

6. Abraham and the Covenant of Grace

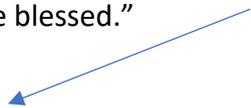
Discuss while waiting to begin:

1. When did the Gospel story begin?
2. Try to summarise the Gospel in less than 100 words.

1. The promises of the covenant

Promises to Abraham = "the gospel"

Galatians 3:8, "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."



Genesis 12:1-3 = promises of: a people... a place... blessing

= Eden restored

= what Jesus achieved

- People
- Place...

Hebrews 11:10, 16, "For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God... But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city."

- Fellowship with the one true God →

= The blessing of the covenant is ** God Himself **

Genesis 17:7, "And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

"I will be your God. You will be my people." (Ps 95:7, Jer. 31:33, Rev. 21:3)

= what the WHOLE Bible is all about

2. The ceremony of the covenant

Genesis 15...

The ceremony...

God “cuts” a covenant (see Jer. 34:18-19)...
Abraham as if dead...
God alone pledges to keep covenant

**** Salvation is by GOD ALONE ****

3. The conditions of the covenant

Genesis 17

Circumcision?!

Romans 4:11, “He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the RIGHTEOUSNESS that he had BY FAITH while he was still uncircumcised...

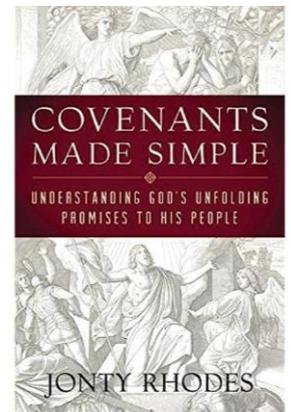
The covenant condition which WE MUST KEEP = “faith”
And even saving faith is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Recommended book:

→ Jonty Rhodes, “Covenants made simple”

A summary of the covenant of grace:

→ Westminster Confession 7.3, 7.5 (modern English version)



Since man, by his fall, made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was then pleased to make a second covenant, commonly called the covenant of grace. In it God freely offers life and salvation by Jesus Christ to sinners, requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved, and promising to give his Holy Spirit to all those who are ordained to eternal life, to make them willing and able to believe.

In the time of the law, this covenant was administered differently than in the time of the gospel. Under the law, it was administered by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the passover lamb, and other types and ordinances given to the Jewish people, all of which foreshadowed Christ to come. These were, for that time, sufficient and efficacious, through the work of the Spirit, to instruct and build up the elect in their faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they received complete forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. This covenant administration is called the old testament.