

The Gospel Promise

Romans 1:1-2 NKJV - "Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures"

So we've had 8 Bible studies in the book of Romans, and we're making great progress through the book, as today we're all the way in verse 2 of chapter 1.

All jokes aside, over the next few verses we're going to be looking at how Paul explained the Gospel. We're going to see Paul mention how the Gospel was PROMISED since the beginning of the world and it's how it's focused on a PERSON. Paul is also going to show us the Gospel PURPOSE, the Gospel PEOPLE, and the PLANS that Paul had in taking the Gospel everywhere he could go.

So this morning we're going to focus on that first thing, how the Gospel, the New Covenant, was PROMISED from the very beginning. As we grow into a deeper understanding of the Gospel and how it impacts our lives, we should also realize that it was always God's plan. The Old Covenant, the Law, was never God's solution to humanity's problems. The Old Covenant was God's way of showing how humanity could not fix the problem. Yet, in the Old Covenant, there are many prophecies and pictures that the New Testament reveals to us were showing that God had always planned a better way through the cross.

So today we're going to focus on the Gospel PROPHECIES, the scriptures that clearly pointed to the New Covenant, to the Cross, and to the Resurrection, so we can see this was always God's plan, then next Sunday we'll look at the Gospel PICTURES, where we'll see how God was revealing His promise through different events, people, and objects from the very beginning.

The Gospel Prophecies

- The Bible is a unique book because it has over 1,800 specific predictions across 730 separate matters. In fact, prophecy is one of the greatest ways to prove the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
- Paul mentions that the Gospel was promised by the prophets in the scriptures. So, because there is confusion over the covenants, there is lies about the law, and there is teaching that is against the Gospel, we want to look at the scriptures and make sure that what we are teaching is true.
- The way we're going to do that is look at several scriptures that promise the Gospel or reference the New Covenant, then we'll look at Scriptures that show us that this would be accomplished by the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Keep in mind, there are over 300 prophecies, so I'm going to mention only some of them
- **Prophecies of the New Covenant**
 - **Genesis 3:15 NKJV - "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."**
 - Adam and Eve sinned, having eaten from the fruit of knowledge of Good and Evil. They play the blame game when God confronts them, and a judgment falls as they are cast out of the garden. But the Lord doesn't leave them in despair, but gives them hope.
 - He promises that out of the woman, a descendant would come, and He would fight against the serpent, and though the serpent will bruise their heel, they will crush the head of the serpent, therefore restoring what was lost.
 - This was speaking of Jesus, who was born of a woman. Satan bruised Him through the cross, but that cross was flipped and became the way that Jesus crushed the serpents head.
 - **Jeremiah 31:31-34 NKJV - "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband**

to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

- These verses and the next one we'll look at are two of the most important reference verses for the New Covenant. In Jeremiah 31:31-34, the Lord tells Jeremiah clearly that He is going to make a NEW COVENANT.
- The Lord talks about how Israel failed to keep the Old Covenant laws, and how He would put a new heart, a heart of flesh, into them. He speaks of how they won't need someone to teach them, meaning there won't need to be a priesthood as a go between, because everyone would know God personally. He also declared that He would forgive all their iniquities and not remember their sins.
- This never happened in the Old Covenant. This happened in the New Covenant upon Jesus' death at the cross. He opened the way where He abolished the priesthood, and He has become the high priest. He has forgiven all iniquity and sin and erased it completely and absolutely for the whole world. He placed the world back at zero, but now we must respond in faith and believe to receive the new heart.
- He also declares that He'd write His law on their hearts and minds. What this means is that there won't be a need to obey the law like in the Old, it is not rules written on tablets of stone like Israel. In the New Covenant, God dwells in you, and He transforms your desires and your thoughts. He will transform you to think like Him, you will desire what He wants. That's the promise of the Gospel.
- **Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."**
 - That verse about the heart, "your heart is deceitful above all things who can know", that is true if you aren't a Christian. But by grace, Jesus gives you a NEW HEART. This heart is after Him and desires Him, and it is not deceitful, but has been given the righteousness of Christ.
 - Though we may still struggle with the desires of the old life, the promise of the New Covenant is an entirely new life, a new heart that seeks to please God at its innermost core.
 - He has given us a new heart and a NEW SPIRIT. As the Spirit of God comes to live in us, our Spirit, that was dead, is made new and alive. We can now have fellowship with God. As we by faith trust in the work of Christ, as we believe the Gospel, God comes to dwell in our hearts and it transforms us. Because Christ's Spirit dwells in you, He will transform your desires. You will naturally live a life after the Lord without the necessity of laws and rules, because He dwells in you and transforms you.
- **Micah 7:18-19 NKJV - "Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."**
 - This never happened in the Old Covenant. In the Old, sin was only ever covered by sacrifice, but it was never taken away. It was never removed. The Old Covenant was like when your kids try to clean their room by hiding the mess under the bed or rug. The New Covenant is where this prophecy of Micah comes to its true fulfillment as we see God completely pardoning all iniquity, and passing over all transgression. It is in the New Covenant that we see our sins cast into the depths of the sea to never be seen again.

- These are some of the prophecies of the New Covenant, but let's also look at all the prophecies of HOW this would come to pass, which was by the cross and resurrection.
- **Prophecies of the Cross**
 - **Isaiah 50:6 NKJV - "I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting."**
 - **Isaiah 52:14 NLT - "But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man."**
 - Speaks of Jesus' scourging and beating the the roman guards.
 - **Isaiah 53:7 NKJV - "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth."**
 - Speaks of Jesus' trials before the Sanhedrin, Herod and Pilate.
 - **Isaiah 53:9 NKJV - "And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth."**
 - It tells us that Jesus would die with the wicked, but He would be buried among the rich.
 - **Psalms 22:14-18 NKJV - "I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."**
 - Though crucifixion did not exist in the time of David, David describes the pain of it vividly. Compare this to how Jesus was crucified, the effects of crucifixion on the body, and how Jesus died of a ruptured heart. It wasn't invented till the Persian empire hundreds of years later, and perfected by the Romans. Yet here is David describing the crucifixion perfectly.
 - **Psalms 34:20 NKJV - "He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken."**
 - The prophecy that said His bones would not be broken.
- **Prophecies of the Resurrection**
 - **Isaiah 53:10-12 NKJV - "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors."**
 - Isaiah 53 is the chapter of the suffering servant, that clearly shows Jesus would suffer horrendously, but what people often forget is the next few verses, where we see that the Lord would prolong His days and be satisfied in the labor of His soul, meaning the work of salvation He'd accomplished. It also promises because Jesus gave Himself willingly to die, He'd now receive the spoils of the victory.
 - The cross was an ambush, a master trap set by Jesus. Where the demons cried triumphantly thinking they had killed God and stopped His mission, they would learn that it was the ultimate tactic, where He flipped it on them, and instead of losing, He stripped from them their rights to the world and humanity that Adam had given up. When the Epistles speak of Jesus making captive the principalities and powers and defeating them, it speaks of Jesus defeating the demons, stripping them of their powers and regions which they had after Adam sinned. At the resurrection, Jesus becomes the ultimate victor, taking back the ownership of the world and its people from Satan and his demons.

- **Hosea 6:1-2 NKJV - "Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight."**
 - Hosea was speaking to the nation of Israel, does this not fit with the resurrection? That Jesus was stricken and torn, but after three days He was raised up and lives in the Father's sight?
- **Psalm 2:7 - "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.'"**
 - This verse might not sound like a resurrection verse, until later in Acts 13:33, where Paul shows us it is exactly that.
 - **Acts 13:33 NKJV - "God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.'"**
 - Paul used this verse to prove Jesus was the Son of God, and that Jesus was the one risen from the dead, having brought life and immortality to us through His death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead.
 - But Paul quotes more verses in Acts 13 too.
- **Isaiah 55:3-5 NKJV - "Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David. Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people. Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations who do not know you shall run to you, Because of the LORD your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you."**
 - **Acts 13:34 NKJV - "And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'"**
 - Read Isaiah 55, and then see that Paul quotes it, and it is clear that Jesus is the one given as a witness to the people. The One who'd be leader and commander, who calls all nations who did not know Him, and now run to Him, because He has been glorified!
- **Psalm 16:10-11 NKJV - "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."**
 - **Acts 13:35-37 NKJV - "Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.' For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; 37 but He whom God raised up saw no corruption."**
 - Psalm 16 clearly shows the hope of resurrection life, as David prophetically declares that Jesus would not be left in the grave, or see corruption. The body takes about 3 days to truly begin to break down and stink, so Jesus rose before His body could begin decomposing.
 - In Acts 13, Paul makes clear this pointed to Jesus. David died and his body decomposed, so David was not writing about himself. This was about Jesus.

Application:

Believe and receive the fulfilled PROMISE!

Listen to how Paul finishes in Acts 13

Acts 13:38-39 NKJV - "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; 39 and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses."

- Last Saturday, I was leaving Home Depot and ran into a guy called Miguel...He thought that God was punishing him for his sins...I told him that God had already forgiven them!

- At the cross, Jesus dealt with sin. The whole world is already absolutely forgiven of all sin.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:19 NKJV - "...God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."**
- But forgiveness does not equal salvation. There is still more, the resurrection!
- Jesus wants you to have life with Him, the life full of power and grace and abundant life where you have a relationship with Him. This is SALVATION.
 - **John 17:3 NKJV - "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."**
- Salvation is to be in a relationship with God, and the only thing keeping you from that is the one single sin that still remains...unbelief. Why? Because while all the other sins are crimes against God that He can pardon, unbelief is a choice, it is an attitude. Unbelief is what led to the first sin. They didn't believe what God said, and ate of the fruit.
- Jesus Himself declared in
 - **Matthew 12:31 NKJV - "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men."**
- That blasphemy is not believing the Gospel, that Jesus died for all sin, and rose again in power offering new life in Him. So let me give you that opportunity now. Will you choose to believe in Jesus, and let Him dwell in you and bring you into the New Covenant life? He's shown you that He promised this New Covenant all the way back in Genesis, so will you believe God's promise, and respond in faith?