

there is no need of a future earthly reign of Jesus since this age is the era of fulfillment and reigning.”

4. The _____ promise.

(Jeremiah 31:31-34)

The full fulfillment of this covenant will be experienced in the yet future millennium. *On the earth, in their land where they failed so miserably in the past, they will be fully saved, sanctified, blessed, and a blessing!*

The messianic kingdom was offered to Israel during their Messiah’s ministry on earth after His first coming. Both John the Baptist and Jesus preached that “the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” But Israel rejected their Messiah. So God did something utterly amazing. He introduced a *mystery*, something hidden in His plan that He revealed in the NT, *where Jews and Gentiles alike would enter into this new covenant by grace through faith in Messiah Jesus. Ephesians 3:4-6*: “When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of *the promise* in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” What promise? **The new promise** in Christ Jesus! Therefore, the Church now participates in the new covenant, but not as the replacement of the nation of Israel. Since the new covenant was originally promised to Israel, the covenant must eventually involve national Israel. Paul makes this connection in the Romans 11 passage that we looked at in the first message, *when all Israel will be saved* (11:26-27).

We the Church, made up of Jews and Gentiles, are related to the new covenant now, and Israel will be related to the new covenant at the second coming of Christ. So this is an awesome truth: Both Israel and the Church are distinct but compose the “people of God” when it comes to salvation, and both are related to the blessings of the new covenant.

When God promises...

When God promises, not being a slave to time, He will fully fulfill them. And that’s good news for all of us. All the promises of the new covenant belong to us today.

Rightly Dividing the Word of God

Yahweh Promised

The Four Unconditional Covenants

When God promises!

“**I promise!**” We humans may be as sincere as we can be in our promises, and sometimes we keep them. But sometimes we make promises we can’t keep. Some of our promises can’t be kept because we either don’t have the character or the power to keep them. **When I promise**, I might, or I might not be able to keep it. But **when God promises**, He has the character, the will, and the power to perfectly keep His promises, and He does keep them every single time.

Remember the “I AM” revelation in Exodus 3, when Moses was called by God to lead His enslaved people Israel out of Egypt. It was at the bush that burned without being consumed. God appeared to Moses in the flame of fire out of the midst of the bush, but Moses had all these doubts about being God’s man, and he had some serious questions. One question, “If I come to the people of Israel, and they ask me, ‘What is Your name?’ what shall I say to them?” And God said, “Say to the people of Israel, ‘Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob, has sent me to you.’” And then Yahweh told Moses to tell His people, “I _____ that I will bring you up out the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites” (17).

Did God keep that promise? **When God promises** He has the character, the integrity, the will, and the power to act, and He always does. Here’s another example: All the promised prophecies in the OT concerning the first coming of Christ were all literally fulfilled. There is no non-literal fulfillment of these prophecies in the NT. And when it comes to the major unconditional promises of God to the nation of Israel, they must be literally fulfilled exactly as they are given in the OT.

This is the dispensational perspective. It always argues for a literal method of interpretation. We hold tightly to a single, consistent, literal method of interpretation of the Bible, **from cover to cover**. I agree with theologian Charles Ryrie when he says, “If one does not use the plain,

normal, or literal method of interpretation, all objectivity is lost.” There has to be an objective standard, which the literal principal provides.

We will spend the rest of our time today highlighting the unconditional promises God gave to the nation of Israel, emphasizing the complete and literal future fulfillment of these covenants, because God’s promises to Israel have not and will not fail. They are unconditional, eternal, and unchangeable.

Yahweh promised:

1. The _____ promise.

(Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6; 17:15-19)

Genesis 12:1-3: *The Call of Abram.* Yahweh God called Abram out of a totally pagan world and made some absolutely incredible promises to him. Four times in those three verses God said to Abram, “I will.” And sure enough, God did! He expanded on the promises with *God’s covenant with Abraham* in **Genesis 15:1-6.**

Genesis 17:15-19: When Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 91, she bore a son and named him Isaac. And Isaac had a son, and they named him Jacob. And God changed Jacob’s name to Israel, and Israel had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of the nation of Israel. Has God’s unconditional everlasting covenant to a nation become thwarted by time and circumstances, or it is still unconditional and eternal? **Yahweh promised!** And there will be a day when Israel will be eternally established.

2. The _____ promise.

(Genesis 12:4, 7; 15:18-20)

Genesis 12:4 & 7: It is an unconditional promise.

Genesis 15:18-20: Yahweh gave Abraham very specific geographical boundaries. Through the centuries, Israel has never possessed this land in its entirety. It came closest under King Solomon, reaching up to a small section of the Euphrates, but that didn’t last long, as soon after his death the kingdom split in two, Israel & Judah. Today, tiny Israel is about the size of New Jersey, our fifth smallest state.

But isn’t **God’s land promise** unconditional? Yes! Therefore, we literalists believe a day is coming when Israel will possess the land in its entirety, when Christ returns to reign as their Messiah. *Because Yahweh promised specific promises to a specific people*, dispensationalists reject “replacement theology” in which the NT Church is viewed as taking the place of the nation of Israel. Instead, we believe that He keeps His promises to whom the promises were made.

3. The _____ promise.

(2 Samuel 7:10-16)

2 Samuel 7:10-16—this is the prophet Nathan speaking God’s Word to King David: In Yahweh’s covenant with David, He made four unconditional promises that have yet to be fully fulfilled. **One, Yahweh promised** that He would permanently plant them in the promised land and give them rest (10-11). **Two, He promised** to establish David’s kingdom and the throne of his kingdom forever (12-13). **Three, He promised** discipline for his offspring’s sins, but never will He annul the promise of a forever king and kingdom (14-15). **Four, Yahweh promised** that David’s house, kingdom, and _____ will be established forever (16). Have these promises been fully and literally fulfilled yet? Will they be? All *will be* perfectly fulfilled through Jesus Christ, Israel’s Messiah and David’s perfect Son, during the Messianic Kingdom when Jesus literally returns to reign on the earth.

The NT opens with these words—**Matthew 1:1:** “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” And when the Messiah’s birth was foretold to Mary by the angel Gabriel, he declared to her, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob [Israel] forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end*” (**Luke 1:31-33**).

This is why I am a dispensationalist. God didn’t promise to somehow fulfill these promises in the Church, but in Israel. On the other hand, Michael Vlach puts it this way: “For most covenantalists Jesus’ Davidic/Millennial reign and the reign of the saints is occurring from heaven now. So we are currently in Jesus’ messianic kingdom. Also, covenant promises from the OT are mostly being fulfilled now. Thus,