



SECOND CORINTHIANS

The Comfort of God FOR and THROUGH His People



Part I4— Excursus B: “A Synthetic Overview of the Bible (3 of 3)” — 4 February 2024

Introduction: The Covenant Promises of God Visualized

The unconditional covenant promises of God form the overall structure of the biblical narrative. The Noahic covenant is the foundation of all of covenant history, guaranteeing that history will unfold and that mankind will continue on the earth until the plans of God are completed. In the Abrahamic Covenant, God set apart the nation of Israel as His special people through whom He intended to bless all nations of the earth. The Mosaic, Land, and Davidic covenants all reaffirm or expand on the promises of God originally made in the Abrahamic Covenant.

Main Point: Because of human sin, it was necessary for God to send to us a _____ through whom He would make a _____ covenant that would be the means by which all of His other covenant promises could be fulfilled.

The New Covenant & the Messiah

The Reality of Human Sin

1. The sin of our first father, Adam, meant that mankind inherited both his _____ and his fallen _____.

Gen. 6:5—The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Gen. 11:4— Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”

2. God’s covenant with and His _____ for Abraham anticipated the work of salvation that would be necessary.

Gen. 15:6—And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Gen. 22:13—And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

3. Though Israel repeatedly broke the covenant, God had given them a way to make temporary _____ for their sin.

Lev. 16:15-16b—¹⁵ “Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. ¹⁶ Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins.

Key Point: Though God had made covenants with Israel and promised to bless the nations through them, none of these covenants were able to provide the _____ that sinful humanity, both Jew and gentile, required.

“A study of the covenants of Scripture will reveal a significant phenomenon: the blessings which God obligates Himself to bestow, whether land or kingship or peace, are all impeded by the obduracy [“resoluteness”] of man’s sin. To sum it up neatly, what we are always prevents what we might be! We stand in the way of ourselves, and of covenant blessings. The promises appended to the Abrahamic, [Land], and Davidic covenants are not supplanted with a *means of fulfillment* written into those same covenants. The fulfillment lies outside of those covenants and is beyond their power to resolve. The power of fulfillment lies within another covenant!” —Paul Henebury

The New Covenant—Jeremiah 31:31-34

Background: After Solomon, the kingdom was divided, with the ten tribes joining together in the northern kingdom of Israel and the two southern tribes coming together to form the kingdom of Judah. The people and the rulers of each of these kingdoms continually failed to obey God in accordance with the Mosaic Covenant. Consequently, the Israel was conquered and the people taken into captivity by the Assyrians. Although Judah persisted longer in the land, they also faced exile and impending conquest at the hands of the Babylonians.

The Parties of the Covenant: The LORD & the Houses of _____ & _____

Jer. 31:31-32—³¹ “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.

The Covenant Oath:

Jer. 31:33-34—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.”

“The New Covenant will do the very thing the Mosaic Covenant was unable to do. The latter was only able to cover the sins of Israel, but the New Covenant will take them away.”
—Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Israelology*

Additional Promises:

- **The _____ of the Holy Spirit & Material _____**
Ezek. 36:26-30a—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. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ And I will deliver you from all your uncleanness. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰ I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant
- **The _____ of God in Their Midst**
Ezek. 37:26—I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore.
- **Bodily _____**
Ezek. 37:12-13—¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves

Key Observations Regarding the New Covenant

1. The NC guarantees a _____ for ethnic, national, territorial Israel.
2. The NC provides the salvation (spiritual and material) that God's promises to Abraham _____ and to which the Mosaic Law pointed.
3. The NC provides the _____ to obey the Lord that Israel lacked under the Mosaic Covenant.
"Without the salvation and restoration contained in this covenant none of the other divine covenants can be completely fulfilled...The New Covenant, as it were, takes the other unilateral covenants into itself and prepares sinners to receive their benefits in accordance with the oaths taken by God..."
—Paul Henebury, *The Words of the Covenant*

The Servant of the LORD & the Covenant

Isaiah 42:5-55 contain the "Servant Songs" which describe the special ministry of the Servant of the LORD who accomplishes the purposes of God for both Israel and the nations. The "servant" is to be understood as the Messiah or Christ.

- **The Servant of the LORD is depicted as the embodiment of the Lord's _____ with His people.**
Isa. 42:1,6—¹ Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations...⁶ "I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations
Isa. 49:5,8b—⁵ And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength... ⁸ I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages,
- **The Servant of the LORD will die a _____ death in the place of transgressors.**
Isa. 52:13; 53:5-6—¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted...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.
- **After accomplishing this priestly work of sacrifice, the Servant of the LORD will _____ again.**
Isa. 53:10b-11a—when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous,

Key Point: The work of Messiah in His first coming (incarnation, death, resurrection, ascension) and in His second coming (to rule) all make possible the _____ of the New Covenant and therefore all of the other covenants of promise.

"The New covenant supplies the other covenants of God with the means of their realization. And the New covenant must be "enabled" by Christ, the "Man from Heaven" (1 Cor. 15:47). Hence, the Plan of God outlined in the biblical covenants converges on the crucified Jesus and emerges from the resurrected Jesus. It is realized by these, plus a third factor; His glorious reign." —Paul Henebury

Concluding Thoughts

- The promises of salvation associated with the New Covenant give content to God's promise to _____ the nations through Abraham.
- To understand the Lord Jesus as the embodiment of the New Covenant is to recognize how we have come to _____ in the blessings of God's promises made to Israel.
Luke 22:19-20—¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.



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