

PROMISES, PROMISES...

God as
Promise
Giver
&
Promise
Keeper

Session 9 • The New Covenant

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- I. God's covenant faithfulness; Israel's covenant failure.
 - A. The problem is that God establishes covenant relationship and God's people fail to live faithfully—*Daniel 9:4-19; Deuteronomy 29:24b-25*.
 - All Israel has turned aside, refusing to obey: “O Lord, in view of all your righteous acts, let your anger and wrath, we pray, turn away.”
 - B. God's righteousness (*tsedequah*) includes God's duty to punish sin, in line with covenant consistency.
 - God's covenant character shows up all the more as he seeks to save the undeserving Israel.
- II. Covenant faithfulness made known in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - A. *Romans 1:1-6; Galatians 3:15-18; Romans 10:5-13; Romans 4:1-17*.
 1. The connection to Hebrew history—Moses, Abraham; the single strand running through the story.
 - B. Often the Lutheran-Christian proposal of “justification,” the article on which the church stands or falls, has carried the day.
 1. *Romans 3:21-25; Romans 4:13-16; Romans 5:1, 15-17; Galatians 2:15-21*.

2. God is going to do what God has promised.
- C. Very different from a non-historical understanding of salvation where “me and Jesus” ride off into the heavens.
1. “My” relationship with God in the covenantal unfolding is always “our” relationship with God.
 2. Very different from saying “This is what I need to do to go to heaven.” or asking “What are the qualifications for the afterlife?”
 3. Tide of hope: Israel’s God acted yet again in **Jesus**.

III. Mount Zion, Jerusalem: a dwelling place for the Lord—*Psalms 132:1-5*.

[FROM LAST WEEK’S SESSION]

- A. Uniting of the two kingdoms of Judah and Israel through David, at Jerusalem, the capital, which would house the Book of the Covenant. (Jerusalem belonged to *neither* Judah *nor* Israel.)
1. Establishing the capital city—*2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10*.
 2. The Ark of the Covenant “located” at Jerusalem—*2 Samuel 6:12-16*.
- B. God will establish—in Jerusalem, through David—the holy city, the place of revelation.
1. An everlasting covenant—*Psalms 132:11-12*.
 2. From which, like Abram in *Genesis 12:1-3*, nations shall be blessed—*Psalms 72:17-20*.
 3. God chooses David’s kingship to extend the covenant to the people with the newly established Jerusalem; Mount Zion is pivotal to the fulfillment of the covenant promise—*Psalms 48:1-3, 9-14; Psalms 50:1-2; Psalms 87:1-3; Psalms 125:1-2*.
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