

Theme: A Command & A Promise

God's command and promise lead to covenant and blessing.

Vs.1

14 "will's"

18 "shall's"

We must first understand who God is before we can understand what He does.

Our understanding of who God is allows us to take part in what He does.

It is only once we know God as the I AM that we can hear Him say "I will".

"El Shaddai"
almighty, omnipotent

"Perfect"
whole, entire, sound, blameless

Philippians 2:13-15

3 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.

Vs.3

It was in the place of humility that Abram was made new.

Isaiah 57:15

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Vs.5

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

For us God's promise is future, but for El Shaddai the promise is already done.

All of God's promises are made in completion, even if our experience of them is still future.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Hebrews 11:13

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Vs.9

Only a "new made" man can be expected to respond correctly to God's covenant.

Abram's willingness to walk caused him to fall on his face in humility because Abram knew that what was being asked of him was impossible. It was in that place of humility and faith that El Shaddai stepped in and caused Abram to be "born again" into Abraham. Only the new made man was given a part to keep in God's covenant.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Vs.10-11

Man's part in God's covenant... visible but intimate.

The flesh has no part in the covenant.

The sign of God's covenant was not for the world, but for the individual.

Deuteronomy 10:16

Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.

Romans 2:28-29

28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Vs.13

The covenant is all encompassing.

No going back from God's covenant.

Colossians 2:11-12

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Vs.14

External was a reflection of the internal.

The inward keeping of God's covenant set a man apart from all other people groups of the earth.

Obedience in the unseen brought a man within God's blessing.

Vs.15

God's covenant is always in God's order.

Vs.16

A blessing for Sarah!

- unearned
- unlooked for
- undeserved
- almost unbelieved

Vs.18-21

Be careful what you ask God to bless.

Ishamel received a blessing but not the covenant.

Covenant and promise come only through the son of promise.

The covenant comes only by way of promise and never by way of the flesh.

Romans 9:6-9

6 For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. 9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.

Vs.23

Joshua 24:15

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Vs.23

No delay!

2 Corinthians 6:2

For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Galatians 5:6

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Vs.24

The covenant was shaping the life of Abraham.

We are never too old to partake in God's covenant.

Vs.26-27

Abraham took a stand in his house.

Father and son, old and young, working together to remove the flesh.

Titus 2:1-7

1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: 2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. 3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. 6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. 7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

Ending

God's Covenant...

- was based upon promise
- contained a command and a blessing
- came to a new made man
- was visible but intimate
- all encompassing
- reflected the eternal
- irreversible
- shapes a life

The flesh has no part in the covenant. The covenant comes only by way of promise and never by way of the flesh.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Galatians 5:16, 25

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ... 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

John 6:63

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.