

The Promises and Covenants of God

Promises and covenants are ways that God has revealed his plan and purpose for His creation and His people throughout history. They are the expressions of God's love, grace, and faithfulness to his partners, who are called to trust and obey Him. It is a relationship between God and His people, who make binding promises to each other and work together to reach a common goal. They are based on God's grace and faithfulness as well as on human obedience. If it was not for our Father's grace and for the worth that we show to God via us following His words and commands then we would not be eligible for the rewards from the promises of God. It is due to our following of God's ways as well as His grace and kindness that God shows us where we even have these.

This study is a part of a larger deep dive into the promises and covenants of God. We will take one covenant / promise between us and our Lord and see the fine details of what this means for us in both reward and requirement.

The Edenic Covenant:

This is the original covenant, a solemn agreement, a binding contract, that God made with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. God promised, in this case, to bless and give them dominion over the earth, for as long as they obeyed His command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This covenant was broken by human sin, which resulted in the curse of death and separation from God. It was given to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, before they sinned and fell from God's grace. It describes God's original purpose and plan for His creation and His relationship with mankind.

Genesis 1:26-30 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

This is the passage where God creates humans in His image and likeness, and gives them dominion over the earth and all living creatures. He also blesses them and tells them to be fruitful and multiply, and to fill the earth and subdue it. He also gives them every plant and tree

that bares seed or fruit as food. This is the main reward of the Edenic covenant, where God establishes His creative authority and His generous provision for humans. In the perfect creation that God had planned, He wanted us to have power over the animals and earth and due to our lack of holding up our side of the promise do we find ourselves having issues when it comes to ruling over the earth.

Genesis 2:15-17 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

This is the passage where God places Adam in the Garden of Eden, and gives him the responsibility to cultivate and keep it. He also gives him the command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that he eats from it, he will surely die. This is the test of obedience that God sets for humans, and the consequence of disobedience that will result in sin causing the curse of death.

Genesis 3: 1-24 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." 13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." 14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." 16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." 17 Then

to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." 20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. 22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" - 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

This is the passage where the serpent tempts Eve to eat from the forbidden tree, and she gives some to Adam, and they both eat. God confronts them and passes judgment on them and the serpent. He also makes garments of skin for them and drives them out of the garden. This is the account of the fall of man, where humans break the Edenic covenant and lose their innocence and fellowship with God. Due to the sin of the woman in this story, we see the punishment of pain during childbirth and the sin of the man is the punishment of having to always work hard in the field. These are the judgment to humans for not following the Lord's commandments and breaking this promise.

Romans 5: 12-21 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the passage where Paul compares and contrasts Adam and Christ, as the representatives of two covenants. He explains that through Adam's disobedience, sin and death entered the world, and all humans became sinners and condemned. But through Christ's obedience, grace and life came to the world, and all who believe in Him become righteous and justified. He also says that the law came to increase the trespass, but grace abounded all the more. This is the explanation of the gospel, where God offers a new covenant in Christ, to restore what was lost in the Edenic covenant.

This is one of the promises and covenants of God in the Bible. It reveals God's character and His relationship with His people, and it points to His ultimate plan of salvation and restoration through His Son, Christ.

All scripture is from NKJV unless otherwise noted.

Proverb to ponder:

Proverbs 18:20 - 21 AMP

[20] A man's stomach will be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; He will be satisfied with the consequence of his words. [21] Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words.

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