

## **The Dispensation of Promise with Emphasis on Covenants, Part 2**

Genesis 12:1-Exodus19:8

- I. Abraham's importance to the church.
- II. What constitutes a covenant by God? A very special promise; in English covenant = testament.
  - i. Death by the testator (i.e. the one making the covenant): is required for a covenant (Heb. 9:16-17).
  - ii. A covenant cannot be changed (Gal. 3:15-17).
  - iii. A covenant from God is a covenant when God calls it a covenant.
  - iv. A covenant may be conditional or unconditional.
- III. The Noahic Covenant (Gen. 9:9-16); the first Covenant recorded in Scripture .
  - i. Provision: no more universal flood as judgment from God.
  - ii. Sign: the rainbow.
  - iii. Recipients: all living beings and the earth (Isa. 54:8-9).
  - iv. Duration: till the earth is destroyed by fire (2 Pet. 3:10-12).
- IV. The First Personal Promise to Abram (Gen. 12:1-3).
  - 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.
- V. 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 to have a seed to inherit land.
  - v. The promise of land meant nothing to Abram; not yet fulfilled (Gen. 13:18).
- VI. The Third Personal Promise to Abram (Gen. 13:14-17).
  - i. No death by the testator, not called a covenant.
  - ii. Provisions: Abram and seed given larger area of land, what eyes could see and numerous seed.
  - iii. Meant nothing to Abram, not yet fulfilled (Gen. 13:18).
- VII. The Fourth Personal Promise to Abram (Gen. 15:1-5).
  - i. No death by the testator, not called a covenant.
  - ii. Provisions: Given protection, shield, told for first time that his seed would be numerous and come from his loins.
- VIII. Abram becomes a believer; he believed the stars represented number of seed (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:1-4, 9; 3:6; cf. Jam. 2:21, 23, 18, 24; Acts 7:2-5; Heb. 11:8).
  - i. Abram's first act after salvation—doubt (Gen. 15:8).
- IX. The First Covenant to Abram: unconditional (Gen. 15:8-21).
  - i. Death (vv. 9-10); called a covenant (v. 18).
  - ii. New day after fourth promise and Abram is asleep and does not hear what is promised (v. 12).
  - iii. Provisions:
    - o Seed will become slaves for 400 years; thus Abram will die before land inherited.
    - o Abram will live to be old.
    - o Egypt will be judged.
    - o Seed given largest track of land yet: North—River Euphrates; East—where the River Euphrates runs into the Persian Gulf; West—the River Nile; South—North Nile to North Persian Gulf.
    - o No length of time (Davidic Covenant) New Testament reveals it to be 1,000 years.
    - o Not told when (Canaanian *aka* Palestinian Covenant), when Christ comes back.
  - iv. Absolutely no application to Christians.