

Introduction

Intro: Why did God make promises and covenants? The obvious reason is to advance His will in lives of men and in history. Man benefits from God's promises and covenants by having a special relationship and promised blessings because of them, but ultimately, God is advancing His will. But God's covenants and promises are also sign posts for us to know what God is doing.

To take a temporary and narrow view of God's will, we see two things:

1. God's will is that men come to faith and be saved.
1 Tim 2:3-4 – 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (NAS)
2. God's will is that men conform to the image of Jesus.
Rom 8:29 - 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined {to become} conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; (NAS)

That brings us to three interconnected purposes for God's promises and covenants:

1. The promises and covenants are the proof that God is faithful.
2. The promises and covenants are the foundation and the anchors of our life lived in Christ.
3. The purpose of God's promises and covenants is to enable us to become more like His Son in our character.

Heb 4:1 - Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it. (NAS)

Heb 4:16 - Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. (NAS)

This series of lessons is to see the biblical support for these purposes and to help our faith grow.

I. Has God Made You Promises?**A. What has God promised you?**

1. Salvation
 - a. Matt 10:32-33 – 32 "Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 "But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. (NAS)
 - b. Matt 11:28-30 – 28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I

am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. 30
"For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." (NAS)

- c. John 6:37 - 37 "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. (NAS)
 - d. 2 Pet 1:2-4 - 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of {the} divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.(NAS)
2. Answered prayers
- a. John 14:14 - "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do {it.} (NAS)
 - b. 1 Jn 5:15 – And if we know that He hears us {in} whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. (NAS)
3. Jesus' return
- a. John 6:44 - "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. (NAS)
 - b. John 6:54 - "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (NAS)
 - c. John 14:3 - 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, {there} you may be also. (NAS)
 - d. John 14:18 - "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (NAS)
 - e. 1Thes 4:13-14 – 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. (NAS)
4. Fellowship
- a. John 14:21 – "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him." (NAS)
 - b. 2 Cor 6:17-7:1 – 17 "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and

daughters to me," says the Lord Almighty. 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (NAS)

II. Why Do You Believe Him?

A. Why do you believe anyone? Why would you trust someone?

B. Do you really believe (trust) Him?

1. What's the proof?!

a. James 2:14-25 – 14 What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for {their} body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, {being} by itself. 18 But someone may {well} say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." 19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. 24 You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? (NAS)

b. Mark 6 – why couldn't Jesus work miracles among his own people? Mark 6:1-6 – 1 And He went out from there, and He came into His home town; and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man {get} these things, and what is {this} wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? 3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, and Joses, and Judas, and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him. 4 And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his home town and among his {own} relatives and in his {own} household." 5 And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands upon a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching. (NAS)

2. Why is believing God a problem?

a. God is invisible – in theological terms, God is transcendent (other).

- 1) 1 Tim 1:17 - Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, {be} honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (NAS)
- 2) John 1:18 - No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained {Him.} (NAS)
- b. His ways are not our ways: they don't make sense to us! - Isa 55:8 - "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. (NAS)
- c. Pit this against the rational, skeptical bent of our culture and we have a problem. (Note how these verses must sound to our culture.)
 - 1) Faith is - Heb 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of {things} hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (NAS)
 - 2) Faith's source - Rom 10:17 - So faith {comes} from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (NAS)
 - 3) From a Christian perspective, the invisible and spiritual are what's really real and true.

III. Our Purpose

- A.** Our purpose is to offer reasons for our faith. (Directed to believers – those who believe God exists and accept the Bible as the authoritative Word of God.)
- B.** Also, to give us insight into how God works to fulfill his promises and covenants.
 1. We'll take an overarching view from the Fall to the Cross. We'll literally look from eternity to eternity!
 2. We'll also stop to look at specific cases along the way.
 - a. Abraham and Sarah and the promise of a son
 - b. Abraham's servant seeking a son for Isaac
 - c. Jacob
 - d. Joseph
 - e. Moses
 - f. Saul
 - g. Jonathan
 - h. David

i. Daniel

The Kingdom of God

INTRO: In the last lesson, we saw God's covenants and promises are sign posts so we know what God is doing. We saw three interconnected purposes for God's promises and covenants:

1. The promises and covenants are the proof that God is faithful.
2. The promises and covenants are the foundation and the anchors of our life lived in Christ.
3. The purpose of God's promises and covenants is to enable us to become more like His Son in our character.

Now we turn to another foundational concept to build our faith on, and key to helping us live for Christ daily: The Kingdom of God.

I. "Kingdom" is Used in the Bible in Two Senses

- A. An abstract sense – rule, reign, authority exercised, kingly power, dominion.
1. **Psalms 103:19** - The LORD has established His throne in the heavens; and His sovereignty rules over all. (NAS)
 2. Dan 4:28-33 – 28 "All {this} happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. 29 "Twelve months later he was walking on the {roof of} the royal palace of Babylon. 30 "The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?' 31 "While the word {was} in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, {saying,} 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, 32 and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place {will be} with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whomever He wishes.' 33 "Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until his hair had grown like eagles' {feathers} and his nails like birds' {claws} (NAS)
 3. Mark 1:15 - and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (NAS)
 4. Mark 9:1 - And He was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power." (NAS)
 5. **Matthew 28:18** - And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (NAS)

6. 2 Timothy 4:1 - I solemnly charge {you} in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: (NAS)

7. One cannot rule over nothing, so:

B. Concrete – a territory or realm

II. God's Kingdom is Universal

A. God reigns over everything and everyone. **Psalms 145:13** - Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion {endures} throughout all generations. (NAS)

B. God gives dominion to man over the creation.

1. **Genesis 1:26** - Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (NAS)

2. **Psalms 8:3-6** – 3 When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? 5 Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God, and dost crown him with glory and majesty! 6 Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet, (NAS)

3. God exercising His sovereignty by giving another the right to rule.

C. God's kingship comes from having made heaven and earth.

1. Isaiah 37:15-16 – 15 And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD saying, 16 "O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, who art enthroned {above} the cherubim, Thou art the God, Thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. Thou hast made heaven and earth. (NAS)

2. **Jeremiah 10:10-12** – 10 But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure His indignation. 11 Thus you shall say to them, "The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens." 12 {It is} He who made the earth by His power, who established the world by His wisdom; and by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens. (NAS)

D. God is king, for all belongs to Him. 1 Chronicles 29:10-12 – 10 So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed art Thou, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 11 "Thine, O LORD,

is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O LORD, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all. 12 "Both riches and honor {come} from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone. (NAS)

1. God was king of the flood. Psalms 29:10 - The LORD sat {as King} at the flood; yes, the LORD sits as King forever. (NAS)

2. All the elements are under His rule:

a. Psalms 148:1-14 – 1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! 2 Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! 3 Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all stars of light! 4 Praise Him, highest heavens, and the waters that are above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created. 6 He has also established them forever and ever; He has made a decree which will not pass away. 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, Sea monsters and all deeps; 8 Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word; 9 Mountains and all hills; fruit trees and all cedars; 10 Beasts and all cattle; creeping things and winged fowl; 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the earth; 12 Both young men and virgins; old men and children. 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven. 14 And He has lifted up a horn for His people, praise for all His godly ones; {even} for the sons of Israel, a people near to Him. Praise the LORD! (NAS)

b. Psalms 19:1-4 – 1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun, (NAS)

c. Romans 1:19-20 – 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (NAS)

d. Think about God's rule over nature regarding:

1) The flood

2) The plagues of Egypt

3) Jonah – the storm, the fish, the gourd and the worm

- 4) The drought in Elijah's day and his being feed by ravens
3. All angels are ruled by God.
- a. Hebrews 1:7 - And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire." (NAS)
 - b. **Psalms 148:2** - Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! (NAS)
 - c. Psalms 18:10 - And He rode upon a cherub and flew; and He sped upon the wings of the wind. (NAS)
 - d. Psalms 80:1 - Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, Thou who dost lead Joseph like a flock; Thou who art enthroned {above} the cherubim, shine forth! (NAS)
4. All men are ruled by God.
- a. **Daniel 4:34-35** – 34 "But at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; for His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom {endures} from generation to generation. 35 "And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and {among} the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?' (NAS)
 - b. Ezekiel 20:33 - "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. (NAS)
 - c. **Isaiah 10:5-7** – 5 Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hands is My indignation, 6 I send it against a godless nation and commission it against the people of My fury to capture booty and to seize plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets. 7 Yet it does not so intend nor does it plan so in its heart, but rather it is its purpose to destroy, and to cut off many nations. (NAS)
 - 1) Assyria did God's will even though Assyria didn't intend to.
 - 2) But Assyria was destroyed by that same God! Isaiah 33:1 - Woe to you, O destroyer, while you were not destroyed; and he who is treacherous, while {others} did not deal treacherously with him. As soon as you shall finish destroying, you shall be destroyed; as soon as you shall cease to deal treacherously, {others} shall deal treacherously with you. (NAS)

- d. Genesis 45:5-7 – 5 "And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 "For the famine {has been} in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 "And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. (NAS)
 - e. Genesis 50:20 - "And as for you, you meant evil against me, {but} God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. (NAS)
 - f. Psalms 2:1-12 – 1 Why are the nations in an uproar, and the peoples devising a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed: 3 "Let us tear their fetters apart, and cast away their cords from us!" 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury: 6 "But as for me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain." 7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, 'Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee. 8 'Ask of me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, and the {very} ends of the earth as Thy possession. 9 'Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, Thou shalt shatter them like earthenware.'" 10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. 11 Worship the LORD with reverence, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish {in} the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him! (NAS)
5. All kingdoms are established by God, and removed by God.
- a. Daniel 4:17 - "This sentence is by the decree of the {angelic} watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes, and sets over it the lowliest of men." (NAS)
 - b. Acts 17:26 - and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined {their} appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, (NAS)
 - c. Romans 13:1 - Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. (NAS)
 - d. Psalms 9:5-8 – 5 Thou hast rebuked the nations; Thou hast destroyed the wicked; Thou hast blotted out their name forever and ever. 6 The enemy has come to an end in perpetual ruins, and Thou hast uprooted the cities;

the very memory of them has perished. 7 But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment, 8 And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity. (NAS)

- e. Psalms 9:15-17 – 15 The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made; in the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught. 16 The LORD has made himself known; He has executed judgment. In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared. Higgsion Selah. 17 The wicked will return to Sheol, {even} all the nations who forget God. (NAS)
- f. Psalms 9:20 - Put them in fear, O LORD; let the nations know that they are but men. Selah. (NAS)
- g. Psalms 10:16 - The LORD is King forever and ever; nations have perished from His land. (NAS)
- h. Psalms 11:4-7 - 4 The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. 5 The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. 6 Upon the wicked He will rain snares; fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup. 7 For the LORD is righteous; He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face. (NAS)
- i. Psalms 14:2 - The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. (NAS)
- j. Psalms 22:28 - For the kingdom is the LORD'S, and He rules over the nations. (NAS)

III. God's Kingdom and Us – The Will of God

- A. Does God have a plan for our lives? If so, how can I discover what it is?
 - 1. We use the phrase “the will of God” in three different ways (which we’ll define later):
 - a. God’s will of decree
 - b. God’s will of desire
 - c. God’s will of direction
 - 2. The first two are scriptural; the third is the one that confuses us.
- B. God’s will of decree – that which God has ordained (marked out) to happen.

1. Ephesians 1:11 – [In Him] 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose **who works all things after the counsel of His will**, (NAS)
 2. God works out everything – the big things and the little things:
 - a. Matthews 10:29-31 – 29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? **And {yet} not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father**. 30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 "Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows. (NAS)
 - b. Psalms 139:16 - Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, **the days that were ordained {for me} when as yet there was not one of them**. (NAS)
 3. The evil intentions of men or the rebellious of men cannot keep God's will from being accomplished:
 - a. Acts 4:27-28 – 27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, whom Thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 **to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur**. (NAS)
 - b. Daniel 4:34-35 – 34 "But at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; for His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom {endures} from generation to generation. 35 "And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and {among} the inhabitants of earth; and **no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?'** (NAS)
 - c. Joseph's explanation to his brothers: Genesis 50:20 - "And as for you, you meant evil against me, {but} God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. (NAS)
 4. What God wills, will be done! Isaiah 46:9-10 – 9 "Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; {I am} God, and there is no one like me, 10 **Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'**; (NAS)
- C. God's will of desire – this refers to what God has commanded in the sense of what God desires from us in the form of obedience.
1. What God ordains will happen, whether we choose to obey Him or not.
 - a. God's will of desire can be disregarded.
 - b. But we are still responsible for our choices, because they are our choices.

2. So what does God want from us in His will of desire?
 - a. To not love the world, but to do His will.
 - 1) I John 2:15-17 – 15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and {also} its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever. (NAS)
 - 2) Matthew 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. (NAS)
 - b. To demonstrate our love for Him by keeping His commandments. I John 5:2-3 – 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. (NAS)
3. We may not know or understand God's will of decree – He may well keep them concealed. But we are to obey what He has revealed for us. Deuteronomy 29:29 - "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law. (NAS)

D. God's will of direction.

1. By this we mean, what is God's individual plan for the who, what, when, where, why and how's of our life?
 - a. The real question here is: Does God have a secret will of direction that He expects us to figure out before we do anything?
 - b. The answer: No.
 - 1) God does have a plan.
 - 2) But He doesn't expect us to figure it out before we act. (We probably won't see it until after it happens. Then we'll understand God was leading us.)
2. We should have one goal, everyday: to trust God and seek His kingdom, and He will take care of the rest. Matthew 6:25-34 – 25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, {as to} what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, {as to} what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and {yet} your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? 27

"And which of you by being anxious can add a {single} cubit to his life's span? 28 "And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. 30 "But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is {alive} today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, {will He} not much more {do so for} you, O men of little faith? 31 "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' 32 "For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. {Each} day has enough trouble of its own. (NAS)

a. Look at these passages where God has revealed His will for us, and notice how they all have to do with us simply living our lives:

- 1) Colossians 1:9-10 – 9 For this reason also, since the day we heard {of it} we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please {Him} in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; (NAS)
- 2) Ephesians 5:15-17 – 15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (NAS)
- 3) 1 Thessalonians 4:3 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification; {that is,} that you abstain from sexual immorality; (NAS)
- 4) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (NAS)

b. God will help us make decisions: it's called seeking wisdom.

- 1) James 1:5-8 – 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 {being} a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (NAS)
- 2) Esther didn't ask for God's will to be revealed in saving her people. She asked the people to fast and pray that God would bless what she had decided to do. Esther 4:10-16 – 10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him {to reply} to Mordecai: 11 "All the king's servants

and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days." 12 And they related Esther's words to Mordecai. 13 Then Mordecai told {them} to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. 14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" 15 Then Esther told {them} to reply to Mordecai, 16 "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish." (NAS)

- 3) Why seek wisdom? So we can make good decisions, not so God reveals His will!
- c. Trust God's will of decree. Follow God's will of desire. Be confident in God's will of direction – He holds the future in His hands.
- d. Understanding these three concepts is important for us as we examine the rest of God's covenants and promises, and as we see God working in the lives of His people to carry out His will.

God's Ultimate Purpose

INTRO: We have laid some of the foundation principles regarding the kingdom of God and we have defined three interconnected purposes for God's covenants and promises:

1. The promises and covenants are the proof that God is faithful.
2. The promises and covenants are the foundation and the anchors of our life lived in Christ.
3. The Purpose of God's promises and covenants is to enable us to become more like His Son in our character.

Now we need to put in place one more purpose, which is the overarching goal of what God has been doing.

I. Binding Us Back to God

A. Our English word "Religion" comes from two Latin words

1. re – again or back
2. lego – to bind
3. Religion then is "to bind back again." In Christianity, religion is to bind back man with God.

B. Why does man need binding back?

1. The original requirements in the Garden: Gen 2:15-17 – 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die." (NAS)
 - a. remain in the Garden (residence and food source)
 - b. simple obedience
2. Failure brought consequences: death. And man did fail.
 - a. Gen 3:22-24 – 22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"-- 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life. (NAS)

- b. Rom 5:12 - Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- (NAS)
3. This is a demonstration of the law of sin and death: if you sin, you die.
- a. Rom 8:2-3 – 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God {did:} sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and {as an offering} for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, (NAS)
 - b. Galatians 3:10-12 – 10 For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them." 11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "The righteous man shall live by faith." 12 However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "He who practices them shall live by them." (NAS)
 - c. Rom 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NAS)

C. What is death?

- 1. Greek – thanatos – separation
 - a. Separation of the spirit from the body - James 2:26 - For just as the body without {the} spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. (NAS)
 - b. Separation of man from God – morally, fellowship - Isaiah 59:1-2 – 1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short that it cannot save; neither is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden {His} face from you, so that He does not hear. (NAS)
 - c. Adam “died” the day he disobeyed (Gen. 2:17), but not physically (although physical death was introduced). His death was his separation morally and in fellowship with God.
- 2. We too were dead in the same way:
 - a. Eph 2:1 - And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, (NAS)
 - b. Eph 2:4-6 – 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly {places} in Christ Jesus, (NAS)
- 3. How did He make us “alive”?

D. What is “eternal life”?

1. We know we have it!
 - a. I John 5:13 - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life. (NAS)
 - b. But what is it?
2. “Eternal life” – two choices
 - a. Length of life - as in “forever”. But that won’t work because we all physically die.
 - b. Quality of life - I John 1:1-4 – 1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life-- 2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. (NAS)
 - c. And notice John introduces the idea of fellowship into “eternal life”.
 - 1) Fellowship – koinonia – a share in, communion
 - 2) When God gives us eternal life, He gives us a share in His life. 2 Tim 1:9-10 – 9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, (NAS)

II. The Seed Promise

- A.** In the aftermath of Adam’s and Eve’s sin, God told everyone involved the punishment and consequences of their choices. To the serpent, God said: Genesis 3:14-15 – 14 And the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life; 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." (NAS)
- B.** This “seed promise” is repeated to Abraham
1. Genesis 12:1-3 – 1 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; 2 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; 3 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 shall be blessed.**" (NAS)

2. Genesis 22:15-18 - 15 Then 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 thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 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. 18 "And **in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,** because you have obeyed My voice." (NAS)

C. That Seed is Christ

1. Galatians 3:16 - 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. (NAS)
2. The promise (Christ) applied to all nations.
 - a. Applied to Jews - Acts 3:25-26 - 25 "It is you who are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 26 "For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one {of you} from your wicked ways." (NAS)
 - b. Applied to Gentiles - Galatians 3:8-9 – 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, {saying} "All the nations shall be blessed in you." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. (NAS)

- ### D. As we look at God's covenants and promises – from the seed promise in the Garden onward – understand that God was working to get us to Christ and eternal life: the restoration, the binding back, of ourselves with God.

The Promises to Abraham

INTRO: We've made the point that the reason we believe and trust others is because they have proven faithful to their word. The same is true of God.

We've come to a point in our study where we begin to put all the foundational material to the test. What has God done for us to trust Him? Let's have a look at a champion of faith, Abraham.

I. Abram Who?

A. What we know about Abram before Genesis 12.

1. His lineage – Genesis 11:10-32

a. Descended from Shem, one of Noah's three sons. Father was Terah.

b. Born in Ur of the Chaldees

1) A city originally settled because of its fertile land, along the Euphrates River.

2) "Ur of the Chaldees" – is a late name. The Chaldeans didn't move into the area until around 900 B.C.

c. Had two brothers:

1) Nahor

2) Haran

d. After Haran's death, the family moved, originally headed to Canaan, but settled in Haran (or, Harran) (Genesis 11:31).

2. Religious background.

a. The predominant deity of both Ur and Haran was 'Nannar' (also called 'Sin') – the illuminator, a moon god - known as the father of the gods and creator of all things.

b. So how did Abram know 'Yahweh'? We haven't got a clue.

B. "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you." (Genesis 12:1)

1. According to Hebrews 11:8, when Abram received that call, he didn't know where he was going. (Hebrews 11:8- By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. (NAS))

2. But Abram is told to leave everything he knows to go to a place he doesn't know.
3. "By faith" (Hebrews 11:8), Abram went. (Talk about trusting God to hold the future!)

II. The Twofold Promise – Genesis 12:1-7

Genesis 12:1-7 – 1 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; 2 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; 3 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 shall be blessed." 4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. 6 And Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite {was} then in the land. 7 And the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. (NAS)

A. The Seed Promise and the Land Promise

1. The Seed Promise - "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:3)
 - a. Reworded in Genesis 22:18 - "And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (NAS)
 - b. Saw last time, the seed is Christ and the blessing to all nations (Jew and Gentile) is eternal life restored through Christ.
2. The Land Promise – the Land of Canaan (Genesis 12:5-7)
 - a. Note vs. 7 – "To your descendants I will give this land."
 - b. In Genesis 15, more information about the land is revealed.
 - 1) Vs. 18 – the extent of the land: "from the River of Egypt, to the great River, the River Euphrates"
 - a) The river of Egypt is the Wadi-el-Arish, not the Nile
 - b) The northern boundary includes present day Syria
 - 2) Vs. 15,16 – the timeframe
 - a) The fourth generation from Abram (400 years)
 - b) The iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete – God would displace them as punishment with Abram descendants.

3. Notice the detail of what God is promising:
 - a. A blessing upon all the nations of the earth, through Abram's seed.
 - b. A specific land, given at a specific time, given as a result of God's judgment upon another nation (the Amorites).
 - c. What would it take for God to do that? And if He can do that, do you think He can take care of you and me?

B. The promise and the promises – the theme of the Bible

1. Statement: There are many O.T. messianic predictions, but they are all different aspects of the single promise made to Abraham.
 - a. The seed promise and the land promise are separate, but interconnected promises: fulfilling the land promise was an essential step to fulfilling the blessing promise.
 - b. Just as a fully functioning, standard automobile is made up of many different parts, all the parts are necessary to make an automobile.

2. Proof of our statement

- a. Sometimes the N.T. refers to "the promise" or "the covenant" given to Abraham which Christ fulfilled.

1) Acts 3:18-26 – 18 "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He has thus fulfilled. 19 "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until {the} period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. 22 "Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you. 23 'And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' 24 "And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and {his} successors onward, also announced these days. 25 "It is you who are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 26 "For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one {of you} from your wicked ways." (NAS)

2) Acts 26:6-7 – 6 "And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers; 7 {the promise} to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve {God} night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews. (NAS)

- 3) Ephesians 3:4-6 – 4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; 6 {to be specific} that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, (NAS)
 - 4) Hebrews 6:13-20 – 13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply you." 15 And thus, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. 16 For men swear by one greater {than themselves} and with them an oath {given} as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, 18 in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a {hope} both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (NAS)
- b. Sometimes the N.T. refers to “the promises” or “the covenants” given to Abraham and fulfilled by Christ.
- 1) Romans 9:3-5 – 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, {separated} from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, 4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the {temple} service and the promises, 5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen. (NAS)
 - 2) Rom 15:8 – 8 For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises {given} to the fathers, (NAS)
 - 3) Galatians 3:16 - 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. (NAS)
 - 4) Hebrews 6:11-12 – 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end,

12 that you may not be sluggish, but **imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.** (NAS)

5) Hebrews 7:5-6 – 5 And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's office have commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these are descended from Abraham. 6 But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham, and **blessed the one who had the promises.** (NAS)

c. Whether the N.T. speaks of “the promise” or “the promises”, “the covenant” or “the covenants”, those terms are used in connection with Abraham and cover the entire scope of the O.T. messianic predictions fulfilled in Christ.

1) What would it take for God to do that?

2) If He can do that, can't he take care of you and me?

Down Into Egypt

INTRO: We put trust in those who are trustworthy – those who do what they say they will do. The same is true of God. God has made many promises to us, but can we trust Him? We are putting the test to the claim that God is faithful.

Last time, we looked at the seed and land promises made to Abraham. Today we are going to expand on the fulfillment of those promises.

I. A REVIEW OF THE LAND PROMISE TO ABRAHAM**A. Specifically:**

1. A land: Canaan
2. Border: From the River of Egypt (the Wadi el Arish) to the Euphrates
3. Timeframe: The fourth generation – when the iniquity of the Amorites was full (a punishment element)

B. One other element is promised: a “sojourning” in Egypt. - Genesis 15:13-16 – 13 And {God} said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14 "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve; and afterward they will come out with many possessions. 15 "And as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 "Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete." (NAS)

II. THE PROMISES PASSED ON

A. To Isaac - Genesis 26:1-5 – 1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines. 2 And the LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 "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. 4 "And 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; 5 because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws." (NAS)

B. To Jacob - Genesis 28:1-15 – 1 So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, and said to him, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. 2 "Arise, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and from there take to yourself a wife from the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. 3 "And may God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. 4 "May He also

give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your descendants with you; that you may possess the land of your sojournings, which God gave to Abraham." 5 Then Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-aram to Laban, son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau. 6 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram, to take to himself a wife from there, {and that} when he blessed him he charged him, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan," 7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Paddan-aram. 8 So Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan displeased his father Isaac; 9 and Esau went to Ishmael, and married, besides the wives that he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth. 10 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 And he came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. 12 And he had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 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. 14 "Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth, and you shall 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. 15 "And behold, I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." (NAS)

III. THE STORY OF JOSEPH

A. The main parts of Joseph's life can be overviewed as the four 'P's':

1. The Pit – Genesis 37
2. Potiphar's House – Genesis 39:1-19
3. Prison – Genesis 39:20 – 41:32
4. "Prince" – Genesis 41:33 – 50:26

B. Lessons from Joseph

1. God doesn't tell Joseph why any of this happens.
 - a. Joseph figures it out – in hindsight – but God doesn't explain it.
 - 1) Genesis 45:1-11 – 1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried, "Have everyone go out from me." So there was no man with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard {it} and the household of Pharaoh heard {of it} 3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. 4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come closer to me." And they

came closer. And he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 "And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 "For the famine {has been} in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 "And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. 8 "Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. 10 "And you shall live in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children and your flocks and your herds and all that you have. 11 "There I will also provide for you, for there are still five years of famine {to come} lest you and your household and all that you have be impoverished.'" (NAS)

- 2) Genesis 50:15-21 – 15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph should bear a grudge against us and pay us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" 16 So they sent {a message} to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, 17 "Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong." And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father. "And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? 20 "And as for you, you meant evil against me, {but} God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. 21 "So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (NAS)

b. Joseph is not embittered.

- 1) What happened to him was both unfair and unjust. It would have been easy to angrily ask, "Why me?"
- 2) Joseph is not embittered with God or with his brothers.
 - a) He knows they meant it for evil.
 - b) But, even so, he trusted God to hold the future, not his brothers.

2. Joseph continues to serve God. How?

- a. He works hard, and excels at it, even as a slave.

- b. He is moral and maintains his integrity.
- c. He continues to let God use him as the interpreter of dreams (the very thing that got him into hot water with his brothers!).

C. God used Joseph as a key player in fulfilling His promises to Abraham.

1. The famine forces Jacob to send his sons into Egypt seeking to buy food. (Which Egypt had thanks to Joseph!)
2. Eventually, Joseph reveals himself and invites his family to join him in Egypt.
3. Jacob accepts - Genesis 46:1-7 – 1 So Israel set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. 2 And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am." 3 And He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. 4 "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes." 5 Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob and their little ones and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. 6 And they took their livestock and their property, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and came to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him: 7 his sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his granddaughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt. (NAS)

The Nation – Land Promise
The Covenant of Blessings and Cursings

INTRO: We trust God because He's faithful to His promises: He does what He says He'll do!

Today, we want to quickly examine the fulfillment of the nation-land promise. This not only is another demonstration of God's faithfulness, but also the bridge to the complete fulfillment of the "seed promise."

I. TO FORM A NATION...

A. It takes three basic things to form a nation:

1. A people
2. A land area
3. A law

B. In the case of Israel, God had:

1. Chosen a people – Abraham's descendents
2. Chosen a land – the land of Canaan, from the Euphrates River in the north, to the Wadi-el-Arish in the South
3. Would give them (Israel) a law – and a national covenant – at Sinai. (A law not meant for Gentiles, but Israel alone.)
 - a. Exodus 19:1-6 – 1 In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain. 3 And 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: 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 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; 6 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." (NAS)
 - b. Exodus 34:27-28 – 27 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." 28 So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments. (NAS)

- c. Deuteronomy 4:1-8 – 1 "And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, in order that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. 2 "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. 3 "Your eyes have seen what the LORD has done in the case of Baal-peor, for all the men who followed Baal-peor, the LORD your God has destroyed them from among you. 4 "But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you. 5 "See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. 6 "So keep and do {them} for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' 7 "For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him? 8 "Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today? (NAS)
- d. Deuteronomy 5:1-3 – 1 Then Moses summoned all Israel, and said to them, "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I am speaking today in your hearing, that you may learn them and observe them carefully. 2 "The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. 3 "The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, {with} all those of us alive here today. (NAS)

II. THE COVENANT OF BLESSING AND CURSING – Deut. 28-30

- A. The nature of the land-nation promise.
1. The receiving of the land was unconditional.
 - a. God had promised, sworn an oath and made a covenant that Abraham's descendents would receive the land.
 - b. God had done that on the basis of Abraham's faith alone – no other conditions to receiving the land. (Remember what God said when He repeated the seed promise to Isaac: Genesis 26:1-5 – 1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines. 2 And the LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 "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. 4 "And 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; 5 because

Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws." (NAS))

2. However, keeping the land was conditional – it was based on the faithfulness of the people.
- B. The Blessing and Cursing – “if you are faithful”**
1. In Deuteronomy, the people are gathered together by Moses to be reminded again of the law (Deuteronomy – “second law “) and their need for faithfulness to it. Deuteronomy 30:19-20 – 19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them." (NAS)
 2. The Blessings - Deuteronomy 28:1-14 – 1 "Now it shall be, if you will diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you will obey the LORD your God. 3 "Blessed {shall} you {be} in the city, and blessed {shall} you {be} in the country. 4 "Blessed {shall be} the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. 5 "Blessed {shall be} your basket and your kneading bowl. 6 "Blessed {shall} you {be} when you come in, and blessed {shall} you {be} when you go out. 7 "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way and shall flee before you seven ways. 8 "The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you. 9 "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you will keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and walk in His ways. 10 "So all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of you. 11 "And the LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. 12 "The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. 13 "And the LORD shall make you the head and not the tail, and you only shall be above, and you shall not be underneath, if you will listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe {them} carefully, 14 and do not turn aside from any of the

words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. (NAS)

3. The Cursing - Deuteronomy 28:15-68 - 15 "But it shall come about, if you will not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. 16 "Cursed {shall} you {be} in the city, and cursed {shall} you {be} in the country. 17 "Cursed {shall be} your basket and your kneading bowl. 18 "Cursed {shall be} the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. 19 "Cursed {shall} you {be} when you come in, and cursed {shall} you {be} when you go out. 20 "The LORD will send upon you curses, confusion, and rebuke, in all you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken Me. 21 "The LORD will make the pestilence cling to you until He has consumed you from the land, where you are entering to possess it. 22 "The LORD will smite you with consumption and with fever and with inflammation and with fiery heat and with the sword and with blight and with mildew, and they shall pursue you until you perish. 23 "And the heaven which is over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you, iron. 24 "The LORD will make the rain of your land powder and dust; from heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed. 25 "The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them, but you shall flee seven ways before them, and you shall be {an example of} terror to all the kingdoms of the earth. 26 "And your carcasses shall be food to all birds of the sky and to the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten {them} away. 27 "The LORD will smite you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors and with the scab and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. 28 "The LORD will smite you with madness and with blindness and with bewilderment of heart; 29 and you shall grope at noon, as the blind man gropes in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways; but you shall only be oppressed and robbed continually, with none to save you. 30 "You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall violate her; you shall build a house, but you shall not live in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not use its fruit. 31 "Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be torn away from you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have none to save you. 32 "Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes shall look on and yearn for them continually; but there shall be nothing you can do. 33 "A people whom you do not know shall eat up the produce of your ground and all your labors, and you shall never be anything but oppressed and crushed continually. 34 "And you shall be driven mad by the sight of what you see. 35 "The LORD will strike you on the knees and legs with sore boils, from which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head. 36 "The LORD will bring you and your king, whom you shall set over

you, to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone. 37 "And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a taunt among all the people where the LORD will drive you. 38 "You shall bring out much seed to the field but you shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it. 39 "You shall plant and cultivate vineyards, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather {the grapes,} for the worm shall devour them. 40 "You shall have olive trees throughout your territory but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil, for your olives shall drop off. 41 "You shall have sons and daughters but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity. 42 "The cricket shall possess all your trees and the produce of your ground. 43 "The alien who is among you shall rise above you higher and higher, but you shall go down lower and lower. 44 "He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail. 45 "So all these curses shall come on you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the LORD your God by keeping His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. 46 "And they shall become a sign and a wonder on you and your descendants forever. 47 "Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things; 48 therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD shall send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you. 49 "The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand, 50 a nation of fierce countenance who shall have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young. 51 "Moreover, it shall eat the offspring of your herd and the produce of your ground until you are destroyed, who also leaves you no grain, new wine, or oil, nor the increase of your herd or the young of your flock until they have caused you to perish. 52 "And it shall besiege you in all your towns until your high and fortified walls in which you trusted come down throughout your land, and it shall besiege you in all your towns throughout your land which the LORD your God has given you. 53 "Then you shall eat the offspring of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, during the siege and the distress by which your enemy shall oppress you. 54 "The man who is refined and very delicate among you shall be hostile toward his brother and toward the wife he cherishes and toward the rest of his children who remain, 55 so that he will not give {even} one of them any of the flesh of his children which he shall eat, since he has nothing {else} left, during the siege and the distress by which your enemy shall oppress you in all your towns. 56 "The refined and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground for delicateness and refinement, shall be hostile toward the husband she cherishes and toward her son and daughter, 57 and toward her afterbirth which issues from between her legs and toward her children whom she bears; for she shall eat them secretly for lack of anything {else,} during the siege and the distress by which your enemy shall oppress you in your towns. 58 "If you

are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, the LORD your God, 59 then the LORD will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, even severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses. 60 "And He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. 61 "Also every sickness and every plague which, not written in the book of this law, the LORD will bring on you until you are destroyed. 62 "Then you shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven for multitude, because you did not obey the LORD your God. 63 "And it shall come about that as the LORD delighted over you to prosper you, and multiply you, so the LORD will delight over you to make you perish and destroy you; and you shall be torn from the land where you are entering to possess it. 64 "Moreover, the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth; and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone, which you or your fathers have not known. 65 "And among those nations you shall find no rest, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul. 66 "So your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you shall be in dread night and day, and shall have no assurance of your life. 67 "In the morning you shall say, 'Would that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Would that it were morning!' because of the dread of your heart which you dread, and for the sight of your eyes which you shall see. 68 "And the LORD will bring you back to Egypt in ships, by the way about which I spoke to you, 'You will never see it again!' And there you shall offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer." (NAS)

C. However, if they lost the land, God also laid out the conditions under which He would return them.

1. Deuteronomy 30:1-10 – 1 "So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call {them} to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, 2 and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, 3 then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. 4 "If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. 5 "And the LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. 6 "Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live. 7 "And the LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. 8 "And you shall again obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you today. 9

"Then the LORD your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers; 10 if you obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul. (NAS)

2. But only a remnant – a portion, not the whole – would return.
 - a. The prophecies of Isaiah –
 - 1) Isaiah 1:9 - Unless the LORD of hosts had left us a few survivors, we would be like Sodom, we would be like Gomorrah. (NAS)
 - 2) Isaiah 10:20-22 – 20 Now it will come about in that day that the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. 21 A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. 22 For though your people, O Israel, may be like the sand of the sea, {Only} a remnant within them will return; a destruction is determined, overflowing with righteousness. (NAS)
 - b. The prophecy of Jeremiah - Jeremiah 19:1-12 – 1 Thus says the LORD, "Go and buy a potter's earthenware jar, and {take} some of the elders of the people and some of the senior priests. 2 "Then go out to the valley of Ben-hinnom, which is by the entrance of the potsherd gate; and proclaim there the words that I shall tell you, 3 and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Behold I am about to bring a calamity upon this place, at which the ears of everyone that hears of it will tingle. 4 "Because they have forsaken Me and have made this an alien place and have burned sacrifices in it to other gods that neither they nor their forefathers nor the kings of Judah had {ever} known, and {because} they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent 5 and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, a thing which I never commanded or spoke of, nor did it {ever} enter My mind; 6 therefore, behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when this place will no longer be called Topheth or the valley of Ben-hinnom, but rather the valley of Slaughter. 7 "And I shall make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place, and I shall cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies and by the hand of those who seek their life; and I shall give over their carcasses as food for the birds of the sky and the beasts of the earth. 8 "I shall also make this city a desolation and an {object of} hissing; everyone who passes by it will be astonished and hiss because of all its disasters. 9 "And I shall make them eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they will eat one another's flesh

in the siege and in the distress with which their enemies and those who seek their life will distress them." 10 "Then you are to break the jar in the sight of the men who accompany you 11 and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Just so shall I break this people and this city, even as one breaks a potter's vessel, which cannot again be repaired; and they will bury in Topheth because there is no {other} place for burial. 12 "This is how I shall treat this place and its inhabitants," declares the LORD, "so as to make this city like Topheth. (NAS)

III. THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAND PROMISE

A. Their occupation of the land would be gradual; however, their authority (rule) over the entire land would be established sooner.

1. Exodus 23:30-33 – 30 "I will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land. 31 "And I will fix your boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River {Euphrates;} for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out before you. 32 "You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods. 33 "They shall not live in your land, lest they make you sin against Me; for {if} you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you." (NAS)
2. Joshua 23:14-16 – 14 "Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the LORD your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed. 15 "And it shall come about that just as all the good words which the LORD your God spoke to you have come upon you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the threats, until He has destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you. 16 "When you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and go and serve other gods, and bow down to them, then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land which He has given you." (NAS)
3. At the end of Joshua's days, the people had not occupied every square inch of the land (there were still some non-Jewish inhabitants in some places), but Israel ruled (had authority over) the land.
4. By Solomon's time, Israel occupied and ruled all the promise land. I Kings 4:21 - Now Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River {to} the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt; {they} brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life. (NAS)

B. After captivity and return, the people recognized that God had fulfilled all of His promises to them. Nehemiah 9:5-8 – 5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, {and} Pethahiah, said, "Arise, bless the LORD your God forever and ever! O may Thy glorious name be blessed And

exalted above all blessing and praise! 6 "Thou alone art the LORD. Thou hast made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. Thou dost give life to all of them and the heavenly host bows down before Thee. 7 "Thou art the LORD God, who chose Abram and brought him out from Ur of the Chaldees, and gave him the name Abraham. 8 "And Thou didst find his heart faithful before Thee, and didst make a covenant with him to give {him} the land of the Canaanite, of the Hittite and the Amorite, of the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite-- to give {it} to his descendants. **And Thou hast fulfilled Thy promise, for Thou art righteous.** (NAS)

- C. Keep in mind that God was fulfilling the nation-land promise in order to fulfill the “seed promise” – the blessing of all the nations and families of the earth through Abraham’s seed.

Out of Egypt

INTRO: We are studying the covenants and promises of God because they reveal to us God's purposes:

1. The promises and covenants are the proof that God is faithful.
2. The promises and covenants are the foundation and the anchors of our life lived in Christ.
3. The purpose of God's promises and covenants is to enable us to become more like His Son in our character.

We've studied the promises and covenants given to Abraham concerning both the land/nation and the seed promises, and how those were passed on to Isaac and then Jacob. We saw Joseph's part in helping specifically fulfilling what God said to Abraham in getting Israel into "captivity". Today we look at another person – Moses - who was key in delivering Israel out of captivity – exactly four generations after they got there, just as God said to Abraham.

Moses' life is a study in the providence of God provided in both subtle and direct ways. Moses life also demonstrates the different parts of God's will:

- His will of decree – God will bring the descendents of Abraham into the Promised Land. It may take 40 years to get rid of the rebels, but they would get there.
- His will of desire – God gives the nation laws so they can be both blessed as well as serve Him. And they exercised the choice to ignore it on several occasions.
- His will of direction – Moses constantly reminded Israel to trust God to take care of them. God only asked them to follow Him.

I. PRINCE

A. Moses didn't begin as a prince, but in the first phase of his life (approximately 40 years) he spends his time in Pharaoh's court.

B. We see God's providence in Moses' life immediately.

1. Pharaoh's decree – Exodus 1:9-22
2. The hiding of Moses in the river – Exodus 2:1-10
 - a. The "timely" arrival of Pharaoh's daughter to bathe, her discovery of Moses and her decision to adopt him (even though she knows he's a Hebrew child).
 - b. And "it just so happens" Pharaoh's daughter needs a wet nurse.
 - 1) Miriam "just so happens" to over hear this
 - 2) Moses' mother "just so happens" to become his wet nurse (and apparently his teacher).

- C. Moses decided to act on behalf of his people. Exodus 2:11-15a
1. He knows their treatment is unjust and is so angered by it, he kills an Egyptian task master and then hides the body.
 2. He soon discovers from his own Hebrew brethren that what he did is known. And it becomes known to Pharaoh as well. So Moses flees.
 3. He thought he was ready to lead, but God had other plans.

II. PASTOR (SHEPHERD)

- A. Moses ends up in Midian and begins the next phase of his life (which also lasts approximately 40 years). Exodus 2:15b-3:1
1. He becomes a shepherd.
 2. He gets married and starts a family. (Egypt is far behind.)
- B. The Burning Bush (Exodus 3:2-4:26)
1. God's intention: (Exodus 2:24,25; 3:6-10)
 - a. I have heard the suffering of the Israelites.
 - b. I remember My covenant with Abraham
 - c. Therefore, you go to Pharaoh.
 2. Moses now has all kinds of excuses as to why he shouldn't lead Israel. (Exodus 3:11-4:17)
 - a. You get the impression that behind it all, Moses is satisfied with his life just the way it is now.
 - b. God can be persuasive!

III. PROPHET

- A. A poor beginning. Exodus 4:27-6:9)
1. It looked like it would go well as the elders of Israel were on board. (4:27-31)
 2. But then Moses and Aaron appeared before Pharaoh, who was more than a little less impressed. (5:1-19)
 - a. "Who is the Lord that I should listen to him?"
 - b. Instead of letting them go, Pharaoh decides to make the Israelites work harder.
 - c. You would think Moses and Aaron would have seen this coming!
 3. The elders of Israel now want God to punish Moses and Aaron! (5:20,21)

4. Moses is a little confused. (5:22,23)
 5. But God knows what He's doing. (6:1-8)
 6. However, Israel is not so easily convinced this time. (6:9)
- B. The Ten Plagues. Exodus 7:1 – 12:51;13:17-22**
1. Proof of God's sovereignty over the creation (weather, insects, animals).
 2. Also proved God could take care of Israel as He separated the Israelites from suffering during the plagues.
- C. The Red Sea. Exodus 14:1-31**
1. Proof again of God's sovereignty over creation and of His providence.
 2. But more importantly, proof of God's sovereignty over nations: He destroys Egypt's army.
- D. The trip to Sinai. Exodus 15:22-18:27**
1. The Israelites complained:
 - a. About not having water – 15:22-27 – and God provided them water.
 - b. About not having food – 16:1-36 – and God provided them manna.
 - c. About not having water again – 17:1-7 – and God provided them water – again.
 2. When the Amalekites attacked, they again had to rely on God (through Moses' upraised arms) to win the battle. (17:8-16)
- E. Mt. Sinai and the law of God. Exodus 19:1-40:38**
1. God enters into a covenant with Israel. (Exodus 19:1-24:8)
 2. Moses goes up to the mountain for 40 days and nights, and Israel, who had just entered into a covenant with God which forbade idolatry, decides to "play" before their golden calf. (Exodus 24:9-18; 32:1-35)
 3. In all of this, God still extended grace and mercy first towards Moses (who interceded on Israel's behalf) and upon Israel itself.

The Divided Kingdom, Captivity and Return

INTRO: Imagine the land of promise being the household of God and Israel being house guests. The host has rules, and if you want to stay you have to keep them. The Covenant of Blessing and Cursings were the “house rules”: they defined for the nation of Israel what God would do in the event of Israel’s faithfulness, unfaithfulness and when they repented.

Today we’re going to take a “30,000 foot” view of the history of Israel from the divided kingdom to the return from captivity. The purpose is to see how God worked through all the nations to accomplish His will.

I. The Division of the Kingdom**A. The first three kings:**

1. The nation coalesced, but stagnated under Saul.
 - a. No real improvements in prosperity or land acquisition.
 - b. Constant battle with the Philistines.
2. The nation prospered under David.
 - a. Achieved dominance over the Philistines.
 - b. Was able to consolidate land gains and begin developing property.
3. The nation achieved its height under Solomon.
 - a. Nation occupied the full extent of the promised territory.
 - b. It was a period of national prosperity and international respect.
 - c. However, the seeds of idolatry were being laid because of Solomon’s political alliance marriages, and his allowing these wives to practice their idolatry.

B. The nation divides upon the ascension of Rehoboam. (1 Kings 11,12)

1. Rehoboam decides to act like Pharoah (in Moses’ day) – (appear strong) “I’ll increase your (tax) burdens.”
2. The larger northern tribes (land mass and tribal numbers (10 vs. 3)) see themselves as carrying the burden for the southern tribes and decide to split away.
3. The northern tribes immediately sink into idolatry through the efforts of their king, Jeroboam, who doesn’t just want an independent government, but an independent place of worship as well. (1 Kings 12:25-33)

II. Captivity

A. The Northern kingdom of Samaria

1. Every king was idolatrous, rebellious and sinful against God.
2. The Assyrians, led first by Shalmanezar and then by Sargon, conquer the northern tribes (circa 722/721 B.C.). (2 Kings 17:1-18)

1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah became king over Israel in Samaria, {and reigned} nine years. 2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, only not as the kings of Israel who were before him. 3 Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid him tribute. 4 But the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea, who had sent messengers to So king of Egypt and had offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as {he had done} year by year; so the king of Assyria shut him up and bound him in prison. 5 Then the king of Assyria invaded the whole land and went up to Samaria and besieged it three years. 6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, {on} the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 7 Now {this} came about, because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and they had feared other gods 8 and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel, and {in the customs} of the kings of Israel which they had introduced. 9 And the sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right, against the LORD their God. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. 10 And they set for themselves {sacred} pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, 11 and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations {did} which the LORD had carried away to exile before them; and they did evil things provoking the LORD. 12 And they served idols, concerning which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing." 13 Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah, through all His prophets {and} every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets." 14 However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God. 15 And they rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers, and His warnings with which He warned them. And they followed vanity and became vain, and {went} after the nations which surrounded them, concerning which the LORD had commanded them not to do like them. 16 And they forsook all the commandments of the LORD their God and made for themselves molten images, {even} two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal. 17 Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD,

provoking Him. 18 So the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah. (NAS)

B. The Southern Kingdom of Judah

1. Judah had a mixed bag of kings who wavered between faithfulness and idolatry.
 - a. The kingdom was preserved against the Assyrians because of the faithfulness of King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah.
 - b. But when Hezekiah's son, Manasseh became king, he spent nearly his entire rule stamping out the worship of God and replacing it with idolatry. He only repented late in life after spending some time in an Assyrian prison.
 - c. The young and faithful king Josiah worked hard for two years to eradicate idolatry from the land, but he couldn't eradicate it from the people's heart. He died in the Battle of Mediggo (circa 606 B.C.) delaying the Egyptian armies from joining the battle with the Assyrians against the Babylonians at Carchemish.
 - 1) The Assyrian empire was on its last legs against the Babylonians, having been run out of Nineveh (612 B.C.) and then Haran.
 - 2) At Carchemish, the Assyrians hoped the Egyptians would help them turn the tide. But the Egyptians arrived too late.
 - a) Nebuchadnezzar first destroyed the Assyrians. (circa 605 B.C.)
 - b) When the Egyptians arrived, the Babylonians not only defeated them, but chased the army back into northern Palestine, slaughtering them along the way.
2. The road to captivity.
 - a. In about 604 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar smashed the rebellion of King Jehoiakim. (2 Kings 24:1-7)
 - 1) Judah had become a vassal state to the Babylonian empire.
 - 2) The Egyptians were promising support, which never materialized.
 - 3) Daniel and members of the royal household were carried away to captivity.
 - b. Jehoichin was made king, and within three months, the Babylonians were back.
 - 1) It appears that once again the Egyptians were involved.

- 2) Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin and all the royal family, along with all the best craftsmen and workmen into captivity. And Ezekiel was taken captive as well.
- c. Zedekiah was made king (circa 594 B.C.) (2 Kings 24:8-20)
 - 1) By 588 B.C., Zedekiah rebelled (encouraged once again by the Egyptians).
 - 2) In 586 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar returned and destroyed Jerusalem. (2 Kings 25:1-10)

III. The Return of the Remnant

- A. The length of captivity: 70 years.
 1. Jeremiah prophesied the length of captivity before Judah actually went into captivity.
 - a. Jeremiah 25:8-12 – 8 "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Because you have not obeyed My words, 9 behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' declares the LORD, 'and {I will send} to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, and against its inhabitants, and against all these nations round about; and I will utterly destroy them, and make them a horror, and a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. 10 'Moreover, I will take from them the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. 11 'And this whole land shall be a desolation and a horror, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 'Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,' declares the LORD, 'for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation. (NAS)
 - b. Jeremiah 29:10-14 – 10 "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. 11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 12 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 'And you will seek Me and find {Me,} when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 'And I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.' (NAS)
 2. 2 Chronicles 36:20, 21 confirms what Jeremiah wrote: 20 And those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, 21 to

fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete. (NAS)

B. The return of the remnant

1. Timeline (all dates are approximate and refer to years B.C.):
 - a. 537 – Decree of Cyrus; first group of exiles return
 - b. 536 – beginning of the temple foundation (and probably some work done on the city walls)
 - c. 520 – temple foundation work taken up again
 - d. 458 – Ezra sent to Jerusalem (brings another group of exiles)
 - e. 445 – Nehemiah sent to Jerusalem and builds city walls
2. The recorders of the return:
 - a. 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 – 22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia-- in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah-- the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also {put it} in writing, saying, 23 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!'" (NAS)
 - b. Ezra
 - 1) Ezra 1:1-5 – 1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also {put it} in writing, saying, 2 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 'Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem. 4 'And every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.'" 5 Then the heads of fathers' {households} of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites arose, even everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up and rebuild the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. (NAS)

- 2) Ezra 9:13-15 – 13 "And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and our great guilt, since Thou our God hast required {us} less than our iniquities {deserve,} and hast given us an escaped remnant as this, 14 shall we again break Thy commandments and intermarry with the peoples who commit these abominations? Wouldst Thou not be angry with us to the point of destruction, until there is no remnant nor any who escape? 15 "O LORD God of Israel, Thou art righteous, for we have been left an escaped remnant, as {it is} this day; behold, we are before Thee in our guilt, for no one can stand before Thee because of this." (NAS)
- c. Nehemiah - Nehemiah 1:1-11 – 1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month Chislev, {in} the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capitol, 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped {and} had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire." 4 Now it came about when I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. 5 And I said, "I beseech Thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, 6 let Thine ear now be attentive and Thine eyes open to hear the prayer of Thy servant which I am praying before Thee now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Thy servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against Thee; I and my father's house have sinned. 7 "We have acted very corruptly against Thee and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which Thou didst command Thy servant Moses. 8 "Remember the word which Thou didst command Thy servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; 9 but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.' 10 "And they are Thy servants and Thy people whom Thou didst redeem by Thy great power and by Thy strong hand. 11 "O Lord, I beseech Thee, may Thine ear be attentive to the prayer of Thy servant and the prayer of Thy servants who delight to revere Thy name, and make Thy servant successful today, and grant him compassion before this man." Now I was the cupbearer to the king. (NAS)
- d. Haggai

- 1) Haggai 1:12-15 – 12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people showed reverence for the LORD. 13 Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke by the commission of the LORD to the people saying, "I am with you," declares the LORD." 14 So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, 15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of Darius the king. (NAS)

- 2) Haggai 2:1-4 – 1 On the twenty-first of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet saying, 2 "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people saying, 3 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison? 4 'But now take courage, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD, 'take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,' declares the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the LORD of hosts. (NAS)

David – the Man after God’s Own Heart

INTRO: We are studying the covenants and promises of God because they reveal to us God’s purposes:

1. The promises and covenants are the proof that God is faithful.
2. The promises and covenants are the foundation and the anchors of our life lived in Christ.
3. The purpose of God’s promises and covenants is to enable us to become more like His Son in our character.

In the last lesson, we took the “30,000” feet view of the history of Israel in order to demonstrate God working through nations to accomplish His will and to preserve for Himself a people. But we also need to take those lessons on a more up close and personal level, and today we will do that by surveying the first part of the life of David.

I. Shepherd Boy

A. Family background

1. The great grandson of Ruth and Boaz
2. The youngest of eight brothers (1 Samuel 17:12), and suffered from their ill will and jealousy because of his talents (1 Samuel 17:28).

B. Raised to be a shepherd

1. Shepherds in those days didn’t go into work at 6 a.m. and go home at 5 p.m. They stayed alone with the flock 24 hours a day.
 - a. They led them to water and green pastures.
 - b. They tended their wounds and sicknesses
 - c. They defended them from predators
2. David learned a lot about responsibility and about depending on God – there was no one else around!

II. Selected by God

A. When God rejected Saul (1 Samuel 15:26-28), he sent the prophet/judge Samuel to Jesse’s house to select a new king. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

1. Samuel had to go under the ruse of offering a sacrifice, because he feared Saul’s wrath.
2. Of course, Samuel and Jesse both judged by outward appearances.
 - a. Notice that all David’s older brothers were presented first, and David was presented only as an afterthought.

- b. When David arrives, Samuel is skeptical. But God tells Samuel David is the One.
 - 3. This anointing is done quietly: no grand ceremony or celebration. How would David actually take the throne?
- B. The providence of God**
- 1. When Saul was rejected, God removed His Spirit from Saul. Saul became depressed and melancholy. (1 Samuel 16:14)
 - 2. David was selected to play his harp to soothe Saul's spirit (1 Samuel 16:15-23), and later Saul's armor bearer (1 Samuel 16:21).
 - 3. While in the court, Saul hardly notices David as a person.
 - a. There is no relationship between them. David is simply another servant.
 - b. And David is not there "full time." He goes back and forth from the court to home.
 - 4. But David is now in the court, and in a key position for the future.

III. Slayer of Israel's Enemies

- A. The event that changed everything for David was the slaying of Goliath, the Philistine. (1 Samuel 17)**
- 1. The ritual was the two armies would line up, forming their battle lines some distance apart. The champion from one side would enter the "no man's land" between the two armies and issue his challenge.
 - a. In theory, whosever champion was defeated, that side lost the battle and was supposed to surrender.
 - b. In practice, the results were often different.
 - 1) When a larger army's champion lost, they seldom left their fate to that decision.
 - 2) Sometimes, as in this case with Goliath, the spirit of the Philistines was broken while the spirit of the Israelites was raised and a slaughter ensued.
 - 2. Goliath issued his challenge each day. (vs. 1-11)
 - a. No Israelite would take it, not even Saul, who was the tallest man in Israel!
 - b. Needless to say, the Israelite morale was pretty low.

3. David arrived having been sent to his brothers with provisions and to check on their welfare. (vs. 12-30)
 - a. He arrives in time to hear Goliath's challenge.
 - b. And, to his brothers' chagrin, he openly questions who this Philistine thinks he is? David more or less volunteers to fight Goliath.
 4. Word gets to Saul. (vs. 31-40)
 - a. When David arrives, Saul is skeptical. But David convinces Saul based on David's faith.
 - b. Unable to wear Saul's armor or use Saul's weapons, David goes to face Goliath with his sling.
 5. Now it's Goliath's turn to mock. (vs. 41-47)
 - a. He mocks David's youth; he curses David and the Israelites.
 - b. David responds with his faith in God.
 6. David wins the fight and Israel is rallied to win the battle. (vs. 48-52)
 7. Upon returning from the battle, Saul's jealousy is raised. (1 Samuel 18:6-9)
 - a. The women sing about Saul slaying his thousands, but David slaying his tens of thousands.
 - b. Saul asks himself, "Why not give him the kingdom then?" and he is jealous.
 - c. Saul's attitude toward David begins to decline from that day forward. (Notice that all David did was serve Saul. David didn't sing the chant; David didn't lay any claim on the kingdom.)
- B. Saul's suspicions and David's victories.**
1. David becomes a soldier and at the same time continues to play the harp for Saul. (1 Samuel 18:1-5)
 - a. David has continued success against the Philistines, and his fame grows.
 - b. Saul responds by trying to pin David to the wall with a spear on two different occasions while David is playing the harp for Saul. (1 Samuel 18:10-14; 19:9-10)
 - c. While Saul dreads David, David grows more popular with the people. (1 Samuel 18:15-16)
 2. Saul plots to have David killed.

- a. On one occasion by offering the hand of his daughter, Michal, in marriage for killing an outrageous number of Philistines (100). David does it. (He kills 200!) (1 Samuel 18:20-30)
- b. Saul then tries to have David arrested. Michal helps David avoid that. (1 Samuel 19:11-17)
- c. Finally, Saul tries to recruit Jonathan to help him kill David. Jonathan helps David escape. (1 Samuel 20)

IV. Solitary Man

- A.** On the run. (1 Samuel 21)
 - 1. Anyone who helps David – prophet or priest – is cruelly punished by Saul, who thinks everyone is conspiring to remove him as king and replace him with David.
 - 2. David flees to, and then escapes from the Philistine warlords by feigning insanity.
- B.** David eventually forms the Adullam band.
 - 1. At first a collection of fugitives (1 Samuel 22:1-2), but eventually a trained, well armed fighting force which harries foreign invaders (1 Samuel 23:1-6).
 - 2. To survive, they work in the outlying areas between Philistine and Israelite controlled territory, protecting crops and flocks, and being rewarded (in most cases!) by their owners. (Cf. 1 Samuel 25)
- C.** During this time, Saul continues to harass and hunt David.
 - 1. On two occasions, David spares Saul's life – again because of David's faith in God. (1 Samuel 24; 1 Samuel 26)
 - 2. David, to escape Saul, is able to work out terms with King Achish of Gath (a Philistine) who gives David the city of Ziklag in return for occasionally using David and his men. (1 Samuel 27-31)
 - a. Again, the providence of God appears in an unexpected way.
 - 1) Achish wants David and his men to accompany them in a big battle against Israel. What could David do? How could he turn Achish down?
 - 2) However, the Philistine generals intervene: they don't want David and his men around lest they turn in battle against the Philistines.
 - 3) This saves David from the tragedy of Gilboa, where Israel is defeated and both Saul and Jonathan die.

- b. This occasions one of David's greatest mourning elegies. (2 Samuel 1:17-27)

The Seed and the Scepter of Judah

INTRO: God gives covenants and promises so we know what He's doing and as proof of His faithfulness.

We've been taking a brief, but detailed, survey of the land promise and what that meant. Today, we return to the seed promise. We are going to trace out what the O.T. had to say regarding its fulfillment.

I. The Seed and the Scepter of Judah

A. Remember the purpose of the seed promise:

1. To crush Satan's head. Genesis 3:14-15 – 14 And the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life; 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." (NAS)
2. All nations blessed. Genesis 12:3 – 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 shall be blessed." (NAS)
3. All families blessed. Genesis 22:18 – "And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (NAS)

B. The 'scepter' is introduced.

Genesis 49:8-12 – 8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down to you. 9 "Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, and as a lion, who dares rouse him up? 10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him {shall be} the obedience of the peoples. 11 "He ties {his} foal to the vine, and his donkey's colt to the choice vine; He washes his garments in wine, and his robes in the blood of grapes. 12 "His eyes are dull from wine, and his teeth white from milk. (NAS)

1. The scepter means 'the right to rule'
2. It would never depart from Judah.

II. The Covenant With David

2 Samuel 7:8-17 – 8 "Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be ruler over My people Israel. 9 "And I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. 10 "I will also appoint a

place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, 11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you. 12 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, 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 a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took {it} away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 "And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever." 17 In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David. (NAS)

Psalm 89: 3-5 - 3 "I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, 4 I will establish your seed forever, and build up your throne to all generations. "Selah. 5 And the heavens will praise Thy wonders, O LORD; Thy faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones. (NAS)

Psalm 89:19-37 - 19 Once Thou didst speak in vision to Thy godly ones, and didst say, "I have given help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people. 20 "I have found David My servant; with My holy oil I have anointed him, 21 With whom My hand will be established; My arm also will strengthen him. 22 "The enemy will not deceive him, nor the son of wickedness afflict him. 23 "But I shall crush his adversaries before him, and strike those who hate him. 24 "And My faithfulness and My lovingkindness will be with him, and in My name his horn will be exalted. 25 "I shall also set his hand on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers. 26 "He will cry to me, 'Thou art my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.' 27 "I also shall make him {My} first-born, the highest of the kings of the earth. 28 "My lovingkindness I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall be confirmed to him. 29 "So I will establish his descendants forever, and his throne as the days of heaven. 30 "If his sons forsake My law, and do not walk in My judgments, 31 If they violate My statutes, and do not keep My commandments, 32 Then I will visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. 33 "But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, nor deal falsely in My faithfulness. 34 "My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. 35 "Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. 36 "His descendants shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before me. 37 "It shall be established forever like the moon, and the witness in the sky is faithful." Selah. (NAS)

A. The Davidic covenant promised:

1. Only someone from David's lineage had the right to reign on David's throne. (vs. 10-13)
2. Punitive elements were also included for David's descendants. (vs. 14)
3. But God's lovingkindness would not depart from him as God took it from Saul. (vs. 15,16) (We'll examine what that means in more detail below.)

B. Blessing and Punishment promises to Solomon.

1. Solomon was also given promises from God. 2 Chronicles 7:11-22 – 11 Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's palace, and successfully completed all that he had planned on doing in the house of the LORD and in his palace. 12 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. 13 "If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, 14 and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 15 "Now My eyes shall be open and My ears attentive to the prayer {offered} in this place. 16 "For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. 17 "And as for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked even to do according to all that I have commanded you and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, 18 then I will establish your royal throne as I covenanted with your father David, saying, 'You shall not lack a man {to be} ruler in Israel.' 19 "But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you and shall go and serve other gods and worship them, 20 then I will uproot you from My land which I have given you, and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. 21 "As for this house, which was exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?' 22 "And they will say, 'Because they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them from the land of Egypt, and they adopted other gods and worshiped them and served them, therefore He has brought all this adversity on them.'" (NAS)
 - a. Be faithful and throne will be established. (vs. 17,18)
 - b. Be unfaithful and God would uproot you and the people. (vs. 19,21)

C. The punishment carried out.

1. God's anger with Solomon's idolatry. I Kings 11:9-13 – 9 Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the LORD had commanded. 11 So the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. 12 "Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, {but} I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 "However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, {but} I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen." (NAS)

- a. The kingdom taken away, except for one tribe, because of the promise to David.
 - b. Judah and Benjamin stayed faithful to Rehoboam.
2. Jeroboam appointed king over the northern tribes. I Kings 11:26-40 – 26 Then Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king. 27 Now this was the reason why he rebelled against the king: Solomon built the Millo, {and} closed up the breach of the city of his father David. 28 Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant warrior, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious, he appointed him over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph. 29 And it came about at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had clothed himself with a new cloak; and both of them were alone in the field. 30 Then Ahijah took hold of the new cloak which was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. 31 And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes 32 (but he will have one tribe, for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel), 33 because they have forsaken Me, and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon; and they have not walked in My ways, doing what is right in My sight and {observing} My statutes and My ordinances, as his father David {did.} 34 'Nevertheless I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of My servant David whom I chose, who observed My commandments and My statutes; 35 but I will take the kingdom from his son's hand and give it to you, {even} ten tribes. 36 'But to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may have a lamp always before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen for Myself to put My name. 37 'And I will take you, and you shall reign over whatever you desire, and you shall be king over Israel. 38 'Then it will be, that if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by observing My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. 39 'Thus I will afflict the descendants of David for this, but not always.'" 40 Solomon sought therefore to put Jeroboam to death; but Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt to Shishak king of Egypt, and he was in Egypt until the death of Solomon. (NAS)
 - a. If he proves faithful to God, God promises to give him an “enduring house.”
 - b. Jeroboam has to flee Solomon.
3. I Kings 12 & 13 – the kingdom divides.

III. The Messiah and His Kingdom

A. Only one kingdom under “David” was to be restored. (Not Judah and Israel.)

1. Ezekiel’s prophesy: Ezekiel 37:15-28 – 15 The word of the LORD came again to me saying, 16 "And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, 'For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.' 17 "Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand. 18 "And when the sons of your people speak to you saying, 'Will you not declare to us what you mean by these?' 19 say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.'" 20 "And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. 21 "And say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; 22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations, and they will no longer be divided into two kingdoms. 23 "And they will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God. 24 "And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances, and keep My statutes, and observe them. 25 "And they shall live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons, and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant shall be their prince forever. 26 "And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. 27 "My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. 28 "And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.'" (NAS)
2. Jeremiah’s prophesy: Jeremiah 33:14-18 – 14 'Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 'In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. 16 'In those days Judah shall be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell in safety; and this is {the name} by which she shall be called: the LORD is our righteousness.' 17 "For thus says the LORD, 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; 18 and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer

burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to prepare sacrifices continually.'" (NAS)

3. Hosea 3:4-5 – 4 For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or {sacred} pillar, and without ephod or household idols. 5 Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days. (NAS)

B. Timeline

1. During Daniel's "fourth kingdom" (Rome). Daniel 7:17-28 – 17 "These great beasts, which are four {in number,} are four kings {who} will arise from the earth. 18 'But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.' 19 "Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, {and which} devoured, crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet, 20 and {the meaning} of the ten horns that {were} on its head, and the other {horn} which came up, and before which three {of them} fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great {boasts,} and which was larger in appearance than its associates. 21 "I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. 23 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the {other} kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. 24 'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. 25 'And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. 26 'But the court will sit {for judgment,} and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. 27 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of {all} the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom {will be} an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.' 28 "At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself." (NAS)
2. When the (second) temple was built.
 - a. Haggai 2:6-9 – 6 "For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. 7 'And I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations; and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. 8 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' declares the LORD

of hosts. 9 'The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and in this place I shall give peace,' declares the LORD of hosts." (NAS)

- 1) Haggai was prophet during the days of Nehemiah and Ezra.
- 2) Here, after the building of the temple (circa 520 B.C), he prophesies that the glory of this temple (which truly was not as great in appearance as Solomon's) would exceed that of the former.
- 3) Herod improved and expanded the temple before the days of Jesus (taking 46 years in the process), but it still didn't match Solomon's in appearance.

b. Malachi 3:1-5 – 1 "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. 2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. 3 "And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness. 4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years. 5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien, and do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts. (NAS)

- 1) Malachi writes after the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem and after sacrificial services already were regular rituals.
- 2) He declares that God's messenger of the covenant would appear suddenly at (this) temple.

c. This temple was destroyed along with the rest of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. The Messiah would have had to appear before that for these prophecies to be true.

C. Type of Kingdom

1. Isaiah - Isaiah 9:6-7 – 6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of {His} government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (NAS)

2. Jeremiah - Jeremiah 23:5-6 – 5 "Behold, {the} days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. 6 "In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD our righteousness.'" (NAS)

D. A priest-king, and its meaning.

1. Zachariah's prophesy: Zechariah 6:9-15 – 9 The word of the LORD also came to me saying, 10 "Take {an offering} from the exiles, from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah; and you go the same day and enter the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah, where they have arrived from Babylon. 11 "And take silver and gold, make an {ornate} crown, and set {it} on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. 12 "Then say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the LORD. 13 "Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.'" 14 "Now the crown will become a reminder in the temple of the LORD to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15 "And those who are far off will come and build the temple of the LORD." Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And it will take place, if you completely obey the LORD your God. (NAS)
2. David's own words: Psalm 110:1-7 – 1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet." 2 The LORD will stretch forth Thy strong scepter from Zion, {saying} "Rule in the midst of Thine enemies." 3 Thy people will volunteer freely in the day of Thy power; in holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Thy youth are to Thee {as} the dew. 4 The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." 5 The Lord is at Thy right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. 6 He will judge among the nations, He will fill {them} with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country. 7 He will drink from the brook by the wayside; therefore He will lift up {His} head. (NAS)
3. In order for David's seed (the Branch) to serve as king and priest, the law would have to change.
 - a. The scepter was never to pass from the tribe of Judah.
 - b. The law stated only the tribe of Levi could serve as priest.
 - c. The enthronement of Messiah meant more than a reestablishment of David's physical kingdom!

The Seed and the Scepter of Judah (Part 2)

INTRO: In the last class we returned to the Seed Promise and began tracing out the promises and covenants God made to fulfill it. We were reminded:

- Through the seed, Satan's head would be crushed.
- Through the seed, all families and nations of the earth would be blessed.
- That the "scepter" – the right to rule – would never pass from the tribe of Judah.
- That God specifically promised David that only a member of his family had a right to reign on David's throne.
- That the restored kingdom would be united under one king – "David."
- That the king would be both a priest and a king (which necessitated a change in the law, since no one from the tribe of Judah could be priest) and divine.
- That the kingdom would arrive during the Roman Empire.
- That the kingdom would arrive while the second temple existed.

Now the question is, did God do fulfill these promises? And today, we look to see the biblical answers.

I. The Arrival of John the Baptist and Jesus Fits the O.T. Prophetic Picture

A. John the Baptist

1. Gabriel announces his coming in accordance with Malachi 3:1 and 4:5,6: Luke 1:13-17 – 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. 14 "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother's womb. 16 "And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 "And it is he who will go {as a forerunner} before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (NAS)
2. After his birth, his father Zacharias prophesies concerning him: Luke 1:67-79 – 67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: 68 "Blessed {be} the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant-- 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old-- 71 Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us; 72 To show mercy toward our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant, 73 The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, 74 To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days. 76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare His ways; 77 To give to His people {the} knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, 78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, with which the sunrise from on high shall

visit us, 79 To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (NAS)

B. Jesus

1. Jesus' coming was announced in fulfillment of 2 Samuel 7:8-17; Isaiah 9:6,7; Jeremiah 23:5,6: Luke 1:26-33 – 26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord {is} with you." 29 But she was greatly troubled at {this} statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end." (NAS)
2. Luke 2:10-12 – 10 And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 "And this {will be} a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger." (NAS)

C. Both arrived as part of fulfillment of the promises given to Abraham:

1. Luke 1:46-55 – 46 And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. 49 "For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name. 50 "And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him. 51 "He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered {those who were} proud in the thoughts of their heart. 52 "He has brought down rulers from {their} thrones, and has exalted those who were humble. 53 "He has filled the hungry with good things; and sent away the rich empty-handed. 54 "He has given help to Israel His servant, in remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever." (NAS)
2. Luke 1:67-79 – 67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: 68 "Blessed {be} the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant-- 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old-- 71 Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us; 72 To show mercy toward our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant, 73 The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, 74 To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days. 76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare His

ways; 77 To give to His people {the} knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, 78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, with which the sunrise from on high shall visit us, 79 To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (NAS)

II. John's and Jesus' "Kingdom" was the O.T. Kingdom

A. John's "kingdom" was tied to his role of announcing the coming Messiah: Matt 3:1-3 – 1 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight!'" (NAS)

B. Jesus' "kingdom" was the Messiah's kingdom: Mark 1:14-15 – 14 And after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (NAS)

1. The time is fulfilled – What time? The time the O.T. prophets foretold.
2. The kingdom of God is at hand – What kingdom? The Messiah's – David's!
3. Jesus is saying the O.T. prophets foretold the 1st century:
 - a. The fourth kingdom: The Roman Empire
 - b. The time of the second temple.

C. In the gospels, the "kingdom" was key to Jesus' and the disciples' preaching:

1. Jesus preached it:
 - a. Matt 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (NAS)
 - b. Matt 4:23 - And {Jesus} was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. (NAS)
 - c. Luke 4:42-43 – 42 And when day came, He departed and went to a lonely place; and the multitudes were searching for Him, and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from going away from them. 43 But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose." (NAS)
 - d. Luke 8:1 - And it came about soon afterwards, that He {began} going about from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God; and the twelve were with Him, (NAS)
2. He instructed his disciples to preach it:
 - a. Matt 10:5-7 – 5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them, saying, "Do not go in {the} way of {the} Gentiles, and do not enter {any} city of the

Samaritans; 6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" (NAS)

- b. Luke 9:1-2 – 1 And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons, and to heal diseases. 2 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God, and to perform healing. (NAS)

III. Jesus Fulfilled All the O.T. Prophecies

A. Jesus saw his suffering as foretold in the O.T.

1. Luke 18:31-33 – 31 And He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 "For He will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, 33 and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again." (NAS)
2. Luke 24:13-27 – 13 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they were conversing with each other about all these things which had taken place. 15 And it came about that while they were conversing and discussing, Jesus Himself approached, and {began} traveling with them. 16 But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. 17 And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 And one of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" 19 And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him up to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. 21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. 22 "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive. 24 "And some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see." 25 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures." (NAS)
3. Luke 24:44 - Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." (NAS)

- B. After the resurrection and Pentecost the disciples understood Jesus' suffering was essential to the establishment of Messiah's kingdom.

1. Acts 2:22-36 – 22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- 23 **this {Man} delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put {Him} to death.** 24 "And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. 25 "For David says of Him, 'I was always beholding the Lord in my presence; for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 'Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; moreover my flesh also will abide in hope; 27 Because Thou wilt not abandon my soul to hades, nor allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay. 28 'Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; Thou wilt make me full of gladness with Thy presence.' 29 **"Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 "And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat {one} of his descendants upon his throne, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. 32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. 33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. 34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, 35 Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.'" 36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."** (NAS)
2. Acts 3:12-26 – 12 But when Peter saw {this} he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk? 13 "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, {the one} whom you delivered up, and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. 14 "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 but put to death the Prince of life, {the one} whom God raised from the dead, {a fact} to which we are witnesses. 16 "And on the basis of faith in His name, {it is} the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which {comes} through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all. 17 "And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. 18 **"But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He has thus fulfilled.** 19 "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until {the} period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. 22 **"Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you. 23 'And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'** 24 **"And likewise, all the prophets who have**

spoken, from Samuel and {his} successors onward, also announced these days. 25 "It is you who are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 26 "For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one {of you} from your wicked ways." (NAS)

The Seed and the Scepter of Judah (Part 3)

INTRO: We've seen the fulfillment of the promises and covenants of God from the garden to Abraham to Moses, David and to Christ. Christ's kingdom is the kingdom foretold, and it is established.

Today, we are going to wrap up a few loose ends as we close out our study.

I. A Jewish Kingdom?

A. Some prominent features we noted so far:

1. The kingdom was built on both the land and seed promises given to Abraham.
2. The right to rule (the scepter) would never pass from the tribe of Judah
3. Only a member of David's family had the right to rule on this kingdom's throne.
4. It was to be a "restored" kingdom – united – under one king, "David".

B. So where do the Gentiles fit in? The O.T. gave hints.

1. The seed promise to Abraham:
 - a. All the families of the earth would be blessed.
 - b. All the nations of the earth would be blessed.
2. The O.T. prophets dropped hints of Gentile inclusion:
 - a. Isaiah 2:1-4 – 1 The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 Now it will come about that In the last days, the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. 3 And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 **And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.** (NAS)
 - b. Isaiah 11:1-10 – 1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. 3 And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; 4 But with

righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. 5 Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist. 6 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. 7 Also the cow and the bear will graze; their young will lie down together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. 10 Then it will come about in that day that the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious. (NAS)

- c. Isaiah 49:5-6 – 5 And now says the LORD, who formed me from the womb to be His servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him (for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and My God is My strength), 6 He says, "It is too small a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make you a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (NAS)
- d. Micah 4:1-5 – 1 And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. 2 And many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. 4 And each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make {them} afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. 5 Though all the peoples walk each in the name of his god, as for us, we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. (NAS)
- e. Zechariah 2:10-12 – 10 "Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," declares the LORD. 11 "And many nations will join themselves to the LORD in that day and will become My people. Then I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. 12 "And the LORD

will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. (NAS)

- f. Zechariah 8:20-23 – 20 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, '{It will} yet {be} that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. 21 'And the inhabitants of one will go to another saying, "Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go." 22 'So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.' 23 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"" (NAS)

C. In the Gospels, Jesus also dropped hints:

1. Matthew 8:10-12 – 10 Now when Jesus heard {this,} He marveled, and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. 11 "And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline {at the table} with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven; 12 but the sons of the kingdom shall be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (NAS)
2. Matthew 21:42-44 – 42 Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'The stone which the builders rejected, this became the chief corner {stone;} this came about from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? 43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it. 44 "And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust." (NAS)
3. Matthew 28:18-20 – 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (NAS)
4. Mark 16:15 - And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (NAS)
5. Luke 24:45-47 – 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (NAS)

- D.** In Acts, we see the fulfillment as the gospel goes into Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and into the world.

II. A Universal Kingdom?

A. Jesus' rule is now universal:

1. John 17:1-2 – 1 These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee, 2 even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life. (NAS)

2. Matthew 28:18-20 – 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (NAS)

3. Matthew 13:40-43 – 40 "Therefore just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. 41 "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. (NAS)

4. Matthew 25:31-33 – 31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 "And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. (NAS)

B. But if Christ's kingdom is universal then what about those conditions of entry? Is the kingdom bigger than the church?

1. There are some!
 - a. Matthew 18:2-3 – 2 And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, 3 and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. (NAS)

 - b. John 3:3-5 – 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (NAS)

2. Some reminders about the nature of "kingdom":

- a. In the O.T., God ruled over all the earth. (That’s been a major part of our study up to this point!)
 - b. At the same time, God had a special relationship with the nation of Israel, whom He called “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Exodus 19:5,6) Exodus 19:5-6 – 5 '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; 6 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." (NAS)
 - c. In the N.T., Jesus also rules “heaven and earth”, but he has a special relationship with the church.
3. But isn’t Christ’s kingdom “spiritual”?
- a. Gospel passages that indicate the “spiritual” nature of the Christ’s kingdom:
 - 1) Luke 17:20-21 – 20 Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; 21 nor will they say, 'Look, here {it is!} or, 'There {it is!} For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst." (NAS)
 - 2) John 18:33-36 – 33 Pilate therefore entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?" 35 Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You up to me; what have You done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." (NAS)
 - b. But this objection is based on a misunderstanding of the word “spiritual”.
 - 1) This objection says “spiritual” means “not of this earth” and must refer to the “fellowship” that exists between the saved and the Savior. Therefore, the kingdom must mean the church.
 - 2) But the response to that objection is obvious: are those flesh and blood saved people – people “of the earth” - in the kingdom? And if the flesh and blood saved people are under Christ’s authority, why can’t the rest of the world be under Christ’s authority?
 - 3) Secondly, all authority is “spiritual” meaning “intangible; not something you can grasp empirically” and it deals with relationship.

- a) A military officer has “authority” to command troops – that’s the relationship – but the officer’s authority is not something we can empirically grasp!
- b) Christ’s authority is based on relationship as well:
 - I) For the world (non-Christian), His authority comes from His power as Creator.
 - II) For the church, our relationship with Christ – and His authority over us – is based on His sacrifice on the cross.
- c. But what about those texts (Luke 17:20, 21 and John 18:33-36)?
 - 1) In Luke 17:20, 21, Jesus is telling the Jews they’ve missed the point of the kingdom. They’re waiting for something to happen to indicate the “kingdom” has arrived. Jesus is saying, “God’s rule is already here, and you need to obey Him now.”
 - 2) In John 18:33-36, Jesus is disabusing Pilate of the notion (placed in his head by the Jewish leadership) that Jesus’ followers are going to rise up and overthrow the Jewish authority and Roman government.