



The Theology of Promise

Galatians 3:15-18

To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. ¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ. ¹⁷ This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.



Remember the Context



Some are saying keeping
the law

(the covenant God made with Moses)
is the means toward
righteousness



Paul is arguing that too much attention is being given to the Mosaic Covenant—the Law—to the exclusion of the Abrahamic covenant.



Galatians 3:2

- Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by **works of the law** or by hearing with faith?

“Striving to Do Everything in the Law”



Galatians 3:5

- Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by **works of the law**, or by hearing with faith—

“Striving to Do Everything in the Law”



Galatians 3:10

- For all who rely on **works of the law** are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in **the Book of the Law**, and do them.”



Galatians 3:13

- Christ redeemed us from the **curse of the law** by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—

What is the curse of the law?



The Curse of the Law

The curse of the law is the punishment each will receive from the Sovereign God of the Universe for their failure to keep the law.



Or

How do I inherit the
blessing of the
Abrahamic
covenant?

How do I inherit the blessing of the Abrahamic covenant?



Option 1

- I strive to keep all the provisions of the Law of Moses

Option 2

- I have faith in the promises God made to Abraham and his offspring



Galatians 3:15

- To give a human example, brothers:
even with a **man-made covenant**,
no one annuls it or adds to it once it
has been ratified.

**Paul is going out of his way to
prove that the Abrahamic covenant
is still valid.**



**And that Jesus Christ is the means
by which God is fulfilling His
promises to Abraham.**

Covenant



a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two [God and Abraham] or more parties especially for the performance of some action [BUT not in this case].

Merriam-Webster



What is a Promise?

Promise



- a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified
- a legally binding declaration that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act

Merriam-Webster



5 Promises of the Abrahamic Covenant

- **Descendants**
- **Land**
- **Great Name**
- **Blessing**
- **Cursing**



When did God ratify the Abrahamic covenant?



Turn Back To

Genesis 15:8ff

⁸ But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”

⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰

And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” ¹⁷

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,



Since the Abrahamic Covenant was properly ratified, the Covenant God gave Israel through Moses does not annul or modify the promises God originally gave Abraham and his offspring.



See v. 16.



Galatians 3:16

- Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring.

What does God promise Abraham and his offspring?



Genesis 13:15

- For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.



Over and over again, I was taught that the reason the millennial kingdom is necessary is to fulfill the LAND promise made to Abraham and Israel.

Yet 1000 years is NOT forever.



Genesis 17:8

- And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, **for an everlasting possession;** and I will be their God.



Exodus 32:13

- Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.' "



Psalm 37:29

- The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein **for ever.**



Galatians 3:16

- Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring.
- It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.

Now Paul speaks as an Apostle  **under the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit and gives us greater clarity than any Jew had in the OT.**

The offspring was not plural. It was singular referring to Christ Jesus—not Israel, Jacob, or the nation Israel.



Galatians 3:17

- This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, **so as to make the promise void.**



**Once again the law given
to Moses has no impact on
the original promise given
to Abraham 430 years
earlier.**





Galatians 3:18

- For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; **but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.**



The church has NOT put
enough effort into communicating
the **Theology of Promise.**

The study of what God's Word
says about the Promises the
Triune God made with humans.

Essential Tenants to the Theology of Promise



- 1. There is a God who communicates.**
- 2. This God does more than communicate. He communicates promises and fulfills divine agreements with humans called covenants.**
- 3. The character and nature of these promises/covenants first set Judaism apart and then Christianity APART from all other man-made religions on the planet.**



Think About

Genesis 3:14-15



Genesis 3:14–15

- **The LORD God said** to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; **he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.**”





Genesis 9:11–12

- I establish my covenant with you, that **never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood**, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² And God said, “**This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:**

Essential Tenants to the Theology of Promise



4. God remembers (not like He forgot) His covenants and acts according to what He has previously promised.



Exodus 2:24

- And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

Essential Tenants to the Theology of Promise



4. God remembers (not like He forgot) His covenants and acts according to what He has previously promised.

5. Father Abraham is the ultimate example of how one becomes a recipient of divine blessing.



**What did Abraham
do to become a
recipient of the
promises God made
with him?**

Did He?



Ask, Receive, Confess,...NO!

We follow Father Abraham's example

Abraham believed God...



If you think I am
making too big a
deal of this

Look v. 19 & 22



Galatians 3:19

- Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come **to whom the promise had been made**, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.



Galatians 3:22

- But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, **so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.**

**Understanding the theology of
promise destroys any notion or
suggestion that my good must
outweigh my bad in order to be
saved.**





6. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a promise from God to humanity.



Acts 2:39

- For **the promise** is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”



Romans 1:1–2

- Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for **the gospel of God,**² **which he promised** beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,

Think with me
about everything
Christ
Promised





Matthew 5:5

- “Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit
the earth.



Matthew 19:29

- And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, **will receive a hundredfold** and will inherit eternal life.



John 6:35 (ESV)

- Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; **whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**



John 6:37

- All that the Father gives me will come to me, **and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.**

Jesus promised, he would



1. Come again

2. Send a helper, a comforter in his absence

3. Give his disciples eternal life

4. Give his disciples life abundantly



John 14:1–3

- “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.



John 16:7

- Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. **But if I go, I will send him to you.**



John 6:27

- Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”



John 10:10

- The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have **life and have it abundantly.**



**What are the
promises contained
in the gospel of Jesus
Christ?**



#1 The Promise of Forgiving Sin



Matthew 26:28

- for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins.**



#2 The Promise of

Adoption into the Family of God



John 1:12

- But to all who did receive him,
who believed in his name,
he gave the right to
become children of God,



#3 The Promise of The Holy Spirit



Ephesians 1:13

- In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and **believed in him**, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,



#4 The Promise of Eternal Life



James 1:12

- Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test **he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.**



1 John 2:25

- And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.



7. Confidence in the fulfilment of the promise is based on the character and nature (essence) of the One making the promise and nothing more.



Delegation to Syria



Teaching the **TRUTH**

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH



Teaching the **TRUTH**

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH



John 2:19–21

- Jesus answered them, “**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**” ²⁰ The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹ **But he was speaking about the temple of his body.**



2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:13

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.