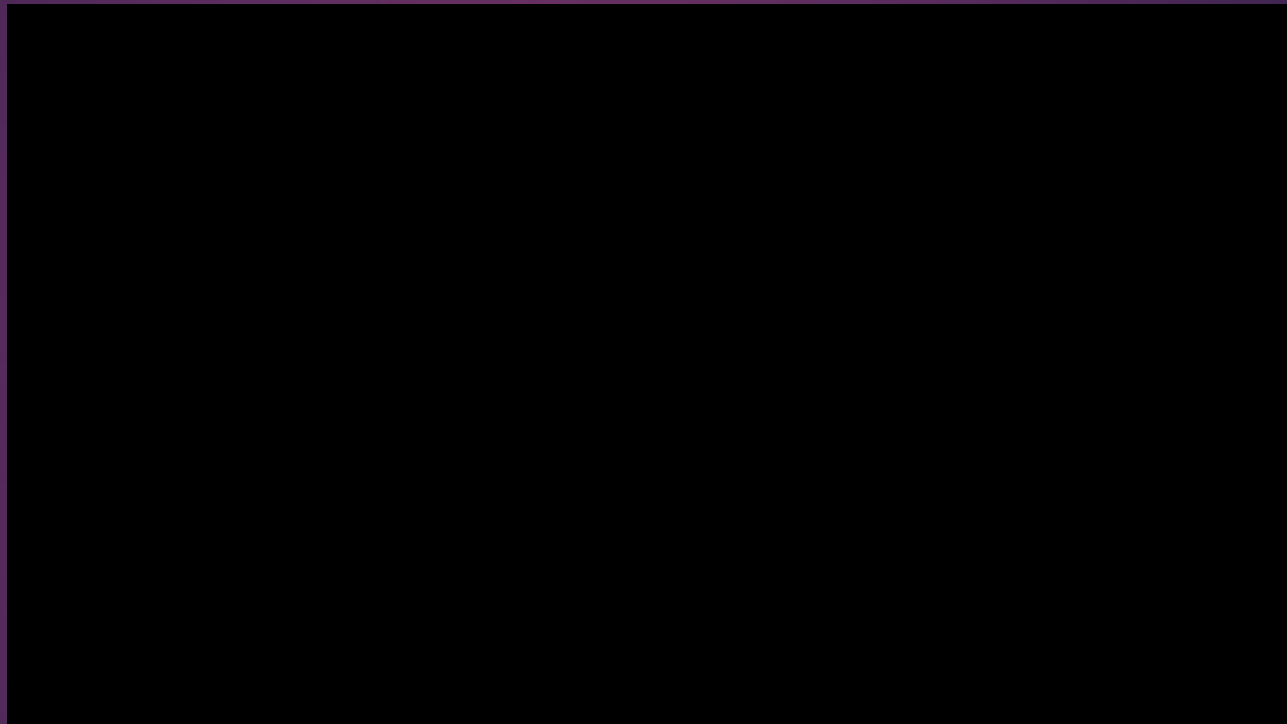


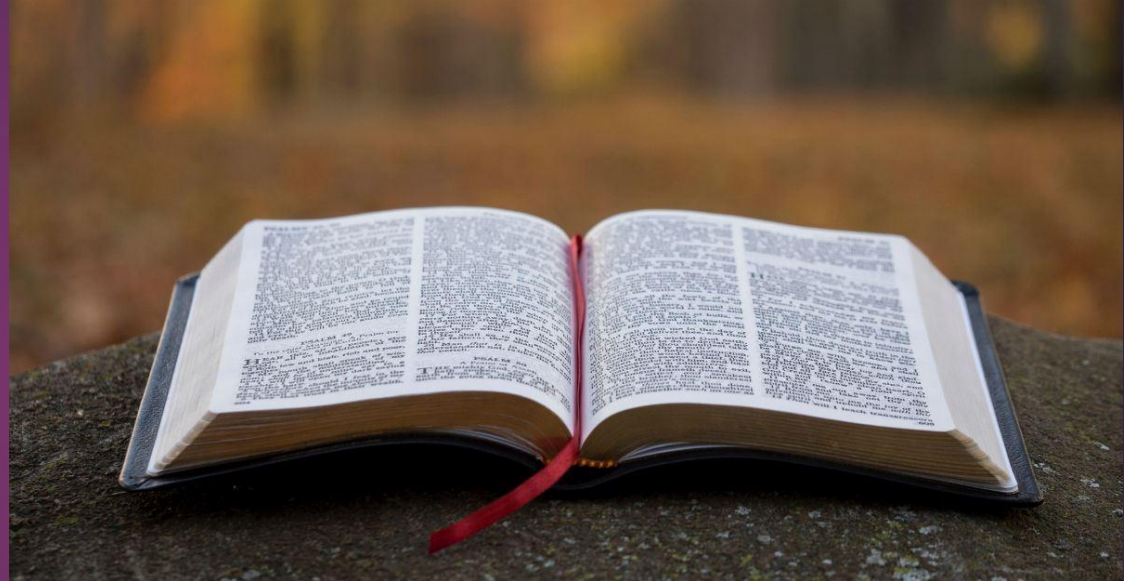
*Welcome to Women's
Bible Study!*

NOVEMBER 17, 2019



Welcome!

Theme: *How to
Study the Bible*



Goal: To grow in the knowledge of the Lord in order to treasure Him more fully and to reflect Him more accurately as we are conformed to His image.



What is an Epistle?

It is a letter written from someone, to someone, at a specific time, for a specific purpose.



Key things to Remember:

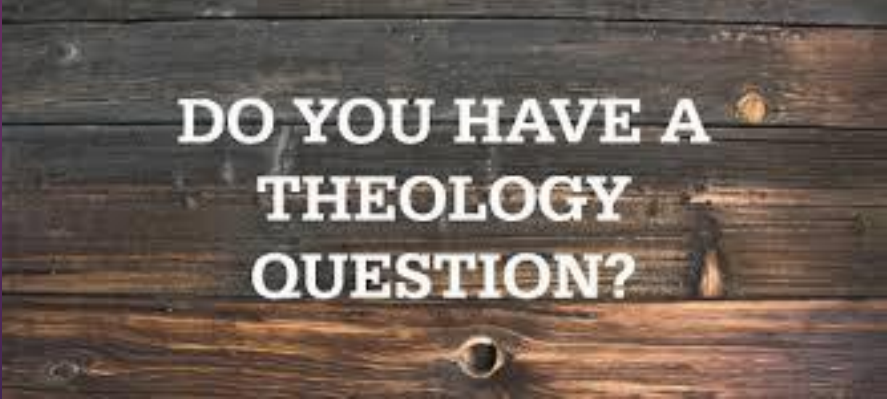
There is one key element that all Epistles have in common-They are all occasion documents, meaning they all were written and intended for a specific purpose.

CONTEXT

MATTERS

Key things to Remember:

Epistles are not intended to be summaries of all the writer's theology rather the writer mentions specific theology that relates to the issue at hand.



DO YOU HAVE A
THEOLOGY
QUESTION?

Usual Form:

- *Name of the Writer*
- *Name of the recipient*
- *Greeting*
- *Prayer or Thanksgiving*
- *Body*
- *Final Greeting/Farewell*



Historical Context:



- *Who is the author? What do we know about him?*
- *Who are the recipients? What do we know about them?*
- *What is going on in history at the time?*

Literary Context:

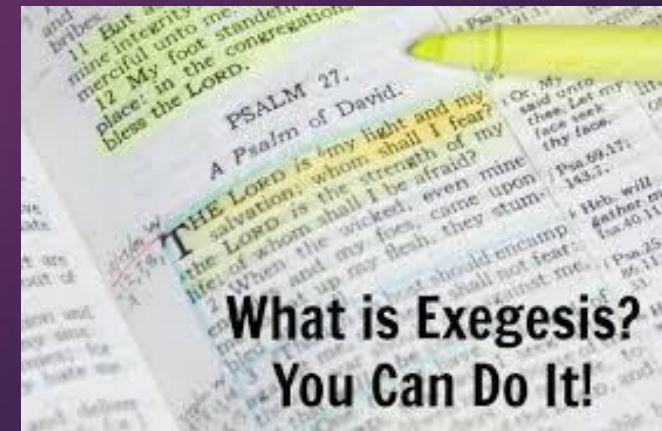


- *What is the author trying to say?*
- *What is the main point?*
- *What can we find out about the context/situation from the letter itself?*



Exegesis: Study to determine the original meaning of the text :

- *After you've considered the historical and literary context, it's time to study the passage to determine what the text meant to the original reader.*



Colossians 1:15-20

He is:

- 1) Image of the invisible God
- 2) Before all things
- 3) Head of the body
- 4) Beginning - firstborn of the dead

By Him:

- All things were created

Through Him:

All things were created

Reconcile all things to Himself

In Him:

All things hold together

All the fullness of God as pleased to dwell

For Him:

All things were created

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all

creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven

and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones

or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were

created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all

things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the

head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the

firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be

preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was

pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to

himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making

peace by the blood of his cross.

Firstborn of Creation
- for all things
were created by
Him

Firstborn from the dead
- that in everything
He might be
pre eminent
↳ for in Him
all the fullness of
God dwells

Truths

1. Jesus is God
- image, fullness
2. Jesus is Creator
↳ created for Him
3. He holds all together
4. He is head of the Church.
5. He is preeminent in all -
even firstborn from the dead
6. Through Jesus, we are
reconciled to God.
7. We have peace with God
because of the blood of
His cross.

He is

the image
of the invisible God,
the firstborn
of all creation.

For by him all things were created,

in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities

—all things were created
through him
and for him.

And

he is

before all things,
(and) in him all things hold together.

And

he is

the head of the body,
the church.

He is

the beginning,
the firstborn

from the dead,
that in everything
he might be preeminent.

For in him

all the fullness
of God

was pleased
to dwell,

and through him

to reconcile
to himself
all things,

whether on earth
(or) in heaven

making peace
by the blood
of His cross.

Interpretation

- *Once we know what it meant to them, now we can try to determine what it means to us.*



Rules for Interpretation

- *Basic rule: A text cannot mean to us what it never could have meant to its author or readers!*
- *Whenever we share similar life situations with the reader, God's Word to us is the same as His Word to them.*



Rules for Interpretation

- *When we don't share similar life situations, there is more work to do. Cultural or timeless? Is there a principle we can get from the passage?*

principle

Cultural or Timeless?

- *Always keep in mind the core message of the Bible.*
- *Make special note when the Bible is consistent and uniform in its position vs. when there are differences/variations.*



Informed → Conformed

Pray for the truth you have gleaned to transform your heart, mind, and actions.



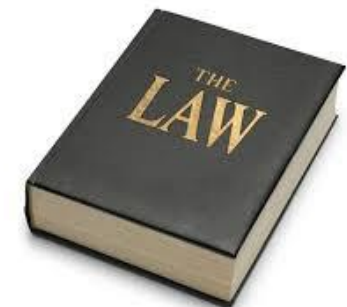
The Law and The Covenants

Throughout Scripture, God makes covenants with man in the course of His progressive revelation.

In the midst of that narrative, He also gives regulations on how His people were to live in that covenant relationship with Him and one another.

NARRATIVE

COVENANT



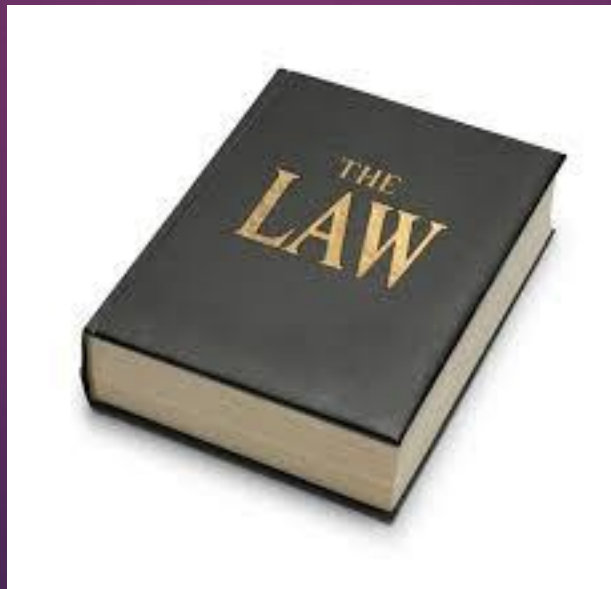
Define Terms:

Covenant: An agreement between 2 parties, a binding contract



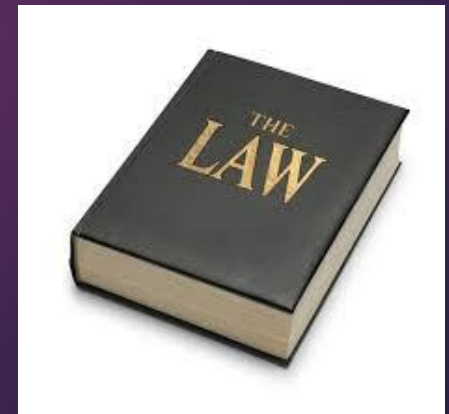
Define Terms:

Law: Regulations or terms of that agreement specifically how the people of God were to live under the covenant relationship with God.



When referring to the Law, we can mean:

- 1. The 600+ individual laws*
- 2. The Pentateuch (The first 5 books of the Bible)*
- 3. The entire O.T. system including the law, and the sacrificial system. (Often the way the N.T. refers to the Law)*



The Bible is primarily an epic narrative story of the redemption of mankind, not a behavior manual!



1st Command: Genesis 2:16-17



1st Command: Genesis 2:16-17

*Establishes God is
the Creator and
man is the
Creation.*



Life



1st Covenant: Genesis 9

1st Covenant: Genesis 9: Noahic Covenant



1st Covenant: Genesis 9: Noahic Covenant

Who was it between?

What was the covenant?



Was there a sign associated with it?

Was there a command associated with it?

What are some things being revealed?

Is it a conditional or unconditional covenant?

1st Covenant: Genesis 9: Noahic Covenant

Between: God and every living creature

Covenant: To never cut off all flesh by the flood waters again

Sign: A rainbow

Command: Be fruitful and multiply, do not eat blood (there would be a requirement/reckoning of life for bloodshed because man made in God's image)

1st Covenant: Genesis 9: Noahic Covenant

Revealed: God is a covenant making God. He establishes relationship with Himself and His creation. He has regulations for how mankind is to exist and there are consequences for disobedience, man's life is precious because he is an image bearer of God, the idea of sacrifice/blood to reckon for sin.

Unconditional Covenant



2nd Covenant: Genesis 12, 15, 17

2nd Covenant: Abrahamic Covenant



2nd Covenant: Abrahamic Covenant

Who was it between?

What was the covenant?

Was there a sign associated with it?

Was there a command associated with it?

What are some things being revealed?

Is it a conditional or unconditional covenant?



2nd Covenant: Abrahamic Covenant

Between: God and Abraham and his descendants

Covenant: To make of him a great nation, to bless him and through him bless all the families of the earth, to give the land to his offspring, to be his God.

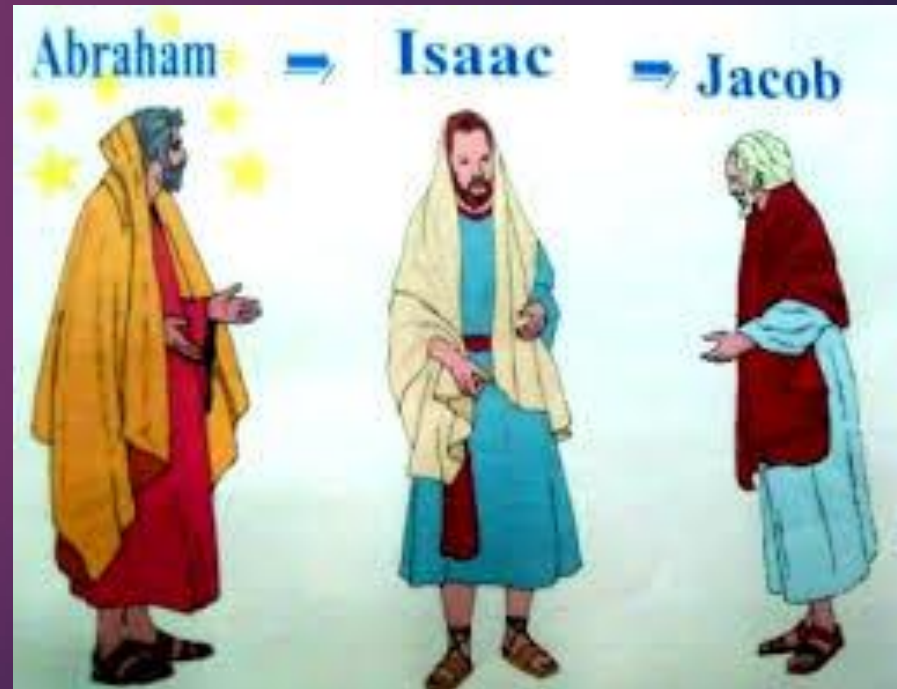
Sign: Circumcision

Command: To circumcise every male. Abraham was commended as righteous for believing God.

2nd Covenant: Abrahamic Covenant

Revealed: God establishes Himself as the God of the people of Abraham (later Israel) with the plan of that blessing extending to all the people of earth. Again, we see that God initiates and establishes a relationship between Himself and mankind. God sovereignly calls and chooses His people. We learn the origin of circumcision (which later becomes a call to circumcision of the heart). Disobedience (regarding circumcision) led to being cut off from God's people (and therefore from God). We see that belief in God's promises is counted as righteousness.

Unconditional Covenant





3rd Covenant: Exodus 19, 20, Deuteronomy 5

3rd Covenant: Mosaic Covenant



3rd Covenant: Mosaic Covenant

Who was it between?

What was the covenant?



Was there a sign associated with it?

Was there a command associated with it?

What are some things being revealed?

Is it a conditional or unconditional covenant?

3rd Covenant: Mosaic Covenant

Between: God and the nation of Israel

Covenant: They would be His treasured possession, kingdom of priests, a holy nation and set apart from other nations. He would be their God. There were blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience.

Sign: God's presence at Mt. Sinai, 10 commandments, Angel of God to go before them (Exodus 23)

Command: Yes, the giving of the Law.

The Mosaic Law:

- *The 10 commandments*
- *Laws regarding slavery and justice*
- *Laws regarding separation from the surrounding nations and their idolatrous practices*
- *Feasts/Festivals to call to remembrance God as Creator and His relationship with His people.*





3rd Covenant: Mosaic Covenant

Revealed: God calls Israel to be separate, distinct from the nations so He can use them to reveal Himself to mankind. Obedience to God's commands lead to blessing, life, and fellowship with God. Disobedience to God's commands leads to curses, death, and separation from God. God is concerned with justice and His laws reflect that. There is a death penalty associated with sin/rebellion and a substitutionary atonement is required. Covenants are inaugurated with blood.

Conditional Covenant: The blessings of the covenant could be forfeited by disobedience. This sets the stage for the need for a "New Covenant" to come

4th Covenant: 2 Samuel 7

4th Covenant: Davidic Covenant



4th Covenant: Davidic Covenant

Who was it between?

What was the covenant?

Was there a sign associated with it?

Was there a command associated with it?

What are some things being revealed?

Is it a conditional or unconditional covenant?



4th Covenant: Davidic Covenant

Between: God and David

Covenant: David wants to build God a house but instead God promises to establish his house and the throne of his kingdom forever. His steadfast love will not depart from him.

Sign: No, but a promise that his son would indeed build God a house (Solomon and the temple)

Command: No, but David responds with deep gratitude, humility and trust in God's promises.

Unconditional Covenant

5th Covenant: Jeremiah 31, Luke 22 (Ezekiel 36,
Deuteronomy 30)

5th Covenant: The New Covenant



5th Covenant: The New Covenant

Who was it between?

What was the covenant?

Was there a sign associated with it?

Was there a command associated with it?

What are some things being revealed?

Is it a conditional or unconditional covenant?



5th Covenant: The New Covenant

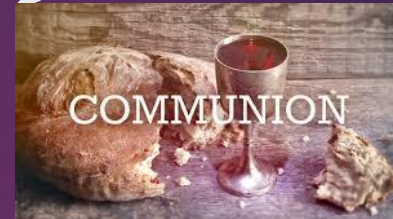
Between: God and house of Israel and Judah (and ultimately all His redeemed People as confirmed in the New Testament)

Covenant: To give them a new heart, put His law in their hearts, give them a new spirit, remove heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh, put His Spirit within them, so they will walk in His statutes. They will be given the land (kingdom) and He will be their God.



5th Covenant: The New Covenant

Sign: Not specifically mentioned however the Lord's Supper and possibly baptism are part of its inauguration.



Command: The law of Christ and the call to love God and love our neighbor.

Unconditional Covenant



5th Covenant: The New Covenant

Is this covenant fulfilled? Already/not yet.

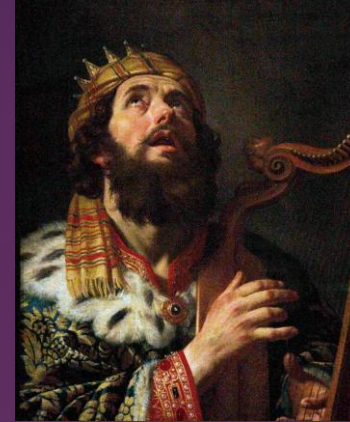


Remember the Bible is a story of progressive revelation so we have to read the whole story to understand all the parts and the parts bring clarity to the whole.

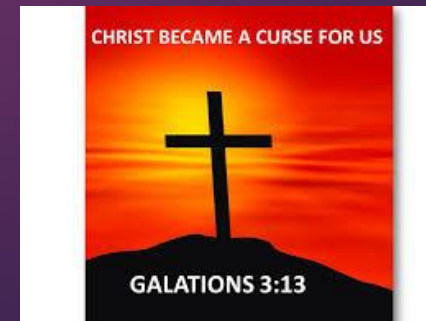
The Bible tells
one unfolding story
of redemption.

Jesus

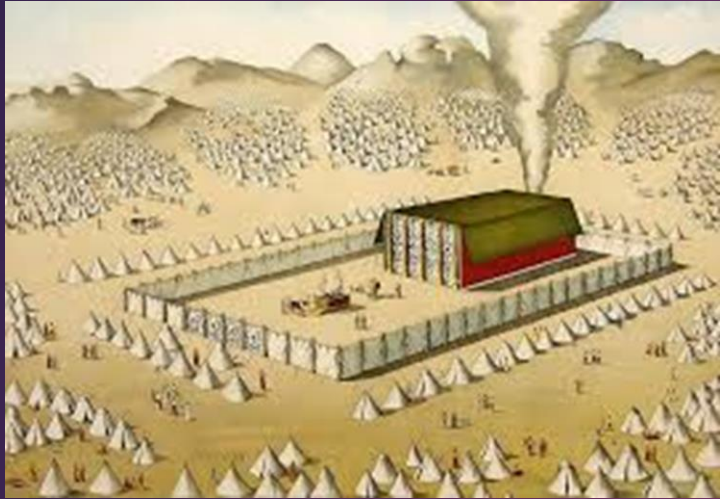
- *Matthew 1: Son of Abraham, Son of David*



- *Matthew 4: Temptation and Victory of Jesus in the Wilderness and His earthly life*



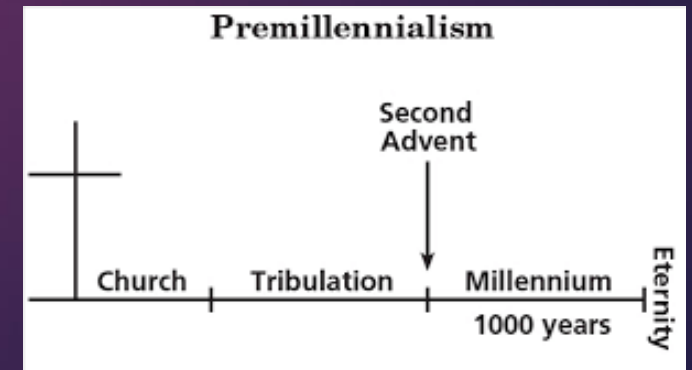
Jesus



Dispensationalism

-God operated throughout history in 7 distinct periods of time.

-The covenants and promises to Israel are specific to national Israel and will one day be fulfilled to national Israel. The church is a separate entity that inherits some of the O.T. promises but not all.



Covenant Theology

-All of the covenants can fit into one of two categories: Covenant of Works or Covenant of Grace.

-The church and Israel are not distinct but rather Israel is the Church and the Church is Israel because there is one true Israel of God.



New Covenant Theology

- All the covenants of the O.T. find their ultimate fulfillment in Christ.
- As representative Israel He embodies the promises made to Israel and those in Him (the church) are grafted into those promises and covenants by faith because of their union with Him.



When we read the covenants, we see their ultimate fulfillment in Christ and our union with Him. It is imperative that we understand Jesus as the “representative man” who is the offspring of Abraham and David, the faithful Israelite who kept the Mosaic Law, and the founder of the New Covenant.





UNITED

with

CHRIST

So are we under the Law? Some viewpoints:

1. *The Law can be divided into three parts: Civil, Ritual, and Moral laws. The civil and ritual laws are no longer in effect but the moral laws are.*



*2. Anything
that is
repeated by
Jesus or the
New
Testament is
still in effect.*

**The Old Testament
&
The New Testament**

3. *We are no longer under any part of the O.T law as it has been fulfilled and concluded in Christ. (Romans 10:4, Gal 3:2, Eph 2:15) However, we are now under the law of Christ and His command to love God and love one another.*



We are still called to walk in covenant faithfulness under the New Covenant but that is found in an intimate relationship with God through the indwelling Spirit as He leads us and we keep in step with Him.



It all goes back again to our union with Christ! Because we are in Christ and therefore inherit all of the blessings and promises of the covenants because of who He is and His faithfulness, then we also walk in union with Him being led by His Spirit to His glory.



Thoughts? Discussion?

Goal: To grow in the knowledge of the Lord in order to treasure Him more fully and to reflect Him more accurately as we are conformed to His image.



This year:

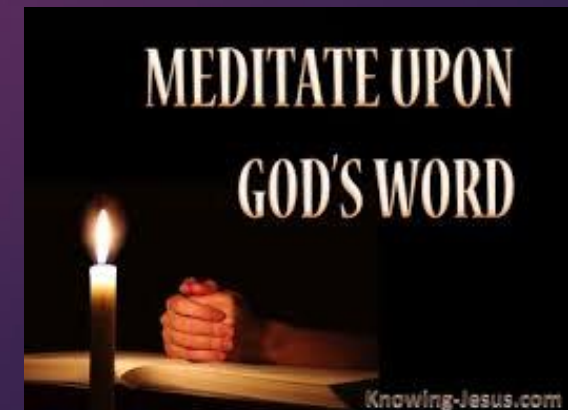
That we would also learn some tools and methods on how to study so we can rightly handle the word of truth.



Next month: Old Testament Narratives

Date: December 8

Challenge: Spend time daily this month looking up the passages of these covenants as well as the other verses mentioned in this lesson. Consider the role of the law and the covenants. Ask questions, research, and ponder these things!



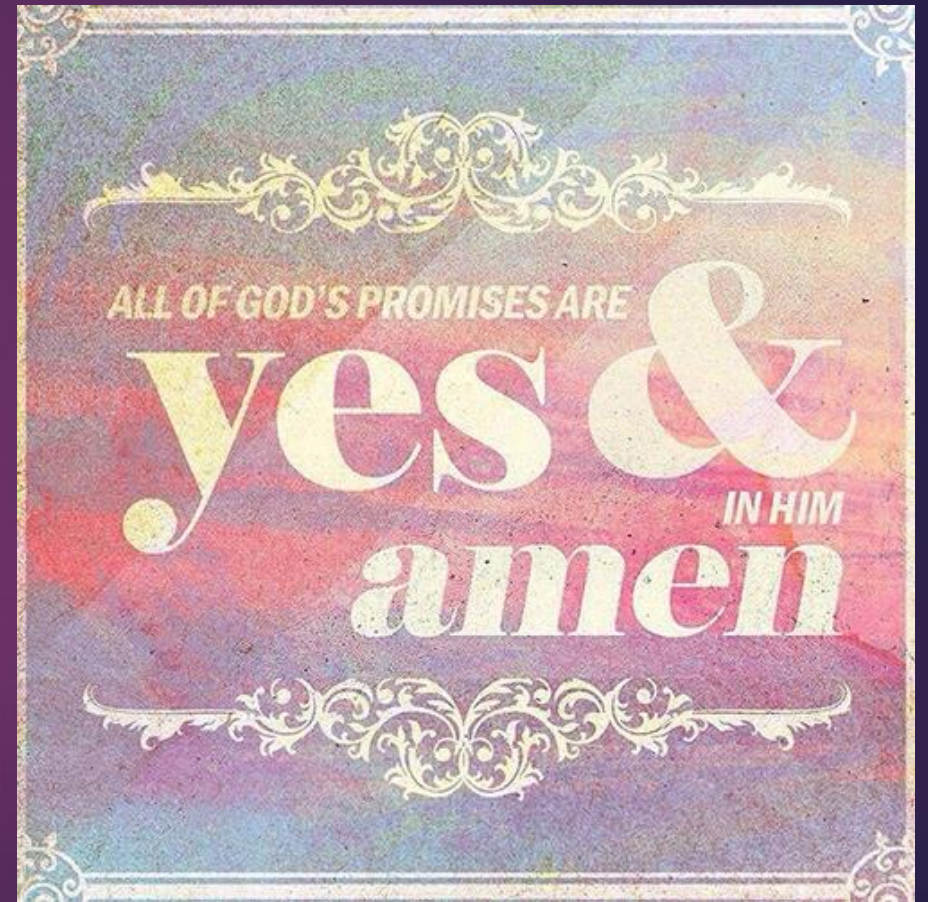
Homework:

- *Read “How to Read the Bible”-Chapter 5.*



Scripture Memory: 2 Corinthians 1:20

*“For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory.”
(2 Corinthians 1:20)*



Wrap Up