

## **Do the Promises of the Old Testament apply to us today?**

I have prepared this document in response to concern that in quoting Old Testament bible promises such as Isaiah 62 and Isaiah 43:1-2 in our LUV teaching, we are taking them out of context. The suggestion is that these historical promises are for the Jews only and not for us today.

I hope this outline will help bring to light any misunderstanding on the use of Old Testament promises in our teaching and remove any confusion.

Everything in this document and in our Love UnVeiled curriculum has been written in the spirit of what Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 3:5-6; *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*"

1. We know and understand that the OT promises were given to Israel to be fulfilled in a specific physical way in the OT period, or in the millennium. However, many of those promises point to a spiritual fulfilment for all God's people, in our spiritual lives now, or finally fulfilled in heaven when we see Jesus.
2. 1 Peter 1:9 tells us that the writings of the Old Testament prophets were given to us to reveal to us the Spirit of Christ and the gospel.
3. In Romans 15:4 Paul writes that whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures may have hope.
4. We believe that our learning, our comfort, and our hope are seen in the glory of God's heart and the gospel, shown in the many examples and types given to us in God's relationship with Israel, but brought to life for us today in a spiritual sense in the New Testament through the New Covenant and the coming of the Holy Spirit.
5. Romans 7 refers to this as a marriage relationship. We are no longer married to the Old Covenant law like the Jews were, but the spiritual analogy is that we are married to a new husband so to speak, to Jesus, by the Holy Spirit revelation of who He is. Romans 7:1-6.
  - a. Marriage is referred to in the Old Testament in Isaiah 61 and 62 as the marriage between God and His Bride, Zion, referring to the Jewish people.

- b. The Bride and Zion are also referred to through-out the New Testament as being the Church. Jesus is referred to as the bridegroom and we are referred to as the Bride, the Lamb's wife. So, the passage is for the Jewish people physically, but we believe as the Word tells us that the "spirit" of the passage is for all God's people in a spiritual context.
- i. Isaiah 62 is a type or example not only of the physical promise to Israel but of the future glory of all believers who will be the Bride of the Lamb, Jesus.
  - ii. John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom.
  - iii. Mark 2:19 Can friends of the bridegroom fast while bridegroom is with them?
  - iv. Matt 25 1-13 Parable of 10 virgins preparing for the bridegroom.
  - v. Ephesians 5:22-33 Marriage is based on Christ's relationship with the Church.
  - vi. 2 Corinthians 11:2 *I have betrothed you to one husband that I may present you as a pure bride to Christ.*
  - vii. Revelation 19:7 The marriage of the lamb has come, and the bride has made herself ready.
  - viii. Revelation 21:2 The New Jerusalem coming down as a bride adorned for her husband.
  - ix. Revelation 21:9 Come I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.
- c. The word **Crown** referred to in Isaiah 62 is also referred to in the New Testament for believers.
- i. There are 5 crowns referred to in the New Testament:
    1. crown of life for those who endure temptations, overcome trials and persecutions and love Jesus (James 1:12, Revelation 2:10).
    2. crown of righteousness for those who are longing for Jesus' return (2 Timothy 4:8).
    3. the crown of rejoicing for those who have had the joy of leading others to Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:19).
    4. the crown of glory awarded to faithful shepherd of God's people and willing spiritual leaders (1 Peter 5:2-4).
    5. Incorruptible or victors crown to those who have disciplined themselves in the word, in prayer, in pursuing faith in Jesus. (1 Corinthians 9:25-27).
  - ii. Crowns are mentioned in Revelation 4 where the elders (believed to be the saints wear golden crowns which they throw at Jesus feet.)
- d. The **New name** referred to in Isaiah 62 is also promised to all God's people in Revelation 2:17 and 3:12.

6. Many other Old Testament passages are also quoted in the New Testament telling us that they are promises not only for the Jewish people but for all the people of God. Jesus, the Gospel writers, Paul, the epistle writers, and Revelation all quote OT passages. Here are some examples:
- a. **Luke 4:18-21.** Jesus read from Isaiah 61 which in Luke 4 18-21 He said He came to fulfill not only for the Jews, but later for the whole world.
  - b. *Be Holy for I am Holy.* Was first written to the Jews in Leviticus 19:2 but later quoted by Peter in 1 Peter 1:16 to the church, and the process to being made Holy is referred to by Jesus in John 17:17.
  - c. *1 Corinthians 2: 9* is quoted from *Isaiah 64:4 "No Eye has seen no ear has heard"*. It was a promise for the Jewish people, but Paul is speaking it to the church.
  - d. *Matthew 15:8-9* is quoted from *Isaiah 29:13*
  - e. *Matthew 22:37-38, Mark 12:30-31* is quoted from *Deuteronomy 6:5*
  - f. Deuteronomy 31:6-8 was given to Moses and to Joshua in Joshua 1:1-9. Jesus gives us the same promise to His disciples in Matthew 28:20.
  - g. Luke 3:4-6 is quoted from Isaiah 40:3-5
  - h. Luke 8:10 is quoted from Isaiah 6:9
  - i. 1 Corinthians 8:2 is quoted to the church referring to Isaiah 28:11
  - j. 2 Corinthians 6:2 is quoted to the church referring to from Isaiah 49:8,
  - k. 2 Corinthians 6:16 is quoted to the church, referring to Leviticus 26:12, Jeremiah 32:38, Ezekiel 37:27.
  - l. 2 Corinthians 6:18 is quoted to the church referring to 2 Samuel 7:14.
7. We see the same heart, Spirit and character of God and how He wants to be known, through-out the Old and New Testament. The bible tells us He never changes, He is the same yesterday, today and forever. The desire He had for Israel as His chosen people, has been extended to us through the revelation of Jesus.
- a. 1 Peter 2:1-10 is about the Spiritual nation God is building with Jesus as the corner stone. The promises given to the church in verses 9-10, to be a chosen people, a holy nation, a special treasure, are promises given to the Jewish people in Deuteronomy 14:2, Exodus 19:5-6.
  - b. In Exodus 33:18-23 and Exodus 34:5-7, Moses asks to see God's glory and God tells Moses who He is. But Moses was not allowed to see God's face, or he would die. In 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 we read that we can freely look in God's face because His face and His glory is revealed to us in the face of Jesus 2 Corinthians 4:6.
  - c. We look in the Old Testament to see the character of God as if from a distance. We see examples of God's promises and His physical care for His chosen people the Jews, but many of those promises are fulfilled to us spiritually in the New Testament by Jesus and revealed to us by His Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-15; Paul tells us we have become one people with Israel.

<sup>11</sup>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— <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>**But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

<sup>14</sup>For He Himself is our peace, **who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation**, <sup>15</sup>having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, **so as to create in Himself one new man *from the two*, thus making peace**, <sup>16</sup>**and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby putting to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup>And **He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near**. <sup>18</sup>**For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**

8. Old Testament Promises: As we read the promises we have come to love and depend on in the Old Testament, such as Deuteronomy 31:8, Psalm 23, Psalm 139, Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 91, 2 Chronicles 20:22 do we believe they are only for the Jewish people?

Surely, we believe and hold onto these promises for ourselves not only believing they were written to the Jewish people, but that they are God's heart for all His people.

In closing, yes, we believe there are physical promises in the OT which are for the Jewish people. But we also believe, as shown here in God's word, that many of the OT promises although written to and for the Jewish people, are also for all of God's people when taken of in the context of spiritual understanding of His word by the revelation of the Spirit who gives life.

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