

EDGEWOOD BIBLE CHURCH

Bible Conference

May, 2009

WHY HAS GOD GIVEN PROPHETIC TRUTH?

SOME PURPOSES OF PROPHECY

- (1) TO REVEAL GOD'S SOVEREIGN POWER, WISDOM AND GOODNESS IN RESTORING THAT WHICH WAS LOST IN EDEN.
- (2) TO CHANGE THE WAY WE LIVE RIGHT NOW: TO HELP IN PERSONAL PURITY; ESTABLISH PRIORITIES IN LIFE AND TO GIVE US HOPE.
- (3) TO GIVE UNBELIEVERS WARNING OF THE TERRIBLE THINGS THAT ARE AHEAD FOR THEM IF THEY CONTINUE IN UNBELIEF.

WHERE DO WE START?

THE PLAN OF GOD: IN THE BEGINNING

- **THE ORIGINAL PLAN:** Only Man was made in the “IMAGE OF GOD”.
- Man alone could *reflect and represent God*.
- (1) **PRIVILEGE:** fellowship w/ God-Gen.1:26/3:8
- (2) **PRIORITY:** man to rule the earth- Gen.1:26; Ps.8:3
- (3) **PLACE:** in a physical paradise-Gen.2:8-17
- **GOD DECLARED THAT ALL OF IT WAS “VERY GOOD”** (Gen.1:31).
- **THE ORIGINAL PLAN** was ruined by **SIN**.
- **MAN’S DECISION** caused the loss of his **PLACE, PRIORITY & PRIVILEGE**
- **GOD’S DECISION:** to destroy or to restore/reconcile?
- God chose to restore the **ORIGINAL PLAN**.

GOD'S PURPOSES RESTORED



- **RESTORED PURPOSES:**
(1) FELLOWSHIP RESTORED AT THE CROSS (Rom. 3:21-24) BUT REALIZED COMPLETELY IN THE FUTURE. (Rev. 21:3, 22; 22:3-4)

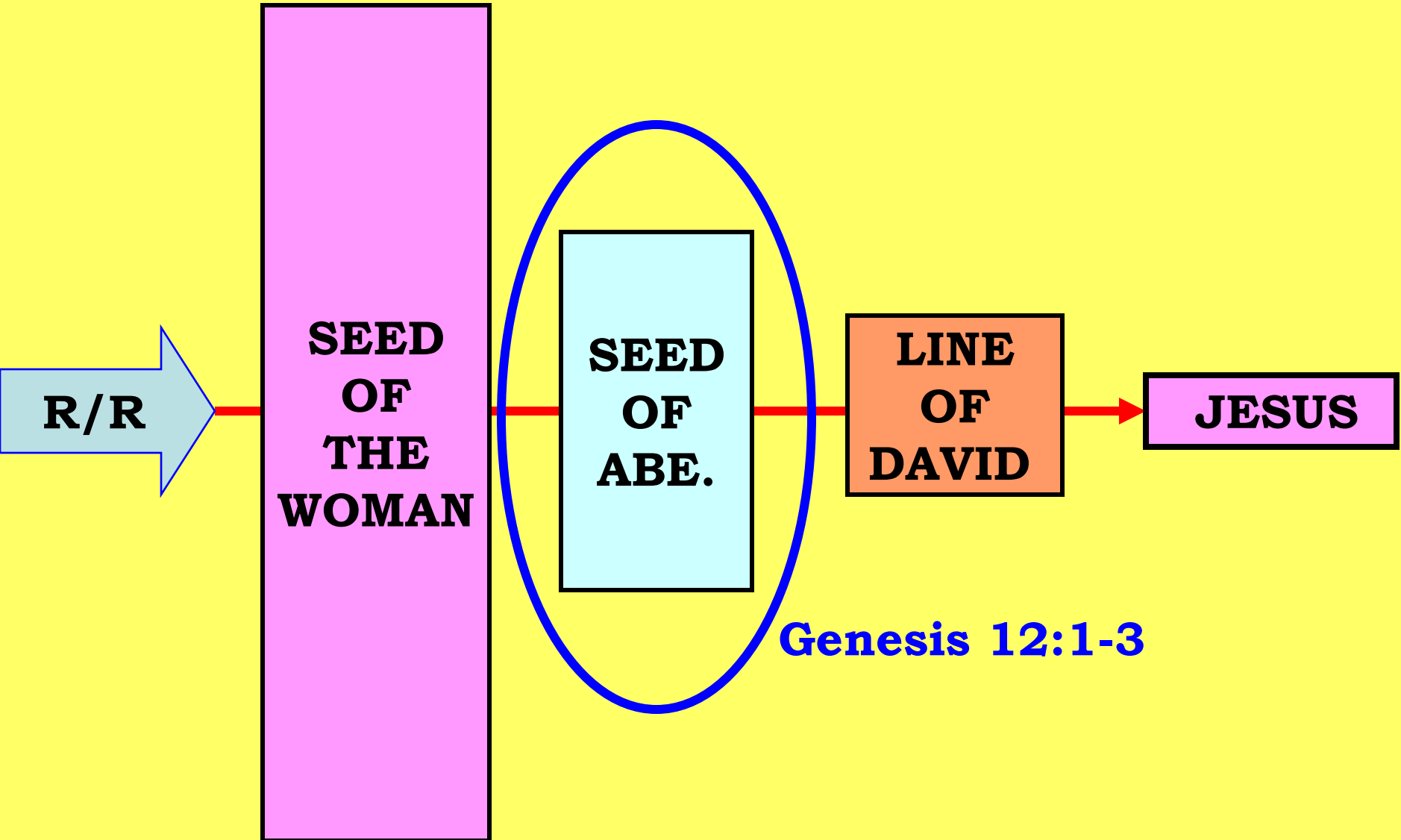
GOD'S PURPOSES RESTORED

- (2) RULERSHIP RE-ESTABLISHED THROUGH MESSIAH THE GOD-MAN (Rev. 11:15-18; 19:6,11-16; DANIEL 7:13-14; PSALM 2:7-9)**
- ❖ THIS ASPECT OF GOD'S RESTORATION IS DETAILED IN THE "TRIBULATION."**
 - ❖ BUT ALSO THROUGH THOSE WHO WILL CO-RULE WITH HIM (Heb. 2:5-8; 1:9; 3:14; 2 Tim. 2:11-13; Rev. 5:10; 20:4; 22:5).**
- (3) PARADISE RESTORED IN THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM AND THE NEW EARTH (Isa.35; Rom. 8:19-23; Rev.21:1)**

WHAT NOW???

- ❖ **A PERSON WHO IS WISE WILL SEE LIFE FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE.**
- (1) BE RESTORED TO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE CREATOR/SAVIOR GOD.**
- (2) AS A BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST, LIVE THIS LIFE FOR HIM WITH NO RESERVATIONS. (There is significant reward IN THE FUTURE for faithful believers.)**
- (3) LIVE WITH CONFIDENCE BECAUSE GOD WILL DO EXACTLY WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO...IN HIS TIME.**

RESTORING THAT WHICH WAS LOST



THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT: PROVISIONS

TO ABRAHAM

***DESCENDANTS**

***A GREAT
NATION**

***PROSPERITY**

***KINGS WOULD
COME FROM
HIM**

TO ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS

**(through Isaac and
Jacob)**

***A GREAT
NATION**

***A LAND AREA
*PERPETUITY**

TO ALL THE NATIONS

***BLESSING
WOULD COME
THROUGH
THE "SEED"
OF ABRAHAM**

NATURE OF THE COVENANT

(1) AN EVERLASTING COVENANT

Gen. 13:15; 17:7,13,19; 1 Chron. 16:16;
Psa. 105:9; Jer. 31:35-37.

O.T. N.T. MILLENNIUM ETERNITY



NEW HEAVENS AND
EARTH

“EVERLASTING”???

(2) AN UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT

FULFILLMENT DEPENDS ON GOD ALONE.
DISOBEDIENCE DOES MATTER, BUT THE
COVENANT IS NOT TERMINATED BY IT.

Gal.3:14-29; 2 Kings 13:23; Luke 1:67, 75;
Acts 3:25-26 (“you are”)

RATIFICATION AND FULFILLMENT OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

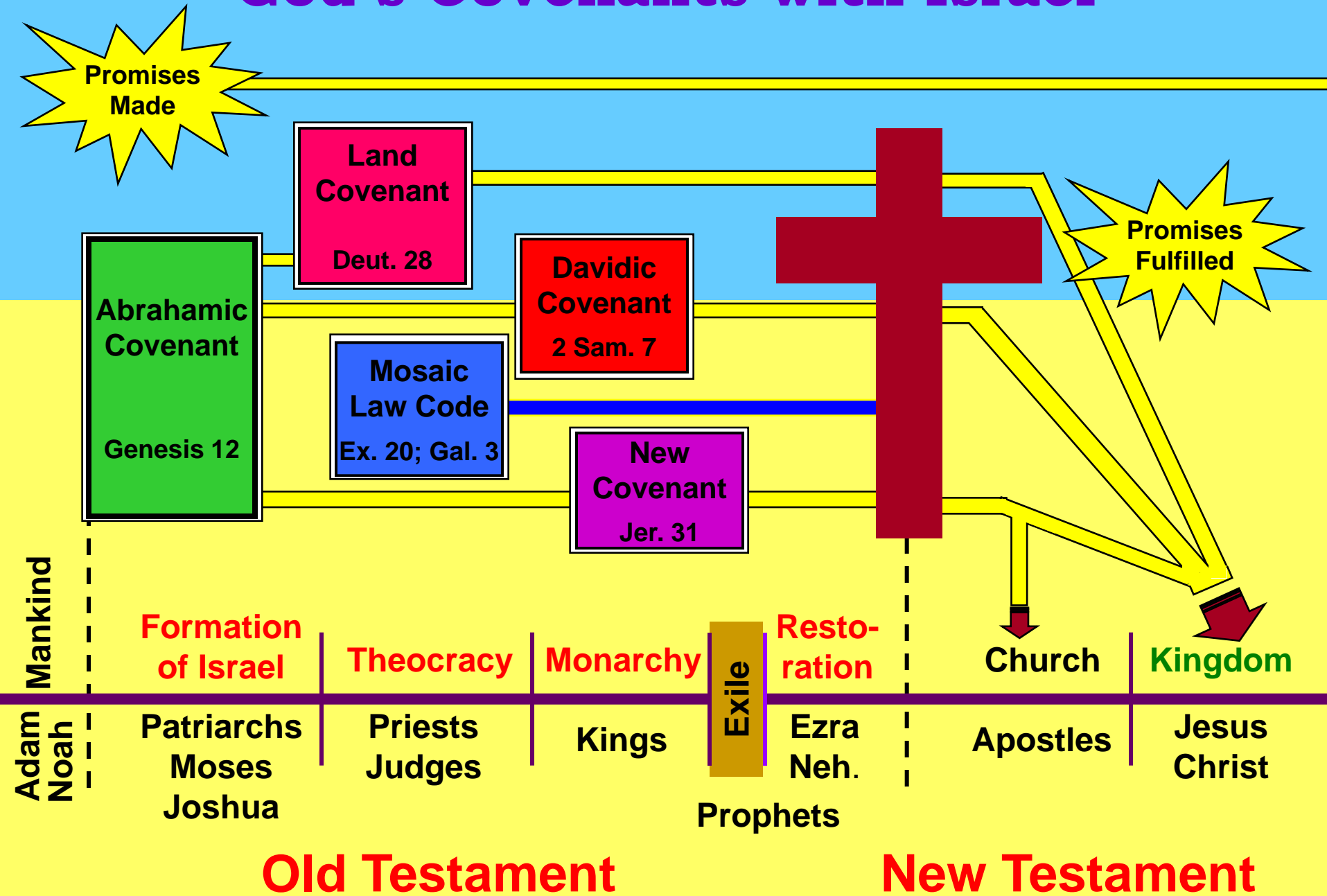
❖ A RATIFIED COVENANT

Gen. 15:8-18; Gal. 3:15-17

❖ COVENANT FULFILLMENT

**WHERE FULFILLMENT HAS
HAPPENED, IT HAS BEEN
LITERALLY FULFILLED, NOT
ALLEGORICALLY. MOST HAS NOT
YET BEEN FULFILLED.**

God's Covenants with Israel



THE “SUB-COVENANTS”

- **THESE COVENANTS ARE PART OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT.**
- **THEY DEVELOP THE BASIC POINTS FOUND IN THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT.**
- **THEY ALSO ARE UNCONDITIONAL AND EVERLASTING SINCE THEY ARE PART OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT.**
- ❖ **THE LAND COVENANT: GIVES ADDED DETAILS ABOUT THE LAND GOD WAS GIVING TO ISRAEL.**

PROVISIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN (Land) COVENANT

- (1) The “deed” to the Land belongs to Abraham’s descendants through Isaac and Jacob.**
- (2) The borders of the Land are clearly defined in the Scriptures.**
- (3) It will be possessed/occupied by Israel.**
- (4) The day will come when Israel will occupy the Land forever and not be removed out of it.**



**THE LAND OF
PROMISE**
**(Approximate
boundries)**

THE “SUB-COVENANTS”

- ❖ **DAVIDIC COV. EXPANDS THE KING AND “SEED” ASPECT OF THE ABE. COV. (Kings/Messiah from David)**
- ❖ **IT FINDS ITS FULFILLMENT IN KING DAVID AND IN DAVID’S GREATER SON, THE MESSIAH JESUS.**

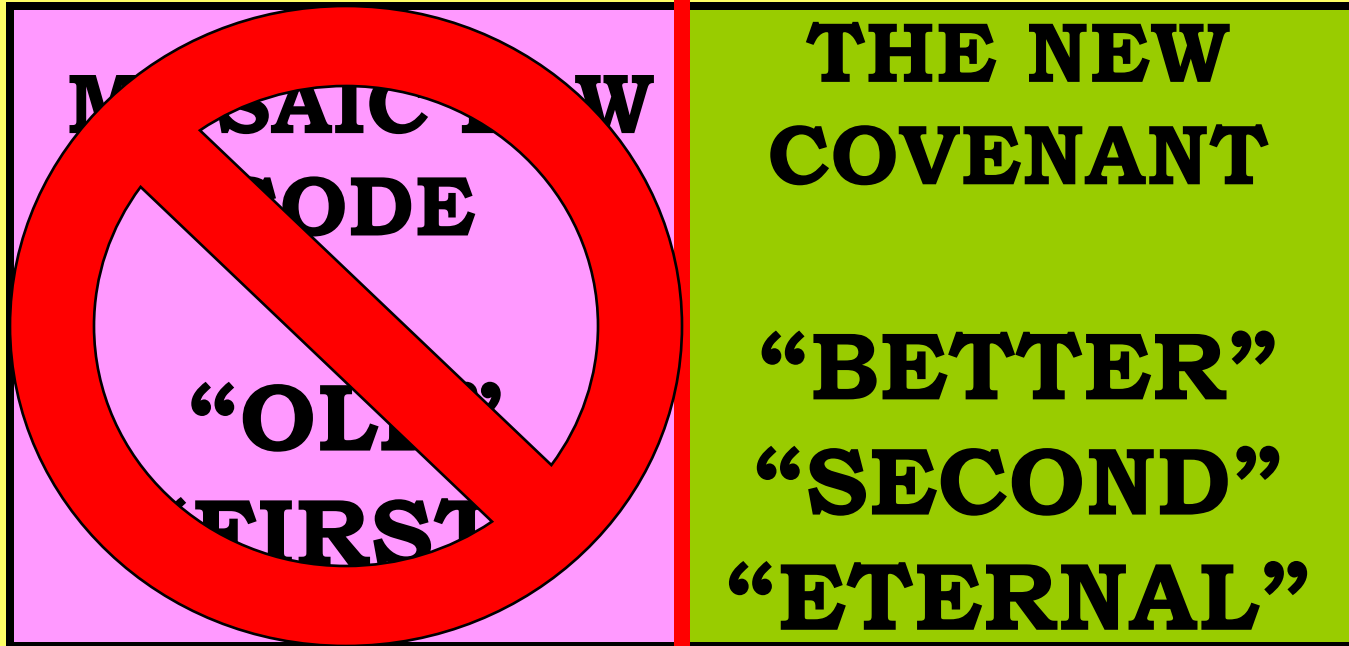
THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

PROVISION	FULFILLMENT	SCRIPTURE
1. PERSONAL GREATNESS	David was a famous and respected king.	2 SAMUEL 7:9-12 2 CHRON. 17:8
2. REST FROM ENEMIES	David had victory over his enemies	PSALM 89:20-23 2 SAM. 7
3. A HOUSE	Ruling dynasty in all of monarchy. Finally In JESUS CHRIST.	PSALM 89:3-4 2 SAM. 7
4. A THRONE	In the MILLENNIUM. Messianic kingdom	JER.33:14; PSA.89; LK.1:32
5. A KINGDOM	Messiah Jesus will rule <u>over the earth.</u>	LUKE 1:32-33 2 SAM. 7; PSA.89

THE “SUB-COVENANTS”

- ❖ **THE NEW COVENANT** FOCUSES ON THE “BLESSING” ASPECT OF THE ABE. COV. SALVATION AND THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE LORD. (Based on the Cross).
- ❖ NEW COVENANT MADE WITH ISRAEL/JUDAH. Jer. 31:31ff.
- ❖ IT IS NOT FULFILLED IN THE CHURCH.
- ❖ THE CHURCH IS A “PARTAKER” OF THE COVENANT. (cf. Rom. 11:17; Gen. 12:3)

THE NEW COVENANT



BASIC PROVISIONS OF THE NEW COVENANT

(1) LAW PUT IN THEIR HEARTS

- **“Law” refers to God’s requirements**
- **A new motivation to serve, love and live for the Lord...inner desire and not external pressure. Cf. Ez. 36:26-27; Hos. 1:9; 2:23.**
- **A new attitude towards sin.**

(2) ALL WILL KNOW THE LORD

- **An anointing (capacity) to understand truth.**
- **A working of the Spirit in believers.**

(3) FORGIVENESS FOR WICKEDNESS

- **Sin is paid for**
- **Positional, progressive forgiveness.**

CONSIDERING THE NEW COVENANT

- (1) The New Covenant is based on the death of Christ (Matt. 26:27-29; Luke 22:20).**
- (2) It was made with **JUDAH/ISRAEL** and not the Church. (The Church is not Israel).**
- (3) In the future, **Israel will come into it** (Rom. 11:25-29). This is the primary purpose of the “Tribulation.”**
- (4) At the time of Christ’s death and resurrection it replaced the Old/First covenant which was given at Mt. Sinai (Heb. 8:7; 10:9).**

CONSIDERING THE NEW COVENANT

- (5) The Church was unknown to the OT prophets, but gentile blessing was always known in the OT (cf. Gen. 12:3; 18:18)**
- (6) Believers today are a “seed of Abraham” (Gal. 3:16, 29). But the Church is not the FULFILLER of the Covenant, but is a “PARTAKER” in it (Rom. 11:11-17).**
- Matt. 15:21-28 provides an illustration.**

THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL

- **Covenant Theology defines the church differently: as “the elect of all ages.” This means that all believers from the OT, as well as the NT, are part of the Church.**
- **For the most part Covenant Theologians hold to “Replacement Theology”; that is, the Church has replaced national Israel.**
- **CT emphasizes the continuity of God’s dealings with the saved.**
- **But being saved based on Christ’s work does not necessarily mean that all people (such as Abraham and the Ninevites) are part of the Church of Jesus Christ.**

REASONS WHY THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL

(1) The covenants God made with Israel.

- ❖ **These covenants were made with a specific people, the nation of Israel.**
- ❖ **The covenants were UNCONDITIONAL.**
- ❖ **The covenants were EVERLASTING.**
- ❖ **The covenants are UNFULFILLED.**
- ❖ ***God keeps His promises and He must fulfill His covenant commitments to the people (Israel); THE SAME ONES that He made them with.***

THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL

“God’s people were known in the O.T. as ‘Israel’. The same people, in the N.T., are known as ‘the church’. **As a matter of scriptural fact, these terms are used interchangeably; the church is referred to as ‘Israel’ (Gal. 6:16) while the O.T. remnant is referred to as ‘the church’.”**
(Acts 7:38) “Amillennialism Today”
William Cox, p.46.

REASONS WHY THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL

(2) THE TWO TERMS “ISRAEL” AND “CHURCH” ARE NOT USED INTERCHANGEABLY.

-“Israel” used over 2000x in the O.T. and 73x in the N.T.

-In the O.T. always used of national Israel.

-70x in the NT clearly refers to national Israel.

-Some C.T. use Romans 9:6; 11:26 and all use Galatians 6:16.

❖ **Romans 9:6**

- 9:1-5---Paul’s witnesses; his grief; his kinsmen according to the flesh.
- 8 privileges and prerogatives given National Israel
- God’s Word (promises) has not “fallen off its straight course”.
- In 9:6, Paul is not distinguishing between Jews/Gentiles or between Israel/Church. He is distinguishing between BELIEVING JEWS and UNBELIEVING JEWS.

❖ **Romans 11:26**

- “OLIVE TREE” = the place of blessing. “ROOT” = Abe. Cov.
- Natural branches (national Israel) were broken off but these will be restored (the same ones broken off).

GALATIANS 6:15-16

6:15-16 – Religious externals are empty but faith is crucial.

“RULE” = Justification/sanctification by faith.

A blessing on those of faith both “them” (believing gentiles) and “the Israel of God” (believing Jews).

**blessings on BELIEVING GENTILES and
on BELIEVING JEWS who are THE ISRAEL
OF GOD**

THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL

(3) THE STARTING POINT IS NOT THE SAME.

❖ **THE CHURCH COULD NOT EXIST BEFORE THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST. Eph. 1:20-22**



❖ **THE CHURCH COULD NOT BEGIN WITHOUT SPIRIT BAPTISM. 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 1:5**

YOU SHALL BE BAPTIZED W/ THE H.S. NOT MANY DAYS FROM NOW

CHURCH began at Pentecost; ISRAEL began with Abraham or with Moses.

THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL

(4) THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE CHURCH. IT IS....

❖ A “MYSTERY” – Ephesians 3:1-6

-A truth that was not previously revealed.

-The truth is not that Gentiles would be saved, but that believing Jews and Gentiles are equal in the “body of the Messiah”.

❖ “ONE NEW MAN” – Ephesians 2:15

-Not gentiles; not Israel; something that is NEW. The Church is not a continuation of national Israel.

(5) THE TEACHING OF ROMANS 9-11

THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL

**CHAPTER 9 – ISRAEL’S PAST
ELECTED BY GOD**

**CHAPTER 10 – ISRAEL’S PRESENT
REJECTED**

**CHAPTER 11 – ISRAEL’S FUTURE
RESTORED**

GOD AND ISRAEL (11)

Their future restoration.

❖ **11:1-10 – THEIR REJECTION IS NOT TOTAL.**

❖ **QUESTION: Has God cast Israel aside?**

❖ **ANSWER: Absolutely not!**

Paul, an Israelite, is saved.

The analogy of Elijah.

The PRESENT situation is that there is a remnant, but most are hardened.

GOD AND ISRAEL (11)

Their future restoration.

❖ **11:11-32 – THEIR REJECTION IS TEMPORARY.**

❖ **QUESTION: Has Israel fallen never to rise up again?**

❖ **ANSWER: Absolutely not!**

Gentile salvation will affect Israel.

Israel's fall brought blessing and their restoration will bring even greater blessing to mankind.

GOD AND ISRAEL (11)

The OLIVE TREE

- **NATURAL BRANCHES** = Israel. These were broken off and these will also be grafted back in (v.24)
- **ROOT** = The Abrahamic Covenant.
- **WILD BRANCHES** = The Gentiles.
- Israel's blindness is limited in EXTENT and DURATION ("partial"-“until”-vs. 25).
- **ALL** Israel shall be saved when the Deliverer comes. Based on the Covenant.

THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL

(6) EXTERNAL DIFFERENCES

Such as, Israel had an army; required the payment of taxes; and had national boundaries.

(7) INTERNAL DIFFERENCES

Such as, only some were priests; not everyone a true believer and Israel operated under a very different covenant (the “old”, “first” Mosaic covenant).

NOTE: The distinction between Israel and the church is even seen in the eternal kingdom of God. Revelation 21