

THE BIG PICTURE OF SCRIPTURE THROUGH THE MAJOR AND MINOR PROPHETS
Week 3 – It’s All About GOD!
February 6, 2024

CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION
CREATION (Genesis) & RESTORATION (Revelation)

Within the book of Revelation there are approx. 550 references to the OT. Many of those references are in the 17 prophetic books. The Prophets were inspired to write much about the tribulation (Jer. 30:7 – “the time of Jacob’s trouble”) and the Millennial Kingdom – the restoration of Israel.

God will restore His original creation-His original plan for the world!

Isaiah’s primary purpose was to speak God’s word/message...to remind the nation of Israel of the special relationship they had with God. God’s desire was to display Who He is through His relationship with Israel. Obeying God brought blessings; disobeying God brought curses. God’s desire: that all nations would come to know Him. God had Israel on a short leash (Deut. 11:13-17)

Through the Abrahamic Covenant, God promised Abram and his physical descendants...

Land - God gave Abraham the boundaries – from the River of Egypt (the Nile) to the Euphrates.
Future fulfillment.

Seed – multiple descendants; THE Seed – the Messiah (Gal. 3:16) ruling and reigning from King David’s throne in Jerusalem. Future fulfillment in the Millennial Kingdom (Eze. 48).

Blessings – God’s divine favor. When will this occur? In the future.

The Abrahamic Covenant provides the BIG PICTURE of God’s dealing with Israel and with the world:

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT
(Gen. 12:1-3,7; Gen. 15:7-21)

The Abrahamic covenant is an unconditional/unilateral treaty in which the God of the universe revealed His sovereign election of Abraham and his descendants and unconditionally obligates Himself to fulfill specific promises for Israel in the future: land (Gen. 15:18-21), seed (multiple descendants/THE Seed), blessing (the physical promises of Deut. 28). The definite fulfillment of God’s promises is characterized by “I will.”

God’s promises to Israel have impacted and will continue to impact the world! “I will bless those who bless you and him who curses you will be cursed and through you all the families of the world will be blessed.” (through the Messiah)

These three promises of land, seed, and blessing are amplified in what many have labeled as “sub-covenants” that God made with the nation of Israel – the outworking of the Abrahamic Covenant:

LAND COVENANT

Deut. 30:1-6
Future regathering
from all nations to
all the land

DAVIDIC COVENANT

II Sam. 7:12-16
An eternal “house,”
“throne,” & “kingdom” w/
Jesus, THE Seed, reigning

NEW COVENANT

Jer. 31:31-34; Eze. 36:24-27
Parties: God & Israel/Judah
A new heart & God’s Spirit
to obey God which they

promised

as King on the throne of
David on earth in Jerusalem
for 1,000 years

were incapable of doing
under the Law

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- God promised Israel an eternal kingdom on earth (territory; terra firma – dry ground).
- While God continually warned Israel through the Prophets that, because of their disobedience to the Mosaic Cov., they would be removed from the land. Under the AB Cov. He promised that He would restore them to the land as His people under the rule of the Messiah.
- The nation of Israel has not as yet come under the **New Covenant**.

Jer. 31:31-34 - *Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke. (God is solely speaking to the children of Israel) But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*
(The basis of the New Covenant is through Jesus' shed blood on the cross.)

- **Eze. 36:24-27** - *For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.* All of God's commandments that Israel could not obey prior to their restoration they will, after their restoration, during the Millennial Kingdom, be empowered to keep! Ezekiel lists several aspects of the New Covenant: a new heart, a new spirit, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and true holiness. The Mosaic Law could provide none of these things (see Rom. 3:20).
- The OT promises/prophecies clearly foretold a FUTURE for Israel as an ethnic, political entity. **Isa. 9:6-7** - *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this;* **Matt. 19:28** - *Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, (lit. **Genesis Again!!**) when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.)* Israel will possess a special status (head and not the tail) as God's people. This will be fulfilled when God pours out His Spirit upon the Jewish people who are alive at the end of the tribulation, who will mourn for Jesus (Zech. 12:10).

- Without Israel, the physical second coming cannot take place. Israel must call upon the name of the Lord and He, Jesus, will return (Matt. 23:39)!
- And so, God's promise to Israel is that they have an eternal permanence in history and throughout eternity. Isa. 66:22 – ‘For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,’ says the LORD, ‘So shall your descendants and your name remain.’

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Why this system of blessings and curses? Deut. 6:24 - *And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.*

Through the Abrahamic Covenant, God obligated Himself to deliver the promises of the land, seed, and blessing to Israel – which will occur in the **FUTURE – when Israel is RESTORED!**

Re: **the Mosaic Covenant**, Israel, as an unrestored nation, cannot obey all the 613 commandments. Deut. 27:26 tells us if they broke one commandment, they were guilty of all! This includes the prophecies about the Messiah!

Under the Mosaic Covenant, for Israel, what did being **blessed** look like? The are physical blessings. Read Deuteronomy 28. .

Deut. 28:1-4ff - *Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. Has this occurred? NO! It will in the future (Isa. 60:7; Isa. 62:7, 11-12)* ² *And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of 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 fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.... **These blessings will come upon Israel on the earth...they are earthly blessings...in the Millennial Kingdom/the Kingdom of God after Jesus’ physical second coming – in the future!***

This is important for us to grasp. Some teach that the blessings are no longer for Israel...they are spiritual blessings for the Church! Please be aware of what you’re hearing and reading! Be Bereans (Acts 17:11).

For Israel, what does being **cursed** look like? Read Deuteronomy 28. The ultimate consequence for disobedience to the Mosaic Covenant – Deut. 28:64 - *the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other...* More curses than blessings are noted in Deuteronomy 28.

Moses wrote about a time in the future when Israel will be restored because of the Abrahamic Covenant:

Deut. 30:1-6 - *Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you, ² and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, ³ that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴ If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. ⁵ Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. ⁶ And 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, that you may live.*

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“Who should get the land?” “Whatever is fair and equitable.”

Eze. 36:16-23 - *the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ¹⁷ ‘Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds; to Me their way was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity. ¹⁸ Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it. ¹⁹ So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds. ²⁰ When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name—when they said of them, ‘These are the people of the LORD, and yet they have gone out of His land.’ ²¹ But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went. ²² ‘Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. ²³ And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.*

When God will be honored as holy among the people of Israel when she is restored, the LORD/YHWH will be revealed to the nations...“the nations shall know that I am the LORD”!

When we understand that the promises given to Israel through the Abrahamic Covenant are literal, unconditional, and yet unfulfilled, we will realize that these promises will be fulfilled in a future earthly kingdom which will be established when Jesus physically returns to the earth!

And, we will better understand God’s message through all the Prophets!

QUESTIONS:

Do you understand the difference between the Mosaic Covenant and the Abrahamic Covenant?

What is the difference? Is this new to you?

Why is this significant?

What does this teach you about GOD?

How does this lesson fit into the BIG PICTURE?

What are your questions?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread Week 3's handout w/ the references from Scripture.

Ask the Holy Spirit for understanding!

If you're keeping a journal, jot down observations and questions re: the Scriptural references in this lesson.

Share a part of this lesson with someone.

Read Week 4's handout when you receive it.

WEEK 3 - ADDENDUM

An Unconditional Covenant with a Conditional Blessing

The Abrahamic Covenant and its related sub-covenants are unconditional. The Mosaic Covenant is conditional. How does God deal with Israel under both of these covenants?

The Abrahamic Covenant gives to Israel unconditional ownership of its promises. Therefore, no amount of disobedience on Israel's part can remove her ownership of these promises.

While Israel can be severely disciplined by God for disobeying the terms of the Mosaic Covenant, she can never forfeit ownership of the promises spoken of in the Abrahamic Covenant.

However, before Israel can possess or enjoy what she owns, she must obey the terms of the Mosaic Covenant.

Thus, the OT Prophets consistently called the nation of Israel back to God under the terms of the Mosaic Covenant. The nation of Israel is currently in the land of Israel in unbelief. Until the nation of Israel trusts Jesus as her long-awaited King, the Kingdom of God cannot come to the earth (Deut. 17:15; II Sam. 7:12-16).

John 3:3 – Jesus told Nicodemus, *unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

John 5:45-46 - *Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses (Mosaic Law), in whom you trust. ⁴⁶For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.*

Salvation in Jesus frees us from the penalty of the Law!