “grace class” - the “Isaac class” - the spiritual seed of Abraham. This first Covenant was a shadow that led right up to the second. (That shadow led us to the real thing.) Moses mediated the inauguration of this Covenant just as Jesus will mediate the third.

This Covenant is available to us now. This is a call to “step up higher” to a heavenly role. Taking up one’s cross and following Jesus can only be accomplished by grace, and Jesus advocates, represents and walks with his church to help us to be faithful.



Jesus - with the help of his true church - will mediate this grand promise of life and blessing for the whole world as they will need to be brought back into harmony with God’s will and way.

These three great promises bring us back to God’s original intention for mankind.

Isaiah 55:11: (KJV) *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

The third covenant in action: First, we see the groundwork of this being fulfilled right now!

Jeremiah 31:27-34: (NASB) <sup>27</sup>*Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and with the seed of beast. <sup>28</sup>As I have watched over them to pluck up, to break down, to overthrow, to destroy and to bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, declares the LORD.*



The physical land of Israel has (miraculously!) been returned to the Jewish people - this is a foundation work getting ready for the inauguration of the New Covenant. Israel is always in the news! The Bible is very clear that God will *fight for Israel as in the days of old.* ([Zechariah 14:3](#) and many others)

**There will be a new system of justice and judgment in the land:**

*<sup>29</sup>In those days they will not say again, the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. <sup>30</sup>But everyone will die for his own iniquity; each man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge.*

**A new, different covenant will be made with physical Israel:**

*<sup>31</sup>Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup>not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD.*

They could not fulfill the first Law Covenant, but Israel will finally turn to God and He will make a New Covenant with Israel. Through them, the New Covenant will be administered to "everybody else."

**Through the mediation of Jesus and the "body of Christ," Israel and the world will be taught how to internalize God's ways:**

*<sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD, I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

Jesus' faithful followers (the Grace Covenant recipients) will have a grand part in the reconciling of the world back to God.

**This internalized New Covenant will spread throughout the entire world!**

*<sup>34</sup>They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, know the LORD, for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, declares the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.*

**All men everywhere will finally see the salvation of God through Jesus:**

[Isaiah 45:22-24](#): (NASB) *<sup>22</sup>Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other. <sup>23</sup>I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. <sup>24</sup>They will say of Me, Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength. Men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him will be put to shame.*

*Every knee will bow - not just Israel and not just the true church.*

The coming Day of Judgment will be a day of great accountability.

God is a God of intention and a God of promise. His design for this world was a place of life and godly prosperity - it will come to be because He promised! God allows sin to reign for a time period. He gave us the Law to identify sin and hold us accountable. But then He gave hope for a heavenly calling to work with Jesus in the reconciliation process. Through Israel, He gave a third great promise that will apply to every human being who ever lived. It is the "happily ever after" according to Scripture!



**So, God's three great promises! Which one is for you?  
For Jonathan and Rick (and Kathy!) and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!**



**And now even more to think about...  
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!**

A quick review of what the word *covenant* means:

**Covenant:** Strongs #1285 beriyth (ber-eeth'); from 1262 (in the sense of cutting [like 1254]); a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh): confederacy, [con-] feder [-ate], covenant, and league.

- AV-covenant 264, league 17, confederacy 1, confederate 1,  
1) covenant, alliance, pledge 1a) between men 1a1) treaty, alliance, league (man to man)  
1a2) constitution, ordinance (monarch to subjects)  
1a3) agreement, pledge (man to man) 1a4) alliance (of friendship) 1a5) alliance (of marriage)  
1b) between God and man 1b1) alliance (of friendship) 1b2) covenant (divine ordinance with signs or pledges)  
2) (phrases) 2a) covenant making 2b) covenant keeping 2c) covenant violation

(Source: McClintock and Strong Biblical Cyclopedia) 1. Properly, of a covenant between man and man; i.e. a solemn compact or agreement, either between tribes or nations (<091101> 1 Samuel 11:1; <060906> Joshua 9:6, 15), or between individuals (<012104> Genesis 21:44), by which each party bound himself to fulfill certain conditions, and was assured of receiving certain advantages. In making such a covenant God was solemnly invoked as witness (<013150> Genesis 31:50), whence the expression "a covenant of Jehovah" <092008> 1 Samuel 20:8; comp. <243418> Jeremiah 34:18, 19; <261719> Ezekiel 17:19), and an oath was sworn (<012131> Genesis 21:31); and accordingly a breach of covenant was regarded as a very heinous sin (<261712> Ezekiel 17:12-20).

### One example of "A Covenant of Jehovah:"

**Genesis 2:21-24:** (KJV) <sup>21</sup>And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; <sup>22</sup>And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. <sup>23</sup>And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. <sup>24</sup>Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Several texts reviewed in light of the three Covenants we discussed today:

### Example of the first Covenant's place in relation to the second Covenant:

**Galatians 3:23-29:** (NASB) <sup>23</sup>But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. <sup>26</sup>For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Remember, the promise is to *bless all the families of the earth*. Both those who received the first Covenant and the second are inheritors of this promise!



### **For some, there was a privilege of moving out from under the first Covenant to the second:**

**Galatians 4:1-7:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, <sup>2</sup>but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. <sup>3</sup>So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup>so that he might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! <sup>7</sup>Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.*

### **Why would you want to turn back from this privilege?**

**Galatians 4:8-10:** (NASB) *<sup>8</sup>However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. <sup>9</sup>But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? <sup>10</sup>You observe days and months and seasons and years.*

### **This text is only about the second Covenant - no other covenant requires personal sacrifice of one's own will - the other two require obedience:**

**Luke 9:23-24:** (KJV) *<sup>23</sup>And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. <sup>24</sup>For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.*

This text shows us how Jesus really is the centerpiece of all of God's doings with mankind. It would inevitably be through Christ that ALL blessing would come to ALL men, for Jesus would fulfill the first Covenant (the Law) he would establish the second Covenant (the call of grace to heaven) and mediate the third Covenant (The New Covenant with Israel for them and the world.)

**Galatians 3:16-19:** (NASB) *<sup>16</sup>Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, and to seeds, as referring to many, but rather to one, and to your seed, that is, Christ. <sup>17</sup>What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. <sup>18</sup>For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. <sup>19</sup>Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.*

### **For more on the physical act of God making a Covenant discussed early in this program:**

**Genesis 15:8-21:** *<sup>8</sup>And he said, LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? <sup>9</sup>And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. <sup>10</sup>And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. <sup>11</sup>And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup>And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup>And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; <sup>14</sup>And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. <sup>15</sup>And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup>But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full. <sup>17</sup>And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. <sup>18</sup>In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: <sup>19</sup>The Kenites, and the Kenizzites,*





*and the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup>And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, <sup>21</sup>And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.*