



A BETTER WORD

FROM OLD TO NEW TO YOU

8 Themes That Run Through the Whole Bible | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

Covenants and Promises

Genesis 12:1–3; 17:7; Jeremiah 31:31–34; 2 Corinthians 1:20

THE BIG IDEA

God has always related to his people through covenants. And every promise he has ever made finds its “yes and amen” in Jesus.

SERMON SUMMARY

The Bible contains thousands of promises, but the framework God uses to relate to humanity is called a covenant. From the universal covenant (God is Lord and King of the earth) through the Edenic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic covenants, each agreement draws God nearer to his people with both blessing and a call to faith. At the heart of every covenant is one defining declaration: “I will be your God, and you will be my people.”

What makes the new covenant different is not that God changes his commitment — it is that Jesus fulfills every stipulation on our behalf. The law once written on stone is now written on hearts. Animal sacrifices have been replaced by the perfect, once-for-all offering of the Son. Every promise God made to Abraham, Moses, and David finds its ultimate “yes” in Jesus. You don’t earn your way into this covenant; you enter it through faith.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Genesis 17:1–8 contains a series of “I will” statements from God to Abraham. Why is it significant that God takes responsibility for fulfilling this covenant? What does this reveal about his character?
2. God descends on Mount Sinai in fire and smoke to give the law through Moses (Exodus 19:16–18). Why was it important for Israel — and for us — to see such holiness and power in the giving of the covenant? How does the law ultimately point toward our need for a Savior?
3. Jeremiah 31:31–34 promises a new covenant where God will write his law on hearts and forgive sin completely. How is this new covenant both continuous with and different from the covenants that came before it?
4. 2 Corinthians 1:20 says “all the promises of God find their yes in him.” Choose two or three specific promises from the covenants — such as blessing to the nations, forgiveness of sin, or God’s presence — and explain how Jesus fulfills each one.
5. Every covenant required a response of faith and obedience. In the new covenant, Jesus meets every stipulation perfectly. How might it change your motivation for obedience — from obligation to joy?

LIVING IT OUT

God has been pursuing his people across every chapter of history. Every covenant broken, every generation that turned away — and still God came looking. His covenant love is not fragile. It is not conditioned on your performance. It is secured by Jesus, who said yes to every promise on your behalf.

Heart Check: Do you tend to relate to God as someone striving to earn his favor through obligation — or as someone resting in what Jesus has already secured? What does your prayer life, your sense of guilt, or your service reveal about which posture you actually live from?

This Week: Choose one of the promises God makes to his covenant people — refuge, favor, peace, provision, blessing, rest, abundant life, renewal, wisdom, or joy — and write it on a notecard. Every time anxiety, fear, or self-sufficiency rises this week, read it aloud as a declaration of what God has secured for you in Christ.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

“All the promises of God find their yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.”

— 2 Corinthians 1:20

Thank God for the covenants that show how persistently he pursues his people. Ask him to help you stop striving to earn what Jesus has already secured — and to receive his promises with simple, trusting faith.

Your Prayer:

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