

# The Covenants of Promise

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Ephesians 2:12–22 NRSV - Remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ . . . that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace . . . So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

*A biblical conviction regarding "The Covenant" bears fruit in right worship, a godly family, and a hopeful kingdom outlook*  
 "The Covenant" is foundationally the union of love within the Triune God. God's covenant character is revealed in the conditions of promise and obligation in the unfolding story of redemptive history. Thus the "eternal covenant" (Heb. 13:20) manifests the nature of the Covenant Lord (Yahweh). This one redemptive Oath guiding cosmic history (Eph. 3:10-11) has been administered through the biblical "covenants of promise" (Eph. 2:12): Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, and supremely and finally declared in the New Covenant and fulfilled through the One Mediator, Jesus. Three important interrelated truths about biblical covenants of promise must be grasped to see the Triune God as He is and live in that light.

- 1) **We must *Apprehend the Signs & Seals of The Covenant***. These are the worship-actions of our faith and constitute the visible oaths by which we are to live (baptism & communion). We are growing "into a holy temple . . . a dwelling place for God" (Eph. 2:20-22). Implication: Covenant Renewal Worship.
- 2) **We must *Accept that Descendants are included in The Covenant***. In every administration of the covenants of promise, the central promise is that He will be "God to you and your descendants" (Gen. 17:7, Dt. 7:9, 30:6, 1Chr. 16:15, Ps. 103:17, 105:8). This is essential since redemption includes the fallen sons of Adam and daughters of Eve. Just as in Israel we are "no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19). And just as with Noah, Abraham and Moses, this includes our children Implication: Covenant Baptism and Communion.
- 3) **We must *Anticipate the Future Promise of Inheritance of The Covenant***. All biblical covenants include a sense of dominion and a virtually explicit promise of the kingdom transformation of the world in the new covenant era. Through the covenants of promise God purposed to bestow the lost inheritance of Adam on His new humanity (in Christ, the last Adam). Through Christ the covenant purpose is to "create in himself *one new humanity*" (Eph. 2:15). Implication: Covenant Hopefulness in History.

Covenant (Administration)	1) Covenant Signs & Seals	2) Descendants Included	3) Future Promise of Inheritance
Creation/Adamic	Tree of Life	1Cor. 15:22 "As in Adam all die"	1Cor. 15:25 "For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet"
Noahic	Rainbow	Gen. 7:1/Heb. 11:7 "Salvation of his household"	Gen. 9:1 "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth"
Abrahamic	Circumcision Sacrifices/Meals	Gen. 17:9-13 "You and your descendants after you"	Rom. 4:13 "The promise to Abraham or to his descendants to be heir of the world"
Mosaic	Passover Meal	Ex. 12:24 "For you and your children forever"	Ps. 66:4 "All the earth will worship You, And will sing praises to You"
Davidic	* * *	Ps. 89:3-4 "I will establish your seed forever, and build up your throne to all generations"	Ps. 102:13-15 "You will arise and have compassion on Zion...So the nations will fear the name of the LORD"
New Covenant	Baptism (entrance) Lord's Supper (continuance)	Acts 2:39 "The promise is for you and your children" 1Cor. 10:17 "We all partake of that one bread" 1Cor. 12:13 "We were all baptized into one body. . . and made to drink of one Spirit"	Eph. 6:2-3 "The first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."