

I. Opening Scriptures & Review of Session 1

A. **Colossians 2:18-19 (NKJV)** – ¹⁸*Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,* ¹⁹*and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, **grows with the increase that is from God.***

1. Do not let anyone cheat you.

- a. To defraud or beguile of the prize of victory.
- b. It is possible to be cheated.
- c. Many in the Body of Christ have been cheated out of their victory, inheritance, blessing, provision, covenant benefits.

2. We are to be growing with the increase that is from God!

- a. **Increase:** an instance of growing or to make greater – to accelerate – to expand, to maximize – to amplify – to raise.
- b. **As we grow in the Increase of God, we are RAISED to a new level – new levels**

B. God's Special People – Covenant People

1. **Deuteronomy 28:1 (NKJV)** – *Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you **high above** all nations of the earth.*

2. **Exodus 19:5-6 (NKJV)** – ⁵*Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a **special treasure** to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.*

3. **1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)** – *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may*

proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

II. Covenant People

Ephesians 2:11-13 (NKJV) – ¹¹*Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—* ¹²*that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the **covenants of promise**, having no hope and without God in the world.* ¹³*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

A. There was a time that we were without Christ, foreigners to the Kingdom of God, and strangers from the covenants of promise.

B. The #1 mark of non-covenant people – *Without Hope*

1. Non-covenant people only have the hope that is available in this world system.

2. There is a limit to the hope that the world can offer.

3. God's hope is unlimited. *He offers hope in areas the world can't begin to touch.*

4. There was a day – that you and I had no hope from God.

5. Covenant – brought us into HIS HOPE – *Where I had no hope before – I am full of hope now because my covenant with God – always offers hope.*

C. We were strangers to the covenants of promise.

1. Ephesians 2:12 (NLT) – *In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know **the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.***

2. **Ephesians 2:12 (CEV)** – *At that time you did not know about Christ. You were foreigners to the people of Israel, and you had **no part in the promises God had made to them**. You were living in this world without hope and without God*

D. We are now included.

1. **Ephesians 2:19 (NLT)** – *So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.*
2. **Ephesians 3:6 (NLT)** – *And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus*

**WHATEVER PROMISES BELONGED TO THE ISRAEL IN THE FIRST COVENANT, NOW BELONG TO US.
COVENANT PROMISES ARE IMPORTANT.
A COVENANT IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE PROMISES THAT IT CONTAINS.**

E. Covenants of Promise

1. **God is a God of covenant.**
2. **Covenant Defined:** *an arrangement, a testament – last will and testament declares; an agreement – a legal and binding contract; it is a seal between two or more parties*
3. **Promises Defined:** *an announcement for information GR; a pledge – a divine assurance; TO ANNOUNCE that one is about to do or furnish something; a declaration that one WILL DO; a statement telling someone that you will definitely do something or that something will definitely happen in the future.*

A COVENANT PROMISE IS A SACRED AGREEMENT OR MUTUAL PROMISE BETWEEN GOD AND A PERSON.

- F. Being Covenant People means that God has brought us in on HIS Covenant Promises to His people.**
- 1. God's promises are not just something that comes from His mind.**
 - 2. God's promises are wrapped in himself.**
 - 3. They reveal Him, His will, His desires, His intention, HIM.**
 - 4. Examples:**
 - *Promises of healing – reveal Him as healer.*
 - *Promises of provision – reveal Him as provider.*
 - *Promises of freedom – reveal Him as deliverer.*
 - 5. When You take your COVENANT PROMISES and believe them and declare them – YOU ARE NOT JUST BRINING A PROMISE INTO YOUR CIRCUMSTANCE. YOU ARE BRINGING GOD INTO YOUR CIRCUMSTANCE.**
 - Healing promises bring God the healer on the scene.
 - Provision promises bring God the provider on the scene.
 - Strength promises – bring God as Strength.
 - Help scriptures – bring God as Helper.
 - Protection Scriptures bring God as Protector.
 - God is wrapped in His covenant promises.
 - 6. They are promises!**
 - **A promise is not a maybe.**
 - **Standing on the promises**
*Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;*

*Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.
Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God*

NOTE: WE sang about standing on the promises, but most people singing were not actually standing on the promises.

III. Covenant Promises at Work

A. Covenant promises RAISE us beyond the natural realm and INCREASE us with the increase of God.

B. Examples to Consider of Covenant Promises at work.

David

1 Samuel 17:26 (NKJV) – *Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God*

1. Uncircumcised – *Circumcision was the TOKEN/SYMBOL of Old Covenant Men.*
2. *David was saying – who is this non-covenant Philistine to defy the armies of the Living God who have been given the COVENANT PROMISES OF GOD?*
3. Although David was weaker, smaller and unskilled in battle compared to Goliath, David knew HE was in Covenant with God. He also knew that HE HAD THE PROMISES of God working on His behalf.
4. When David acted on the covenant promises of God, they not only empowered David, but they BROUGHT GOD HIMSELF INTO THE BATTLE.

5. When trouble arises, the first question we should ask is “*Who is this? Who is this? What is this – to stand against me – a covenant person – included in God’s covenant promises?*”
6. **Deuteronomy 20:1-4 (NKJV)** *Principles for going to war* – ¹“When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. ²So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and **speak to the people**. ³And he shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel: **Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them;** ⁴for the LORD your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.
 - a. Don’t be afraid because of THEM!
 - b. There is no match for you!
 - c. There is no covenant – no promises!
 - d. You have covenant – you have promises – you have God!

C. The Strength of God’s Covenant promises

Hebrews 6:13-18 (NKJV) – ¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” ¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. ¹⁷Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, **confirmed** it by an **oath**, ¹⁸that by two **immutable things**, in which it is **impossible for God to lie**, we might have **strong consolation**, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

Hebrews 6:16-19 (NLT) – ¹⁶Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. ¹⁷God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he

would never change his mind. ¹⁸So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. ¹⁹This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.

1. I have His Word – promises.
2. I have His Sworn Oath – sworn declaration that He will keep his promises.
3. It is impossible that He should lie.
4. We have GREAT CONFIDENCE.
5. This hope is the ANCHOR for our SOUL.
*The soul is where the storm gets advantage.
My soul is anchored in the covenant promises with the assurance that the OATH of God stands -sure – because it is impossible that He lie.*
 - a. I am anchored – because I am a covenant person.
 - b. I have confidence.
 - c. I have assurance.
 - d. I have hope.
 - e. I have strength.
 - f. I have divine healing, protection, deliverance.

D. It is possible to fall short of receiving the promises of God.

Just because it has been promised, doesn't insure that you automatically receive it.

We must believe the promises and confess them. This is our cooperation in the receiving process.

1. **Hebrews 4:1-3 (NLT)** – ¹**God's promise** of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to

experience it. ²For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't share the faith of those who listened to God. ³For only we who believe can enter his rest. As for the others, God said, "In my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest,'" even though this rest has been ready since he made the world.

2. How do we keep from falling short of His covenant promises?

- a. Read and Meditate on them.
- b. Be determined to believe the Word of God above any tradition.
- c. Speak the promises aloud!
- d. See yourself in the promise!

If the promise says you are healed – see yourself healed!

If the promise says your free – see yourself free!

If the promise says your blessed – see yourself blessed!

AGREE WITH THE PROMISE!

Mary – *Be it unto me according to your word! As impossible as it was for Mary to have a child as the Angel had said, she took God at His word and saw herself as being able to conceive of the Holy Spirit and bring forth Jesus.*

Meditate on Hebrews 11 and 2 Peter 1:2-4