

Biblical Theology, Lesson 13
Promises Fulfilled in Christ, Part 2

Read Jer. 31:31-34

We're coming up on the end of our Biblical Theology series. We've seen how, throughout the vast majority of the Bible, God redeems sinful human beings to be His people and to live in His place. And we've seen that God forms His people through covenants; he also saves His people through covenants; God's people, from the beginning of the Bible to the end, are those who trust in His covenant promises and received His promised salvation, by grace through faith. IN our last few classes, we've been looking at how Christ fulfilled the OT Covenant promises given through Adam, Abraham, and Moses. We had to miss last week, so I'll just quickly summarize how Christ fulfills the covenant of David (which I think is the easiest one to understand). But we'll spend the bulk of our time looking at the New Covenant that Christ brings.

I. (Very briefly) Christ Fulfills the Covenant of David

God's promise to David in **2 Sam. 7**:

1. An "offspring" who will rule (v.12)
2. A kingdom that will last forever (v.13)
3. An "offspring" who will be God's son (v.14)
4. A throne that will last forever (v.16)

A. Jesus is the Son of David

- a. Matt. 1:1; this point is highly emphasized all throughout the book of Matthew
- b. Fulfilled in his *humanity* - he is part of Joseph's line, a physical descendant of David

B. Jesus is the Son of God

- a. Matt. 16:15-16: "He [Jesus] said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"
- b. Fulfilled in his *divine nature, in the incarnation* - Jesus is the God-Man; He is the eternal God the Son who took on flesh

C. Jesus is God's King

- a. Jesus speaks authoritatively about the “kingdom of God” all through his teachings during his earthly ministry.
- b. Jesus brings about the promised kingdom through his death on the cross and resurrection (the crucifixion account - e.g. Matt. 27; Mark 15 - make this very clear).

II. Christ Fulfills the Promise of a New Covenant

A. Prophecy of a New Covenant in **Jer. 31:31-34**

- a. Different from the Old Covenant (the Covenant of Moses) (vv.31-32)
 - i. Not based on works, but grace
 - ii. Not conditional, not based on us keeping the covenant, but based on God keeping it for us
- b. God even promises to “write His law” on our hearts, putting His spirit inside of us, so that each person who is part of the New Covenant knows the Lord. (vv.33-34a)
- c. Promises that everyone who is part of the New Covenant will have their sins forgiven and remembered no more (v.34b)

B. Jesus brings a New Covenant for His people

This means that since Christ has come, we are no longer under the Old Covenants of the OT. Yet, those covenants still matter because this New Covenant fulfills them. That is, when Jesus fulfilled the covenants of Adam, Abraham, Moses, and David through his righteous life, kingly ministry, substitutionary death, and triumphant resurrection and ascension, he fulfilled those covenants by bringing about the promised *New Covenant*.

- a. Heb. 8:6-13 quotes Jeremiah 31 and makes it very clear that Jesus fulfills this promise; Jesus usher in a New Covenant! And he did this through his death on the cross and resurrection.
- b. **Luke 22:19-20** - At the Lord’s Supper, right before his crucifixion, calls it the cup of the new covenant “in my blood.” The New Covenant is brought about through His blood on the cross, and it is recognized and remembered through the Lord’s Supper in the New Covenant community.
- c. Therefore, all who trust in Christ become part of His New Covenant community.

III. God’s New Covenant People

That means that we, today, are part of GOD's New Covenant Community - the church. God's people are no longer ethnic Israel - those covenants have been fulfilled. True Israel is the Church - those who trust in the covenant promises of God - namely, the New Covenant of grace, brought about by the blood of Jesus Christ, which we receive not by works, but purely through faith. And that means that we receive the benefits of what those covenants promised because Christ fulfilled them *on our behalf*.

So what does all this mean for us today, as members of the New Covenant Community (the Church, all Christians)?

A. We are a New Creation

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.” *2 Cor. 5:17*

We have been redeemed by the True Adam, and are therefore born again into a new human race in Christ. We're no longer under the first Adam, but are under the new, as we saw a few weeks ago (Rom. 5). When we believe in Christ, we're born again, not in the flesh, but by the Holy Spirit giving us new hearts (John 3), just as Ezekial and Jeremiah promised would happen. That means that in Christ, we are now a “new Creation.” We are no longer slaves to sin, Satan, and death. Christ fulfilled the promise he made to Adam and Eve when he cursed the snake - Christ has crushed our enemies on the cross and brought us victory and redemption through his resurrection.

B. We are God's chosen, covenant people

Gal. 3:7-9

We are the true Sons of Abraham; we are God's true, covenant people, called to live in God's promised land. Christians are the true sons of Abraham. The Church is true Israel (Gal. 6:16). The Church is GOD's covenant people. This is why we're called to be part of local churches - the Christian life takes place within the New Covenant Community.

C. We are God's Temple, the Body of Christ

“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” - **1 Pet. 2:4-5**

- Body of Christ - church; Eph. 4:12; 1 Cor. 12:12-27

We saw that Christ is the true and better temple, far greater than the tabernacle or temple of Moses and Solomon. Jesus is God dwelling as a man! And in the New Covenant, we are

united to Christ by grace through faith - we are *Christ's body!* We are filled with His Holy Spirit! That means *we* are part of the Temple that is Christ! We, the Church - we who are true believers - *are* the temple of God! God is with us today in and through the presence of His Church, His people - us! Similarly, that means....

D. We are Royal-Priests

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into marvelous light.” - *1 Pet. 2:9*

We're therefore called and empowered to live like we're the temple - as priests. *We* are a holy nation, a royal priesthood, God's holy people -just like national Israel was called to be through the Law, and yet could not be because of their sin; Christ has fulfilled the Law for us, setting us free from it, and given us His promised Spirit, setting us apart to be His Holy People! This means God has written His Law on our hearts, as we heard earlier from Jer. 31. We're no longer under the Law of Moses - we're under the Law of Christ! And we're empowered by the Spirit to obey God, more and more, as we live in Christ, being holy as God is Holy.

This also means *we* are part of the promised, eternal Kingdom of God, with Jesus Christ, the true Son of David and Son of God on the throne as our King, forever! *We* will be protected and blessed by our glorious king forever! And, indeed, we are even *royalty* in his kingdom, co-heirs with Christ, because we are also...

E. We are God's children - God's Sons and Heirs

Gal. 3:26-29

We are God's children, precious and beloved. We all personally know God and are drawn intimately close to Him! we're each children of God the Father, united to Christ the Son, and filled with the Spirit! And this means we are all *heirs* of the glorious inheritance of eternal life in God's place, in the New Heavens and New Earth. And we'll look at that more next week, as we come to the end of the big story of God's Word.