

Theological Equipping Class – Covenants: The Promise of Redemption to God

Genesis 3:15 – The plot of God’s plan of salvation

- Genesis 3:14-19 – “¹⁴ *The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 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.” ¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.” ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*”
- **What is Cursed** – Childbirth and the ground
- **Who is Cursed** - The Serpent hears “*cursed are you*”
- **Who is Promised** – Seed/Offspring
 - There will be a battle between the “seeds/offspring”
 - Genesis 4:11 – “*And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.*”
 - Genesis 9:24-25 – “*When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵ he said, “Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.”*”
 - One Seed/Offspring will crush the head of the serpent.
 - Genesis 4:1 – “*Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.”*”
 - Genesis 5:28-29 – “²⁸ *When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹ and called his name Noah, saying, “Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.”*”

Abrahamic Covenant

- 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. ² 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. ³ 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.”*”
- **Key Promises:** Land, Seed, and Blessing
- **Land** - Promised Land of Canaan
 - The Promised land would be a Eden-like place in the midst of the “thorns and thistles” world.
- **Seed** - Abraham would be the father of many nations (Gen 17).
 - The promised Seed/Offspring of Genesis 3:15 would come from Abraham.
 - Genesis 22:15-18 – “*And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring*”

shall possess the gate of his enemies,¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

- 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.”*
- Genesis 49:8-10 – *“Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.”*
- **Blessing** - The many offspring of Abraham would bless the world. The ultimate blessing of Genesis 3:15 would come through the one promised Seed.
- **Important to see:** Abraham lived by faith.
 - Genesis 15:5-6 – *“And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.”*

Sinai Covenant

- Exodus 19:3-8 - *“The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ ...⁸ All the people answered together and said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do.”*
- **Tabernacle:** God want to be near His people.
 - Exodus 29:44-46 – *“I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. ⁴⁵ I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. ⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.”*
- **Law:** To be God’s chosen people, Israel need to represent God to the nations.
 - The Purpose of the Law –God’s people reflect His character
 - Leviticus 19:1-2 – *“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.”*
 - The Result of the Law –God’s people recognize their sinfulness and need for forgiveness, which the promised Seed will bring.
- **Sacrifices:** To be in fellowship with God, something has to be done about man’s sin. It needs to be removed.
- **Land:** Exodus 3:7-8 - *“Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey”*
- **Seed:** Numbers 24:15-19 – *“The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, ¹⁶ the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High,*

who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered: ¹⁷ I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth. ¹⁸ Edom shall be dispossessed; Seir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed. Israel is doing valiantly. ¹⁹ And one from Jacob shall exercise dominion and destroy the survivors of cities!”

- **Blessing:** Israel was meant to be a “kingdom of priests” (Ex 19) so the nations would see their reflection of God’s character and come to worship Him.
 - The ultimate blessing would come through the one Seed who will crush serpent’s head.
- **Israel Failure:** Israel, like their father Adam, rebel and show they cannot keep God’s Law.
 - Instead of nations coming to worship Yahweh, Israel worships the false gods of the nations.

Davidic Covenant

- 2 Samuel 7:11-16 – *“the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”*
- **Seed:** Seed getting more specific: Abraham → Jacob/Israel (Not Esau) → Judah (not the other 11 Tribes) → David’s Son
 - Seed will be king forever and His reign will reverse the curse.
- **Land:** The reign of the Lord will come through David’s Son/King.
- **Blessing:** The promise of universal blessing to Abraham will be realized through David’s Son/King.

New Covenant

- **Key Promises:**
 - Seed – the promised Seed is described as divine (Is 9; Dan 7)
 - Land – the promised Seed’s kingdom will cover the whole earth.
 - Blessing – the promised Seed will reverse the curse and bring perfect peace and restoration.
 - Man’s sin and rebellion will be healed by the promised Seed.
 - Fellowship with God will be restored through the Seed.
- *“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” - Jeremiah 31:31–34*
- Habakkuk 2:14 – *“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”*

- Isaiah 11:10 - *“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.”*
- Ezekiel 36:25-27 - *“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”*
- Isaiah 9:6-7 - *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”*
- Isaiah 53:4-6 - *“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*

A glimpse at Jesus

- The first page in the New Testament is Matthew tracing what? The promised Seed!
- Key question of salvation: Can man rise up to God? or does God have to come down to us?
 - God, according to His clear and deliberate plan, sent His Son down for us.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20 - *“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.”*