

## **The Dispensation of Promise with Emphasis on Covenants, Part 1**

Genesis 12:1-Exodus19:8

- I. Abraham's importance to the church.
  - i. The father our type of faith: belief in a promise from God (Rom. 4:9-12).
  - ii. We become a child of Abraham by same quality of faith.
  - iii. The church is one type of Abraham's seed (Gal. 3:29, 16).
  - iv. Two of Abraham's women are an allegory for two covenants (Gal. 4:22-24).
  - v. Three personal promises to Abram.
  - vi. Four covenants to Abraham.
- II. The heresy which is in opposition to the Scriptures: Covenant Mythology *aka* Covenant Theology.
  - i. A form of linear thinking and concrete thinking at its worst.
  - ii. Use Dispensationalism as a straw man.
  - iii. Have "one people of God" and "one plan of God" as their core principles; a hodgepodge, a very subjective system.
- III. What constitutes a covenant by God? A very special promise; in English covenant = testament.
  - i. Covenant *διαθήκη* literally "place through" (Gen. 15:17).
  - ii. A covenant is a covenant when God calls it a covenant!
  - iii. Therefore, there is no Edenic covenant (Gen. 1:28); nor an Adamic covenant (Gen. 3:14-19). *cf.* Scof. p. 250.
  - iv. Death by the testator (i.e. the one making the covenant): is required for a covenant (Heb. 9:16-17; Gen. 15:17).
  - v. A covenant cannot be changed (Gal. 3:15-17).
  - vi. A covenant may be conditional or unconditional.
- IV. The Noahic Covenant (Gen. 9:9-16).
  - i. Death by the testator: all that died in the flood (Gen. 7:23)
  - ii. Provision: no more universal flood as judgment from God.
  - iii. Sign: the rainbow.
  - iv. Recipients: all living beings and the earth (Isa. 54:8-9).
  - v. Duration: till the earth is destroyed by fire (2 Pet. 3:10-12).
- V. The First Personal Promise to Abram (Josh. 24:2-3; Gen. 12:1-3; 20:13, 17).
  - i. "Families", before establishment of nations.
  - ii. No death by testator, no land, no seed, not called a covenant.
  - iii. Provisions: promised to be progenitor of one nation, riches, and all families blessed through him (Gen. 12:15-17; 13:2).
  - iv. Length: Abraham's lifetime.
- VI. The Second Personal Promise to Abram (Gen. 12:7-9).
  - i. No death by testator, not called a covenant.
  - ii. Singular seed.
  - iii. Provisions: promised land for his seed in immediate vicinity: Canaan.
  - iv. God impressing upon Abram the need for seed.
  - v. The promise of land meant nothing to Abram; not yet fulfilled (Gen. 13:18).
- VII. The Third Personal Promise to Abram (Gen. 13:14-17).
  - i. No death by the testator, not called a covenant.
  - ii. Provisions: given larger area of land, what eyes could see. and numerous seed.
  - iii. Meant nothing to Abram, not yet fulfilled (Gen. 13:18).