



4A. THE DISPENSATION OF PROMISE: ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

- 1b. The beginning: The call of Abraham, Gen. 11:10
- 2b. The Scripture: Gen. 11:10 through Ex. 19:2, the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai (approximately 600 yrs.).
- 3b. The state of man:
 - 1c. A chosen portion of the race became recipients of wonderful and gracious promises.
 - 2c. God turned from the world to one man and his seed.
- 4b. The human responsibility:
 - 1c. Faith in the material, spiritual and social promises of God.
 God's promises were restated to Isaac: Gen. 26:1-4
 - 2c. The content of that faith is expressed in the Abrahamic Covenant.
 - 1d. The promises are national: Gen. 12:2 "a great nation"
 - 1e. A land: Gen. 12:1; 13:14, 15, 17; 15:7; 17:8; 18:21
 - 2e. Great numbers: Gen. 13:16; 15:5
 - 3e. Riches: Gen. 15:4; Ex. 12:25-36
 - 2d. The promises are personal, to Abraham:
 - 1e. He would be blessed: Gen. 12:2
 - 2e. He would have a great name: Gen. 12:2
 Abraham is honored by Jews, Christians and Mohammedans.
 - 3e. He would be a blessing: Gen. 12:3
 - 4e. He would be very fruitful: Gen. 13:16; 17:6
 - 3d. The promises are universal:
 - 1e. God would bless them that bless Abraham: Gen. 12:3
 - 2e. God would curse them that curse Abraham: Gen. 12:3
 - 3e. In Abraham would all the families of the earth be blessed: Gen. 12:3



- 4d. The promises are unconditional:
- 1e. They were given in pure grace: Gen. 12:1 (at age 75)
 - 2e. They were confirmed by a sacrifice: Gen. 15:17 (at age 95)
 - 3e. They were sealed with God's oath: Gen. 22:16-18; (at age 145)
 - 4e. They were declared to be everlasting: Gen. 17:7, 13, 19; Neh. 9:5-12; I Chron. 16:16-17; Ps. 105:3-15
- 5d. The promises are accompanied by a sign, circumcision: Gen. 17:13-14, 17, 19. Ps. 105:10

5b. Human failure:

1c. Abraham's failure:

- 1d. Delay of going to the promised land: Gen. 11:31
- 2d. Abraham becomes the father of Ishmael: Gen. 16:1-16
- 3d. Abraham goes down into Egypt: Gen. 12:10-13:1
- 4d. Abraham does not return to Egypt but gets in trouble when he comes close to Egypt: Gen. 20:1-18-- the deception concerning Sarah
- 5d. Abraham was nevertheless grateful and worshipful. He had a human responsibility:
 - 1e. He built altars at: Moreh: Gen. 12:6,7
Bethel: Gen. 12:8 cf. 13:3-4
Mamre: Gen. 13:8
Moriah: Gen. 22:9
 - 2e. His life was characterized by deep piety:



- 1f. Gen. 13:8 "I pray thee. . . let there be no strife"
 - 2f. Gen. 14:22-23 " I will not take a thread nor a shoelatchet"
 - 3f. Gen. 17:3 "Abraham fell on his face"
 - 4f. Gen. 18:2-5 "Bowed himself to the ground"
 - 5f. Gen. 18:17-19 "He commanded his children" (In Hebrews 11:8-12 four verses are devoted to Abraham and Sarah, as many as to Moses in Heb. 11:23-27)
- 2c. Isaac's failure: like his father he becomes a dweller near the Egyptian border. He is forbidden to go to Egypt, yet he lives as near as he can at Gerar (Gen. 26: 6-16 cf. 20:1-18)
- 3c. Jacob's failure:
- 1d. Unbelief in the promise made to his mother at his birth: Gen. 25:23; 28:13-15, 20).

- 2d. Jacob is guilty of lying, deceit, bargaining:
Gen. 27:1-29.
- 3d. Unbelief as to God's care and provision leads to bargaining with God in the face of the promises:
Gen. 28:13-15; 28:20-21
- 4d. The whole family moved, under the leadership of Jacob, into Egypt, despite the specific warning to Isaac against such a move.



Gen. 26: 1-5 the directive will of God--Isaac not to go to Egypt
Gen. 46:1-4 the permissive will of God--Jacob told to go
Gen. 15:12-14 the over-ruling will of God--God predicted Israel to be in Egypt 400 yrs.

4c. Israel's failure:

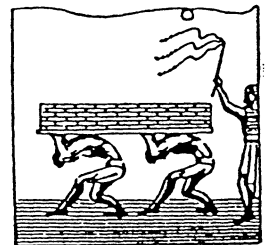
- 1d. In Egypt: her complaining, lack of faith (Ex. 2:23; 4:1,10; 5:21; 14:10-12; 15:24; etc.)
- 2d. Failure of Israel in their journeys: desire to go back to Egypt (Ex. 14:11-12)
- 3d. Israel's constant murmurings: Ex. 15:24; 16:2; Nu. 14:2; 16:11; 16:41; Josh. 9:18
- 4d. Failure at the time of the giving of the Law (Ex. 19)

Although Israel was right in pledging obedience to the Law (cf. Deut. 5:27-28) they foolishly assumed that they had the power to fulfill their pledge.

- 5d. Failure to trust the promises at Kadesh-Barnea:
Nu. 14

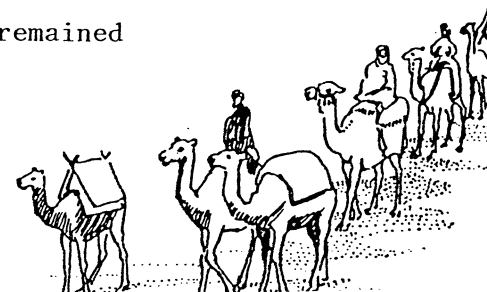
6b. Divine judgment: Bondage in Egypt

The descent into Egypt was a judgment and a punishment as well as a failure. Through it God worked out His sublime will and purpose. Sorrow and slavery and threatened extinction resulted. The experience was exceeding bitter: Ex. 1:14 ("they made their lives bitter")



7b. Divine grace:

- 1c. Though the blessings were lost, the promises remained sure.
- 2c. Israel was preserved in the furnace.
- 3c. Moses, a deliverer, was provided: Ex. 3:6-10



4c. The Passover protection was provided for the guilty:
Ex. 12

5c. God's care from Egypt to Canaan:



Egypt's bounty: Ex. 12:35-36

The Red Sea: Ex. 14

Marah: Ex. 15

Manna: Ex. 16

Amalek: Ex. 17

Borne on eagles' wing: Ex. 19:4

6c. God's power wrought deliverance to Israel (Ex. 14:15)
and death to the oppressor: (Ex. 14:28)

8b. The end of the dispensation:

1c. In one sense the dispensation of promise ends at the giving of the Law (Ex. 19), but only as testing and responsibility.

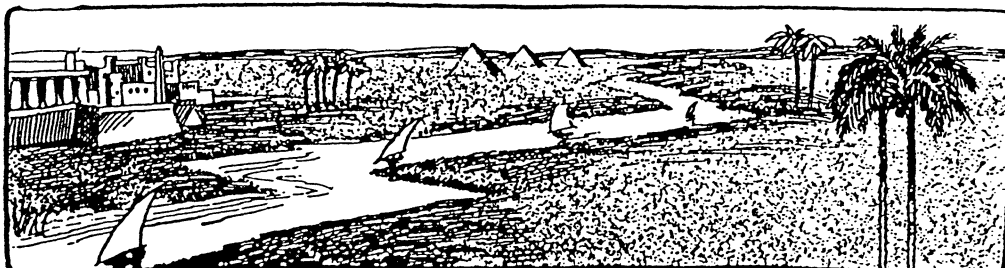
2c. In another sense the dispensation of promise continues to the end of history: its promises are still in force as an object of faith and hope. Abraham and his descendants have never possessed the land promised to them (Gen. 15:18).



ISRAELITES GATHERING THE
BREAD FROM HEAVEN, MANNA

SUMMARY:

1. The dispensation of promise established clearly the principle of divine sovereignty.
2. It provided a channel of special divine revelation through the nation of Israel.
3. It continues to provide the line of redemption and channel of blessing.
4. It revealed the grace of God and provided a witness to the world.
5. Like the other dispensations, the dispensation of promise ended in failure and the Law had to be introduced as a schoolmaster to bring men to Christ (Gal. 3:24).



THE DISPENSATION OF PROMISE



1. THE BEGINNING:
2. RELATED SCRIPTURE:
3. STATE OF MAN:
4. HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY:
5. HUMAN FAILURE:
6. DIVINE JUDGMENT:
7. DIVINE GRACE: