

Understanding The Old Testament: Part 3

The Promise was First: Abraham & the Patriarchs

It is a common view that the New Testament is about *grace* and the Old Testament is about *rules*

Genesis 12:1-4

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

| Promises in Genesis | 12:1-4 | 17:1-8 | 22:15-19 | 26:1-15 | 28:10ff | 35:10ff | 49:8-10 |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <i>Land</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>A Great Nation</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>A Great Name</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| <i>Blessings + Curses</i> | ✓ | | | | | | |
| <i>All Nations Blessed</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |

Galatians 3:15-29

To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. 16 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. 17 This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. 18 For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. 19 Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. 20 Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. 21 Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. 22 But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

2 Corinthians 1:20

"For all the promises of God find their Yes in him [Jesus]."