

## **Great Doctrines of the Bible**

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### **God's Plan for the Ages – Part 2 The Major and Minor Covenants**

#### **Introduction**

In Lesson 33, we endeavored to introduce you to the meaning and sweep of the covenants God made with man.

We displayed and reviewed them in relation to their dispensational setting. We defined them and related their chief characteristics. We then displayed and identified the major purpose of each of the eight covenants.

Due to the details involved and the vast amount of scripture to be studied, we limited our last lesson to five covenants: The Adamic, Edenic, Noahic, Abrahamic, and Mosaic. In this lesson we are covering the Palestinian, Davidic and New Covenants.

#### **Importance of this Lesson**

- As stated previously, there can be no full understanding of the Bible without an intelligent grasp of the covenants.
  - It is vastly important to understand fully the revelation of His will.
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### **THE LESSON**

#### **THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT “Israel's Title Deed to Palestine”**

##### **I. THE SETTING**

Israel was on the verge of entering the Promised Land. It was the land promised to Abraham. Behind them was slavery in Egypt. Ahead of them were many enemies occupying the land. They had many questions to ask:

- A. Was the land still theirs?
- B. Did the conditional Mosaic Covenant set aside the unconditional Palestinian?
- C. Would opposition stop them?

##### **II. THE ASSURANCE**

Deuteronomy 30:1-10 – This is the Palestinian Covenant. Here God assures them and answers those questions.

##### **III. THE IMPORTANCE**

- A. It reaffirms Israel's title deed to this land. Unfaithfulness and unbelief did not abrogate this covenant.
- B. The conditional Mosaic Covenant, under which they were then living, did not set aside, or annul the earlier promise made to Abraham (Note Galatians 3:17). Go back to Abraham and the land promised in Genesis 13 and 15.
- C. It is a confirmation and enlargement of the Abrahamic Covenant. It amplifies the land features. Coming after disobedience and unbelief, it supports the fact that the promise made to Abraham was to be fulfilled regardless.

##### **IV. THE PROVISIONS**

Seven, as follows:

- A. They would be removed from the land for unfaithfulness (Deuteronomy 28:63-68; 30:1-3).
- B. There will be a future repentance of Israel (Deuteronomy 28:63; 30:1-3).
- C. Their Messiah will return (Deuteronomy 30:3-6).
- D. They will be restored to the land (Deuteronomy 30:5).

- E. They will be converted as a nation (Deuteronomy 30:4-8; Romans 11:26-27; Acts 15:14-16).
- F. Israel's enemies will be judged (Deuteronomy 30:7).
- G. The nation will receive her full reward (Deuteronomy 30:9).

V. THE RECONFIRMATION

Ezekiel 16:1-62 – In verses 60-62, God said, “I will remember” and “I will establish.” The text shows that the dispersion was not a final rejection of Israel.

VI. THE CHARACTER

- A. It was unconditional. God said, “I will.”
- B. It was eternal (Ezekiel 16:60).

VII. THE FUTURE

- A. Israel must be installed in her land.
- C. Israel must firmly possess the land.
- D. Israel must witness the judgment of her enemies.
- E. Israel must receive the material blessing promised.
- F. Since these things have never been fulfilled, we must take them into consideration in our prophetic program and vision.

VIII. THE AGREEMENT BY THE PROPHETS

- A. Isaiah 11:11-12; 14:1-3; 27:12-13; 49:8-16; 66:20-22
- B. Jeremiah 16:14-16; 23:3-8; 30:10-11; 31:8, 31-39
- C. Ezekiel 11:17-21; 20:33-38; 34:11-16; 39:25-29
- D. Hosea 1:10-11
- E. Joel 3:17-21
- F. Amos 9:11-15
- G. Micah 4:4-7
- H. Zephaniah 3:14-20
- I. Zechariah 8:4-8

**THE DAVIDIC COVENANT**  
**“Christ on David's Throne”**

I. WHERE?

2 Samuel 7:8-17

II. WHEN?

During David's reign as King of Israel. Under LAW.

III. WITH WHOM?

David and his family.

IV. ITS MAJOR PURPOSE

- A. It established the perpetuity of the Davidic family, fulfilled in Christ (Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:33).
- B. The perpetuity of David's Kingdom over Israel and over the whole earth, to be fulfilled in Christ (Acts 15:14-17).

V. WHAT IT SPECIFICALLY PROMISED (2 Samuel 7:16)

- A. A PERPETUAL HOUSE (verse 16) – This refers to David's lineage, his physical descendants or posterity. It refers to the SEED of David. This was never to be cut off!

- B. An ETERNAL THRONE (verse 16) – This refers to David's authority or right to rule. This sovereign right was never to be taken from David and his SEED.
- C. An established EVERLASTING KINGDOM – This meant an earthly, political kingdom. This is how David, Solomon, and all the prophets understood it (verse 16).
- D. Certainty of fulfillment (verse 16).

VI. THE PROBLEMS THAT MUST BE FACED

- A. Are these promises to be literally fulfilled?
- B. Are we to spiritualize all of these promises and say that:
  - 1. The Kingdom is the Church?
  - 2. The HOUSE is the "household of faith" or all believers?
  - 3. That the Throne is the Father's throne at whose right hand Christ now sits?
- C. Was everything fulfilled in Solomon historically?
- D. Will Israel yet have a King and a Kingdom?
- E. Is the Kingdom present or future?
- F. How and when does Christ fulfill these promises?
- G. Has there been complete historical fulfillment?

VII. THE PROBLEM OF SOLOMON AND HIS DESCENDANTS ( 2 Samuel 7:12-14)

- A. "I will set up thy seed after thee" (verse 12). Fulfilled.
- B. "I will establish his kingdom" (verse 12). Fulfilled.
- C. "He shall build an house" (verse 13). Fulfilled.
- D. "I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (verse 13). This refers to his sovereign right or royal authority.
- E. Nothing is said concerning the perpetuity of Solomon's "house" or seed.
  - 1. There is an amazing prophetic accuracy here!
  - 2. Solomon's throne or royal authority continued and is still in force.
  - 3. Solomon's "SEED" or house was cut off in King Coniah (Jeremiah 22:28-30).
  - 4. Christ was born of Mary, who was NOT of Solomon's lineage, but was descended from David through Nathan! Joseph, Christ's legal father was descended from David through Solomon. This gave Christ royal and legal authority to the promised throne and guaranteed the continuance of David's SEED.
- F. So, this covenant was NOT fulfilled in Solomon.

VIII. THE ARGUMENTS OF THE A-MILLENNIALIST AND THOSE WHO REJECT THE LITERAL FULFILLMENT OF THIS COVENANT

- A. They say that this covenant is conditional and temporary as to its natural and earthly application.  
*Answer:* The plain language of scripture is just the opposite.
- B. They claim that it was historically fulfilled in Solomon and his reign.  
*Answer:* If so, how irrelevant and foolish are such later prophecies as Jeremiah 33:15-17.
- C. They contend that this covenant has a spiritual fulfillment only:
  - 1. The THRONE is the Father's throne (Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 8:1; 10:12).  
◆ *Nowhere in scripture is the Father's throne called David's throne.*
  - 2. The HOUSE is the "household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).
  - 3. The KINGDOM is the church.
- D. This view makes the church fulfill the promise of a perpetual SEED and KINGDOM promised to David. The Kingdom ceases to be earthly and David's rule becomes but a type of the spiritual reign of Christ.  
◆ *This demands extreme allegorizing and muddles language that is otherwise perfectly clear.*

IX. PROOFS OF THE UNCONDITIONAL AND LITERAL FULFILLMENT OF THIS COVENANT

It is called "Everlasting" (2 Samuel 7:16; 23:5; Isaiah 55:3). Consequently, the fulfillment of these promises rests upon the sovereignty and faithfulness of God.

- A. It merely amplifies the "SEED" aspect of the earlier UNCONDITIONAL covenant made with Abraham.
  - B. Note Psalm 89:
    - 1. David foresees the overthrow of his kingdom (verses 38-45), before the fulfillment of that which was promised (verses 20-29).
    - 2. Yet, he fully anticipates the literal fulfillment of these promises (verses 46-52).
    - 3. Note the "nevertheless" of (verses 30-34).
  - C. There are 59 references to David in the New Testament. He is NEVER associated with the Father's throne. The inference is clear.
  - D. The "kingdom" offered by John, Jesus, the twelve, and the seventy was a literal, earthly kingdom.
    - 1. The Jews were perfectly justified in expecting Christ to restore the Kingdom of David. The Jews always believed this Kingdom to be Messianic, literal and earthly.
    - 2. If these promises to David were not true in their obvious and common sense meaning, then the most pious and God-fearing Jews of many centuries were deceived. In the face of Psalm 89:34 and Psalm 132:11, it would have been sheer presumption for a godly Jew to expect anything but a literal fulfillment.
    - 3. Even when "The Kingdom" was rejected, Christ anticipated a literal earthly kingdom (Matthew 25:31).
  - E. These promises have NOT had a historical fulfillment:
    - 1. Israel has never permanently possessed the land promised to Abraham, which constitutes the land of David's Kingdom.
    - 2. Solomon extracted taxes and service from some in certain areas but did not occupy or possess the land (1 Kings 4:21).
    - 3. Hundreds of years AFTER Solomon, scriptures abound in promises that the land will be possessed.
  - F. The promises were to David's Son "according to the flesh." The throne and the kingdom were matters of promise and inheritance and refer to the humanity of Christ!
    - ◆ *Christ LITERALLY is David's Son (Luke 1:32; Romans 1:3). The promises are to be literally fulfilled in Christ!*
  - G. There is no Bible intimation or suggestion that this covenant is to be spiritualized. It is pure inference to do so.
  - H. Partial LITERAL fulfillment requires future and complete literal fulfillment.
  - I. The New Testament never relates the kingdom promised to David to the present or church age or to Christ's present ministry.
    - 1. On the contrary, it definitely states WHEN Christ will establish David's throne and when Israel will be converted (Acts 15:14-17).
      - ◆ *This is a quote of the Greek version of Amos 9:11-12. James indicated "when" this would be, "as in the days of old."*
    - 2. Romans 11:25-27 – "covenant" in verse 27.
    - 3. "Tabernacle" – This refers to the whole house of Israel in contrast to the Gentiles (Acts 15:16).
    - 4. This is proof that Christ is NOT NOW on David's throne.
- X. Concluding Thoughts
- A. This is The Church Age, NOT the Kingdom Age.
  - B. Christ is on His Father's throne, NOT His own throne.
  - C. Today, through the Holy Spirit and the preaching of the Gospel, the Church is being formed. This is the "mystery" form of the Kingdom.
  - D. What we see today in Palestine is but a forerunner of that which is to come.
  - E. The return of Christ is:
    - to the Church – A RAPTURE
    - to the Jews – A RESTORATION
    - to the Gentile – A REIGN OF PEACE
  - F. God and His Word are eternal and immutable. On them we can stand.
  - G. Christ is yet to reign in righteousness over all the earth.

## **THE NEW COVENANT** **"A Covenant Sealed in Blood"**

### I. SOME KEY SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 31:31-38; 32:37-41; Ezekiel 36:26-34; 37:21-28; Hebrews 8:8-12; 9:15; 10:16; 12:24; Matthew 26:28; 1 Corinthians 11:25

### II. WITH WHOM WAS THIS COVENANT MADE?

"The house of Israel" (Jeremiah 31:31 and Hebrews 8:8).

### III. WHAT IS MEANT BY "THE NEW COVENANT"?

Jeremiah 31:32. In contrast to the Old Covenant of THE LAW.

### IV. WHAT ARE ITS BASIC PROVISIONS?

- A. Guarantees Israel a NEW mind and heart (Jeremiah 31:33).
- B. Promises to restore Israel to the favor and blessing God (Hosea 2:19-20). "Betroth" means "to woo a virgin."
- C. Assures Israel the forgiveness of sin (Jeremiah 31:34).
- D. Promises them the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 36:27).
- E. Promises material prosperity in the LAND (Ezekiel 36:33-35).
- F. Promises a sanctuary in Jerusalem (Ezekiel 37:26-27).
- G. Promises the end of war and universal peace (Isaiah 2:4).
- H. It is assured, sealed, and guaranteed by the blood and sacrifice of Christ (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 9:11-22; 10:11-18).

### V. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THIS NEW COVENANT?

- A. It is UNCONDITIONAL. Based entirely upon God's "I WILL." Thus, it is all of grace and looks to God alone.
- B. It is LITERAL. A literal people, a literal land, a literal promise of forgiveness, cleansing, and regeneration based upon a literal sacrifice.
- C. It is EVERLASTING (Jeremiah 31:34; 32:40).
- D. Since it fully realized the third area of the Abrahamic Covenant, THE BLESSING, it is simply an amplification of another unconditional covenant and cannot be changed.

### VI. WHEN WILL THIS COVENANT BE FULFILLED?

- A. There are those who teach that this covenant has been put into operation and is being fulfilled in the church. Such a view:
  1. Denies any future for Israel.
  2. Denies that Christ will return to reign on this earth as Israel's King.
  3. Spiritualizes and/or allegorizes all the parts of this great covenant.
  4. Fails to see that the Church is NEVER called Israel.
- B. There is general agreement among conservative scholars that:
  1. This covenant can only be fully realized by the nation of Israel (Jeremiah 31:33-34; Hebrews 8:8).
  2. This covenant was made with Israel alone.
    - a) From the language of the scriptures themselves.
    - b) From the fact that it is contrasted with the Old Covenant, THE LAW, which was made with these same people only (Leviticus 26:46; Romans 2:14).
    - c) The NEW covenant is linked with the perpetuity of Israel as a nation and her restoration to the land (Jeremiah 32:41; Ezekiel 36:34-35).

- C. The TIME is still in the future.
  - 1. It is always viewed as such in the Old Testament.
  - 2. There is a definite sequence predicted: Israel must be GATHERED, RESTORED, then REGENERATED (Jeremiah 32:37-41).
  - 3. History records NO such sequence.
  - 4. The Bible references show that this covenant is realized during the millennium (Ezekiel 37:24-28).
  - 5. Christ must return first (Romans 11:26-27). The covenant referred to here must be the NEW, since it is the only one involving the forgiveness of sins.

#### VII. CHRIST AND THE NEW COVENANT

- A. It must be remembered that Christ is still Israel's Messiah as well as the Church's Lord and Savior.
- B. The offering of the gospel to the Gentiles and the instituting of the Church Age, does not mean that God has forgotten or forsaken Israel (Acts 15:14-16; Romans 11:25-27; 15:24).
- C. The sacrifice of Christ seals and assures this covenant. It involves forgiveness (Hebrews 9:11-22; 10:11-18, note verse 16)!
- D. He is the mediator of the covenant (Hebrews 9:15).
- E. When will He put it into effect (Acts 15:14-17; Romans 11:26-27)?

#### VIII. THE CHURCH AND THE NEW COVENANT

The views of Darby, Chafer, and Scofield.

- A. Nowhere in scripture is it stated that the NEW COVENANT promised to Israel is now in force.
- B. The believer and the Church share in its blessings and promises through their relationship with the MEDIATOR.
- C. His sacrifice was for ALL sins (Hebrews 10:12).
- D. The same blood secures our redemption (Hebrews 9:12; Ephesians 1:7).
- E. The promise of the same Holy Spirit and the same regeneration is made to all who believe (Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18; John 3:3; Titus 3:5-6).
- F. As in the Abrahamic Covenant, the Church shares in the blessing without being under the covenant.

#### IX. ITS PROPHETIC IMPLICATIONS

- A. Israel must be restored, preserved, established and converted and be a NATION forever.
- B. Palestine must be rebuilt and be a LAND forever.
- C. Christ must return and be their KING forever.
- D. An everlasting THRONE must be set up.
- E. An everlasting KINGDOM must be established.
- F. An everlasting COVENANT must be secured and fulfilled.
- G. Everlasting BLESSINGS must be enjoyed.
  - ◆ *The difference between the hope of the church and the hope of Israel:*
    - *The Church – saved and raptured*
    - *Israel – saved and restored to the Land.*

**GREAT DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE EXAM – LESSON 34**

Questions to be answered by every student enrolled in the Rogma International Free Bible Study Course

Register No \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose and Round O the correct answer in the following: -**

1. The setting for the Palestinian Covenant was Israel: (Value 6 points)
  - a. at Mount Sinai.
  - b. about to enter the Promised land.
  - c. getting settled in Palestine.
  
2. The importance of the Palestinian Covenant was that: (Value 6 points)
  - a. it was unconditional.
  - b. it gave Israel the title deed to Palestine.
  - c. God would give them the land of Palestine if they obeyed Him.
  
3. The warning contained in the Palestinian covenant was that: (Value 6 points)
  - a. God would remove them from the land if they became unfaithful to God.
  - b. God would take away their land permanently if they were unfaithful to God.
  - c. God would cancel the covenant.
  
4. Ezekiel 16 reveals that Israel's dispersion was: (Value 7 points)
  - a. a permanent rejection of Israel.
  - b. not a final rejection of Israel.
  - c. a picture of Israel's rejection of Christ.
  
5. 2 Samuel 7:8-17 describes: (Value 7 points)
  - a. the Palestinian Covenant.
  - b. the Davidic Covenant.
  - c. the Israelitic Covenant.
  
6. The Davidic Covenant was made with: (Value 7 points)
  - a. David and his family.
  - b. the nation of Israel.
  - c. the descendents of David.
  
7. A specific promise in the Davidic Covenant was that: (Value 7 points)
  - a. the house or lineage of David would never die off.
  - b. David and his family would rule Israel for many hundreds of years.
  - c. David's house would rule forever if they continued to obey God.

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8. By the House of David, the Bible means: (Value 7 points)
  - a. the household of Faith ( all believers).
  - b. the CHURCH.
  - c. David and his descendents.
  
9. The literal fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant is rejected by: (Value 7 points)
  - a. the pre-millennialists.
  - b. the a-millennialists.
  - c. the post millennialist.
  
10. The Davidic Covenant is: (Value 7 points)
  - a. conditional.
  - b. unconditional.
  - c. partly conditional and partly unconditional.
  
11. The New Testament contains 59 references to David, but he is never associated with the Father's throne. This implies that: (Value 6 points)
  - a. the kingdom offered by Jesus, John and the seventy was an earthly kingdom.
  - b. the House of David is the CHURCH.
  - c. the kingdom offered by Jesus is a spiritual kingdom.
  
12. The Scripture for the New Covenant is: (Value 6 points)
  - a. 2 Samuel 7:8-17.
  - b. Deuteronomy 30:1-10.
  - c. Jeremiah 31:32.
  
13. The nature of the New Covenant is: (Value 7 points)
  - a. unconditional, literal and everlasting.
  - b. conditional, literal and everlasting.
  - c. conditional, spiritual and everlasting.
  
14. When will the New Covenant be fulfilled? (Value 7 points)
  - a. It was fulfilled in the Church.
  - b. It will be fulfilled in the nation of Israel.
  - c. It will be fulfilled during the millennium.
  
15. "The Gospel has been offered to the Gentiles" means: (Value 7 points)
  - a. that God has forsaken Israel.
  - b. that the Gospel is for both Jews and Gentiles.
  - c. that Christ is the mediator only for the Gentiles. The Jews have their temple for approaching God.