



Hos 2:19 And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. 20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROMISE OF GOD

By Diane Covher

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Bible versions used for the scripture quotes in this book: ASV, ESV, LBP, EMTV, ISV

Important Notice to the reader.

There are theological issues and ideas in this booklet that are very likely outside your belief box. It is human nature to read and evaluate information presented based upon current beliefs of what we think the truth is. This is especially true about scripture. We usually quickly skip over scripture because we think we already know what it says and means.

So, **please read the scriptures carefully** and ask God to reveal His truths about the parts you do not understand yet. If you think you understand all of scripture, then it's probably best that you don't waste your time reading any further.

The point of this book is found on the last page. If you are a truth seeker with an open heart and believe that the law was done away with at the cross, then this book is for you.

INTRODUCTION

In our walk as Christians, we talk of, claim, stand on, and hope in the promise of God. Do we really know what that is? We say we know, but do we?

In this little book I will attempt to explain what the promise is, where it started and how it includes us.

First I would like to reveal the word 'promise' in the Hebrew. The word used is – dabar. This simply means 'word' or thing. The Strong's concordance translates this word (dabar) 1446 times with about 90 different English words. In the most comprehensive form it says 'word' of God. He cannot lie; what he says He means. So even in the use of this word – promise – the New Testament is referring to that same status.

Let us plunge into the Word (dabar) of God and find our identity in Him through the Promise (dabar) of Messiah Jesus.

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*Exo 33:18 And he said, Show me, I pray thee,
thy glory.*

MY STORY

I was born into a Christian home and at the tender age of 7 gave my life to Jesus. I grew up going to church every Sunday with my family. I can't say I truly understood what it meant to be saved but I know that after I did what my dad told me to do - to ask Jesus into my heart - I felt excited and light. I continued thru the years and I know that I did think somewhat differently than other kids in school. I acquired the title "goodie two shoes" because I didn't want to do certain things they did. My standards may have been higher than theirs but mine still didn't measure up to His standard. At the age of 18 I was challenged by God about my walk with Him. He told me I didn't have the guts to follow His path. I took that challenge and began pursuing Him in a new and singular way. I still didn't understand His standard level, but my heart was all His now. I married at the age of 19 and early in our marriage, my husband, Dennie, and I became very active in church. We became youth leaders, choir members, committee members, and counselors; like I said, very active. It was at the time of our busy involvement that the charismatic movement was being felt. I was so eager to grab hold of anything the Father wanted to give, I jumped in with both feet and Dennie jumped right along with me. We became even more exuberant in our work and we started noticing people in the churches we worked with becoming hostile to some of the things we stood on. We decided, (with a push of Father), to leave the mainstream church and go full bore into following His Spirit in charismatic churches and home groups. We walked in that realm for many years. I again started feeling things were not quite right. The questions and un-restful moments made me ask again "Is there more, Father?" "I want all you have." "Show me what I lack."

It was near the height of my desire for Him that I listened to a teaching from a messianic teacher called 'The Shadow of Babylon.' Looking at it now, it is not a particularly dynamic presentation, but at the time, it gave me a clearer picture of the Kingdom of God verses the kingdom of Babylon! I fell on my face and said "Father, please take Babylon out of my life!" "I only want you and I don't care what I have to do!" At that moment, I opened wide my heart to Him to do what He saw fit. I really didn't think I HAD a lot of Babylon in me because I thought my

life was centered on Him - so much for my thinking! The path that Father showed me proved to be a true adventure. Through His Word He led me into a deeper understanding of what was His truth. Much of what I thought was His truth was really only man's thoughts and traditions.

WHO ARE WE?

Through our Christian walk we have become familiar with certain phrases or buzz words that identify who we are in the Lord. I would like to examine a few of those phrases and then look to scripture to see where they might have come from.

King's Kids, Bride of Christ, Heirs to the promise, Children of Abraham, His sheep, Fullness of the Gentiles, Saved by Grace, He died for my sins, In the new covenant, the blood of Jesus, Saints, Holy nation, Peculiar people . I guess that's a good list for now.

Okay, let's start out with an easy one. Kings' kids; where is that in scripture? I can't seem to find it. I found King of the Jews, King of Israel, King of saints, but no kids of the King. Why was this ever used in the description of who we are? Who is the King and how do we become his kids?

Bride of Christ - do we know how we became, or if we are His bride? Where did that term originate?

Heirs to the promise - how did we become heirs? What promise?

Children of Abraham - how do we get to be Abraham's children? Are we his children?

His sheep – how do we become His sheep? Why do we identify with that title? Where did that title come from?

Saints - what is a saint?

Holy nation, a peculiar people – where did this identity come from?

Fullness of the Gentiles - there's a good one. We claim to be this, but what does it mean?

Saved by Grace and He died for my sins: What is grace, why would He die for my sins or anybody's sins? What sins? What is sin?

In the new covenant and the blood of Jesus: Can anybody tell me what the new covenant is? Can anybody tell me what a covenant is? Can anybody tell me why we claim the blood of Jesus? How about why it is so important?



LET'S START AT THE VERY BEGINNING

In order to begin to understand how and why these familiar terms have become part of our identity, we must go back to where everything started. Back to the beginning of our family tree; to papa Adam and mama Eve.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and on the sixth day He created man in His own image. What kind of relationship do you think they had? The information we have been given is really very brief. Adam was created, he named the animals, was put to sleep, woman was made from his side and brought to him, the serpent deceived the woman, she ate the forbidden fruit and then Adam ate. God comes on the scene and they both get curses laid on them and so does the snake. Then they are kicked out of the garden.

Somehow I think we are not getting the total picture of what it was like to be there when things were fresh and clean; when no sin existed, when Adam walked unashamed with God in the cool of the day. If we stop and allow our thoughts to dwell on this time, we could find a much more different picture. Adam was given the intelligence to name EVERY animal that lived there. He was no Neanderthal. He had knowledge of things we can't even imagine. He most likely understood weather patterns, the growing of things, and mathematics in a realm way beyond our understanding. He knew why the constellations were up in the heavens. He knew how the sun, moon



and stars related to each other and why they do what they do, and how to read them! How long was it before he blew it? Why did he blow it? He walked with God! We may never know on this side.

We do know that when they fell, everything came apart so to speak. All the purity and loveliness was now tainted, sullied, and corrupted. A way

needed to be opened to start the journey back and re-establish that close relationship with God. So, after explaining in some detail what man and the earth would suffer under the sting of sin, God gave the hope to look for - salvation through the seed of the woman. Next He gave the sign in which this salvation had to come - **He shed blood** and made coats of the skin to cover their shame brought on by disobedience. Last, He barred the way to the Tree of Life so they could not live eternally in their sin and sent them from the beautiful garden.

As we continue the story of our ancestors, we see corruption becoming the main facet of life. It gets so bad God decides to clean up the earth and start over by handpicking the purest in animals and man. Adam had 930 years to hand down the knowledge taught to him by God and tell the story of what happened and what needed to be learned and the promise of redemption that would come to his offspring. Through scripture (*Gen. 5*) we can follow the genealogy of Adam down to Noah and the impending flood. Adam died shortly after Lamech (the father of Noah) was born. God looked on Noah and saw he was not corrupted by the depravity of the earth and Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD for he was a just man. This word, 'just', in the Hebrew language means lawful. He obeyed the ways of God that were taught to him from his fathers. It also says he was perfect. This word 'perfect' in the Hebrew means undefiled, without blemish. So, it is this reason that Noah found grace. To make this picture more clear let us look at his 100 years before the flood. In that time **not one more person** ended up on that ark! All were wicked. All had turned away from God. **Only Noah listened to God and obeyed.** So, he and his sons are chosen to carry on the plan of God; His promise of reconciliation.

Noah had three sons and only three sons; Shem, Ham, and Japheth. From these three came all of mankind to this day. But **only Shem** was chosen to continue the line to produce the promised seed. Again we see that men began to corrupt themselves. This time making gods of other men and deifying them. Making legends of them and worshipping them. (From Nimrod – the grandson of Ham - and his wife, Semiramis and son Tammuz sprung all pagan gods of the nations).

It is in this mess that God calls out Abraham – the ninth generation from Shem. He also found grace in the eyes of God. **He listened to His voice and obeyed.** He left his home and went after God. He believed God and it was counted unto him as righteousness. This word righteous is the same as ‘just’ in the Hebrew, so he, like Noah, was lawful.

*Gen 26:5 because **Abraham obeyed** my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."*

It was here with Abraham that God made the first covenant with man involving descendants as many as the dust of the earth plus land to call their own.

*Gen 13:15 **For all the land which you see, to you will I give it, and to your descendants forever.** 16 **And I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth;** so that if you can number the dust of the earth, then shall your descendants also be numbered. 17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it to you.*

This first covenant was a swearing by God Himself. Abraham had no part in it. He was asleep. By God being the sole participant in sealing (signing) this covenant, He made sure the continued path to the promised reconciliation would never be broken; for He swore by Himself.

*Gen 15:5 and he brought him outside, and said to him, Look now toward heaven and **number the stars, if you are able** to number them; and he said to him, so shall your descendants be. 6 **And Abram believed in the LORD; and it was counted to him for righteousness.** 7 And he said to him, **I am the LORD,** who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, **to give you this land to inherit it.** 8 And **Abram said, O LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?** 9 And he said to him; Take for yourself a heifer, three years old, a three year old ram, a three year old she-goat, a pigeon, and a young dove. 10 And he took to himself all these, and cut them in two, and laid each piece against another; but the birds he did not divide. 11 And when the birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 And*

when the sun was going down, **a deep sleep fell on Abram**; and, lo, fear and a great darkness fell upon him.

Gen 15:17 And it came to pass that when the sun had set and it was dark, **behold there appeared a smoking furnace and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.** **18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, to your descendants have I given this land,** from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates:

As Christians we aren't really taught about covenants, how binding and serious they are. Oh we bandy the word around as if we know what we are talking about, but do we understand the covenant God made with the earth and mankind after the flood? Do we understand that when we see a rainbow that it is a sign of that covenant from ancient times and is **still in full force** today? He is God and does not change. Every word spoken by Him of the destiny of His chosen line (seed) still stands and will continue to the reappearing of the King of Israel. With God, new covenants don't dissolve previous ones; they always build on or add to.

So after making this covenant with Abraham, He promises a son (Isaac) from Sarah that will carry on the journey to producing the multitude of seed like the stars. Sarah was barren and, as it turned out, so was Rebekah, Isaac's wife, yet both conceived as God had promised to produce the covenant line. Isaac's son, Jacob, brought forth the 12 tribes of Israel. It is interesting that Rachel (Jacob's second wife and most loved) was also barren. God opened her womb and she bore Joseph, who played a very key role in the lives of all his brothers. He preserved the entire nation of Israel by having them all, including Jacob, come down to Egypt during the severe famine. Joseph had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, by his Egyptian wife. When Jacob was about to die, he called for Joseph and his two sons to a very important meeting.

Gen 48:3 And Jacob said to Joseph, God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, **4** And he said to me, Behold, I will bless you, and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of peoples; and I will give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting

possession. **5** And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you into the land of Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

First of all, notice that Jacob names the two boys in reverse order, the youngest first and then the oldest. This is significant, as it establishes who will be considered first in line to receive the double portion of the blessing as the first born. Next, notice what he does. Jacob claims the boys to be his own sons just as Reuben and Simeon. They are no longer Joseph's; they are Jacob's and will be in the line to inherit the land just as the other sons of Jacob. He is now going to bless the boys.

Gen 48:13 Then Joseph took both of his sons, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near to him. **14** And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head; he changed the position of his hands wittingly, even though Manasseh was the first-born.

Gen 48: 18 And Joseph said to his father, Not so, my father; for this is the first-born; put your right hand upon his head. **19** But his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it; he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of peoples. **20** And he blessed them that day, saying, By you shall Israel bless, and they shall say, May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh; and thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

Here is where things begin to get interesting. The last phrase I have underlined above (multitude of peoples) is read differently in Hebrew. It says "melo ha goyeem". In English it can also read "**the fullness of the gentiles**". Sound familiar? Here the gate is opened for us, "whosoever will", to enter into the family of God. Ephraim (or House of Joseph) who was of a gentile mother, for she was Egyptian, is now a tribe of Israel and the **representative** of the goyeem (gentiles). Those who are 'gentiles' (or outside the covenant of God), now have

an opportunity to become part of His family. Try to keep this in mind as we continue.

Let us march forward in time to the Exodus at the foot of the mountain. Many of us have viewed this story only as a history of the “Jews”. However, much was again being set in place as to how God's people would be identified. God told Moses to have the people prepare themselves for three days before He would come down to meet with them. They all gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai and God gave this message to Moses to give to the people:

*Exo 19:4 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you as though you were on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, **if you will obey my voice indeed and keep my covenant, then you shall be my beloved ones above all peoples**, for all the earth is mine; 6 And you shall be to me **a kingdom and priests and an holy people**. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.*



So, here we see familiar words to us again, **kingdom and priests and an holy people**. What is going on here? The Jewish Sages say that this was a wedding betrothal. God was setting up a wedding contract - a ketubah in Hebrew. Could this possibly be labeling Israel as **His bride**? A wedding contract is a covenant between the two parties involved. What were the terms of this covenant? It was the Ten Commandments; in Hebrew this was The Ten Words or Things; Things that would show the bond between them.

*Exo 20:1 AND God spoke all **these words**, saying,*

*Exo 20:2 **I am the LORD your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

Exo 20:3 You shall have no other gods except me. **4** You shall not make for yourself any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth; **5** You shall not worship them nor serve them; for I the LORD your God am a zealous God, visiting the offenses of the fathers upon their children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me; **6** And showing mercy to thousands of generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exo 20:7 You shall not take a false oath in the name of the LORD your God; for the LORD will not declare him innocent who takes an oath in his name falsely.

Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. **9** Six days shall you labor and do all your work; **10** But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor the sojourner who dwells in your towns; **11** For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the seas, and all things that are in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and sanctified it.

Exo 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Exo 20:13 You shall not murder.

Exo 20:14 You shall not commit adultery.

Exo 20:15 You shall not steal.

Exo 20:16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Exo 20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house, you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

When the terms are set then both parties sign it.

Exo 19:8 And all the people answered together and said, **All that the LORD has spoken we will do.** And Moses returned the words of the people to the LORD.

With the above statement, the people have agreed to the terms and promises and the covenant is ready to be sealed.

Exo 24:5 **And he sent young men of the children of Israel,** who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. **6 And Moses took half of the blood,** and put it into basins; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. **7 And he took the book of the covenant and read it in the presence of the people; and they said, All that the LORD has said we will obey and do.** **8** And Moses took the blood and **sprinkled it on the people** and said, **This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you concerning all these words.**

The scene in the verses above is the cutting of the pieces or sealing of the covenant. When a covenant is made between God and His chosen there is a sign.

Exo 31:16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall **keep the sabbath** to the LORD to observe the sabbath throughout all their generations for a perpetual covenant. **17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever;**

Remember the sign with Noah and the earth:

Gen 9:12 And God said to Noah, **This is the sign of the covenant** which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: **13 I set my bow in the clouds,** and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between me and the earth.

And the sign with Abraham:

Gen 17:11 **You shall be circumcised** in the flesh of your foreskins, **and it shall be a sign of the covenant** between me and you.



ON TO THE PROMISED LAND

So now we head to the Promised Land. The children of God have crossed over the Jordan and have begun to possess the land.

Jos 18:5 And they shall divide the land into seven parts; **Judah** shall remain in their territory **on the south**, and the **house of Joseph** shall remain in their territory **on the north**.

This verse is a shadow of how the territory of the children of Israel would be viewed. The Southern portion was known under the title of the House of Judah because that was the largest tribe and the Northern portion was known under the title of Ephraim which was its largest tribe, (it was also called the House of Joseph or the House of Israel).

God wanted to govern His people by the following of the terms of His covenant, but they couldn't keep their side. Eventually they forgot the Lord. God raised up judges to deliver them from their enemies and guide His people when they cried out to Him. We can see by reading His Word and starting with this book (Judges) that the people could not seem to get Egypt or Canaan out of their system. They kept breaking their half of the covenant promise. Also, the northern portion - Ephraim - was quite the quarrelsome bunch. **They seemed to be easily offended.** The picture of one big happy family was quickly fading.

Jdg 8:1 THEN the men of Ephraim said to him (Gideon), Why have you done thus, that you never called us when you went to fight with the Midianites? **And they quarreled with him violently.**

*Jdg 12:1 THEN the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said to Jephthah, Why did you cross over to fight against the children of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? **We will burn your house** over you with fire.*

Soon the people were not satisfied with this arrangement. They wanted a king like the nations around them. The first king set over the people by God was Saul; a man who stood head and shoulders above other men in stature. However, he did not follow the commandments of God, but instead was swayed by the will of the people (fear of man instead of fear of God). God therefore rejected him and chose David, of the tribe of Judah to take his place. David was a man after God's own heart. This was also a fulfilling of the blessing spoken over Judah back in Egypt.

*Gen 49:8 **Judah, your brothers shall praise you**; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you are gone up; he stooped down, he crouched as a lion, and as a young lion; who shall rouse him up? 10 **The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet**, until the coming of the One to whom the scepter belongs, to whom the Gentiles shall look forward.*

This is the blessing that Jacob spoke over Judah in Egypt before he died. As you can see by the blessing, Judah was the chosen tribe from which **THE King and Lawgiver** (Jesus the Messiah) was to come.

Again we see the friction between Judah and Ephraim (or the house of Israel) when David is brought to Jerusalem by the people after the defeat and death of Absalom (David's rebellious son).

*2Sa 19:41 And, behold, the men of Israel came to the king and said to him, **Why have our brethren the men of Judah stolen you away** and have brought you over the Jordan and all your household and all men of Judah with you? 42 And all **the men of Judah answered** and said to the men of Israel, Because **the king is near of kin to us**; why then are you displeased*

over this matter? Have we eaten at all at the king's cost? Or has he given us any gifts? **43** And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more right in David than you; why then did you go ahead of us? We should have been the first to bring back the king. And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

You are probably wondering why I am dwelling so much on the antics of the Northern part of the Kingdom of Israel, but, as we will see, following the journey of Ephraim is important.

The final split between the South and North came after the death of King Solomon (David's son). Although he was blessed by God with great wisdom and understanding, he did not heed the words of God concerning wives and horses. Solomon had gone after foreign women and they turned his heart away from God.

Deu 17:15 you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. **16** Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.' **17** And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold. **18** "And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests.

1Ki 11:9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, **10** And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he kept not that which the LORD commanded him. **11** Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, Forasmuch as you have done this, and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes and my commandments, which I have commanded you, I will surely rend the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. **12** Nevertheless, in your days I will not do it for

David my servant's sake; but I will rend it out of the hand of your son. 13
However I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to your son for David my servant's sake and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen.

The Southern portion (Judah) stayed with Rehoboam, the son of Solomon and the Northern portion (Ephraim) followed Jeroboam, a servant of Solomon's. Jeroboam however, did wickedly before God and made golden calves for the people to sacrifice to, which would keep them from going to Jerusalem and possibly losing them to Rehoboam. He also changed God's Feast of Tabernacles in the seventh month to the eighth month to make it easier to keep them separated. He kicked out the Levite priests and made priests from among the people who were not of the sons of Levi. Throughout the duration of the Northern Kingdom, any king who did wickedly was compared to Jeroboam, who had led Israel astray **to leave the true feasts of God and set up foreign gods with their own priestly system.** Because of this continued wickedness, God sent prophets to proclaim the fate of Ephraim.

Isa 7:5 Because Aram, **Ephraim,** and the son of Romaliah have taken evil counsel against you, saying, 6 **Let us go up against Judah** and destroy it, and let us make a breach in it and set a king in the midst of it, even the son of Tabeal; 7 **Thus says the LORD God:** It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass. 8 For the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin; and after sixty-five years **Ephraim shall be broken, so that it will no longer be a people.**

Isa 28:3 The crown of the proud and of the drunkards of **Ephraim shall be trodden under foot;**

Hos 1:4 And the LORD said to him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and **I will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.** 5 And it shall come to pass on that day, **I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.** 6

And she conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, Call her name La-ethrakhmath (not beloved); for **I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel**; and I will utterly cause them to be carried away captive. **7 But I will have mercy on the house of Judah**, and I will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow nor by sword nor by battle nor by horses nor by horsemen. **8** Now when she had weaned La-ethrakhmath, she conceived again and bore a son. **9** Then the LORD said to me, Call his name La-ammi (not my people); **for you are not my people and I will not be your God.** **10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea**, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass that in the place where it was said to them, You are not my people; there it shall be said to them, You are the sons of the living God.

Hos 4:17 Ephraim is joined to idols; let him alone.

Hos 5:3 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me; for now **Ephraim has committed whoredom**, and Israel is defiled.

Hos 5:11 Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment, because **he willingly went after vain things**.

Hos 7:1 When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was revealed and the wickedness of Samaria; for **they committed falsehood in my presence**; and the thief came in, and the robber robbed men in the streets.

Hos 7:8 Ephraim has mixed himself with Gentiles; Ephraim has become as a loaf of bread which is eaten before it is baked.

Hos 7:11 Ephraim also is like a young dove **without understanding**; they have come to Egypt, they are gone to Assyria.

Hos 8:9 For they are gone up to Assyria, as **a wild ass alone by himself**; Ephraim has loved gifts.

Hos 8:11 Because Ephraim has made many altars to sin, **altars have become to him for a great sin**.

*Hos 9:3 They shall not dwell in the LORD'S land; but **Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things** in Assyria.*

The final blow to Ephraim (The house of Israel) is found in Jeremiah:

*Jer 3:6 The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah, Have you seen the thing which she who dwells in Israel has done? She has gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there **has played the harlot.***

*7 And I said after she had done all these things, Return to me, but she did not return. And her perverseness was seen by her sister Judah. 8 And she saw all Israel's evil-doings. And **because the inhabitants of Israel committed adultery, I had put her away and given a bill of divorce;** yet her perverse sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also.*

There it is. The big blow! The Northern half lost their place in the covenant. They lost their position as part of His bride. Exiled into Egypt (the world) and mixed in with the Gentiles to eat unclean things like any 'Ahab' and lose identity with Him.

All of this happened when the king of Assyria conquered the Northern half and took them away. They became scattered (Jezreel) among the other nations and became mixed in, to the losing of their identity.

So, God scattered them to all the nations, They were no longer a people, there was no longer mercy for them and God divorced them as His betrothed. **They were no longer a participant in His covenant of promise.** Judah; the Southern kingdom on the other hand still held a position, ***because of God's promise*** to David to have one of his descendants always on the throne, even though they were just as treacherous and unfaithful.

SO, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



Now that we have gotten a good picture of the history of the children of Abraham, let us read from the New Testament.

***Mat 15:24** But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*

***Rom 9:25** As he says in Hosea, "Those who are not my people I will call my people, and the one who was not loved I will call my loved one. **26** In the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called children of the living God."*

***1Pe 2:9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; and to proclaim the wonderful deeds of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

***Heb 8:7** For if the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one. **8** But God found something wrong with his people when he said, "Look! The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. **9** It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors at the time when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. Because they did not remain loyal to my covenant, I ignored them, declares the Lord. **10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. (*Jer. 31:31-40*)*

*Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.** 26 **And so all Israel shall be saved:** as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away wickedness from Jacob: 27 **For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.***

Do any phrases in these verses sound familiar? Remember Gen 48:19 when Jacob refers to Ephraim as a “multitude of peoples” (melo ha goyeem)? Do you think they knew the history of their people? Do you think they understood who Jesus was and what he did?

After Jesus rose from the grave, he spent 40 days showing his disciples all the scriptures pertaining to him and his mission. Think about it, **40 days.** All Hebrew children were taught the Old Testament from the age of three years old. They read through it every year. Still Jesus took 40 days to reveal **HIM** in it. That begs the question ---- **how much do we know?** Do we really understand what promise was given to Abraham? Do we really know what the covenant is? Do we really know what the new covenant is? Do we really know how we fit in? Or where we fit in; Or **if** we fit in?

What promise was in His Word? Let’s go back again and recap:

*Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee (the snake) and the woman, and between thy seed **and her seed; it shall bruise thy head,** and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

*Gen 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said: **'Unto thy seed will I give this land';** and he builded there an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.*

*Gen 13:15 For **all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.** 16 **And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth:** so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.*

Gen 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and **tell the stars, if thou be able to number them**: and he said unto him, **So shall thy seed be.**

Gen 15:18 In that day **the LORD made a covenant** with Abram, saying: **'Unto thy seed have I given this land,** from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates;

Gen 17:19 And God said: "Nay, but Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son; and thou shalt call his name Isaac; and **I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his seed after him.**

(Isaac)

Gen 26:3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and **I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham** thy father; *4* And **I will make thy seed to multiply** as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and **in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**;

Gen 26:24 And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said: 'I am the God of Abraham thy father. Fear not, for **I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for My servant Abraham's sake.**'

(Jacob)

Gen 28:13 And, behold, the LORD stood beside him, and said: **'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac.** The land whereon thou liest, **to thee will I give it, and to thy seed.** *14* And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. And in thee and **in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**

Act 3:25 You are the descendants of the prophets and the heirs of the covenant that God made with your ancestors when he said to Abraham, **'Through your descendant all the families of the earth will be blessed.'**

Act 7:5 And he gave him (Abraham) none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

Act 13: 23 It was from this man's descendants that God, as he promised, brought to Israel a Savior, who is Jesus.

Rom 1:2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures *3* regarding his Son, who according to the flesh was a descendant of David,

Rom 4:13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Rom 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many Gentiles, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Rom 9:6 Now it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all Israelites truly belong to Israel *7* and not all of Abraham's descendants are his true descendants. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that descendants will be named for you." *8* That is, it is not the children of natural descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as descendants.

So what do we see here? The promise is THE Seed (Jesus the Savior) to redeem all those who have faith in Him from the curse of death from disobedience (begun back in the garden), and receive the inheritance of the world. This promise is bound up in a covenant; A covenant that is strengthened with each generation from Abraham to

Isaac to Jacob to the twelve tribes and the two sons of Joseph who were adopted in. So we have the One Seed **and** the multiplied seed.

The promise has never changed. A covenant is an agreement between the parties involved in the promise. It is sealed with the shedding of blood called a “cutting of pieces”. In fact, the Hebrew word for covenant means just that! God has never failed on His side. It is man’s side that has caused all the problems.

SHALL WE EXAMINE THE COVENANT SETUP?

The Promise (of God)

(I will do this)

*Send a redeemer
through your seed
and multiply your
seed as stars and
give you the land as
inheritance forever*

The Terms

(You will do this)

*Obey My voice,
The 10 commandments
(words)
(This is the Torah –
instructions and teachings
translated as the word “law”)*

The Seal/Signing

Shedding of blood

*Walk through the
the pieces*

God has set just 10 things for us to do. Without realizing it we turned our backs on them. He asks us to obey his voice. Our ears became dull. He wants complete loyalty. We went after other “husbands”.

How did we turn our backs? We have lied, cheated, stolen, coveted, ignored His Sabbath, didn’t keep Him first in all things, murdered, fornicated, dishonored our parents; In other words broke the terms. (Have I missed any?)

How did we go after other husbands? We refused to honor **only** Him by presenting other gods before His face; by not doing His feast celebrations that were set up for us and insisting on doing manmade

traditional celebrations like Christmas (saturnalia-worship of Saturn and birthday of Tammuz), Easter (Ishtar and Tammuz spring worship), Sunday (day of the sun god (Nimrod)), Halloween (high holy day of the druids).

Our consciences have been neutralized by Jesus being painted on the front of these “golden calves”. We have clung to the familiar things that make us feel comfortable and warm inside. We have stayed with the crowd instead of searching for the truth. We have become stiff necked and rebellious against Him (just like Ephraim in scripture) and the ways He set down for us to follow.

Lev 23:2 "Speak to the Israelites and tell them, **'These are the LORD's appointed times** which you must proclaim as holy assemblies — **my appointed times:**

Here is a good place to ask: what is a Saint? The Greek word translated 'saint' that is used in the New Testament is one that is connected to the Hebrew word 'hag' in the Old Testament. This is used to identify the three feasts of God for which Israel journeyed to Jerusalem. It means to dance in a circle, to celebrate. So, to be called a Saint means to be one who celebrates the feasts of God.

As I said before, a covenant is a serious thing to God. When it rains we may look up and see a rainbow. It has not been replaced by the next covenant from God. It is still in full force. So it is with every covenant by God. He does not change. What He promises, He keeps. (*Isa 46:10*)

Eph 2:12 At that time you were without Christ, **excluded from citizenship in Israel**, and strangers to the **covenants** of promise. You had no hope and were in the world without God.

I ask you; is the law a covenant? No. A covenant is the agreement and signing of both parties to carry out their side (promise/terms). So what is the law? **The rules/terms of the Kingdom.**

Gal 3:15 Brothers, let me use an example from everyday life. Once a person's will has been ratified, no one can cancel it or add conditions to it. **16** Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his descendant. It doesn't say "descendants," referring to many, but "your descendant," referring to one person, who is Christ. **17** This is what I mean: The law that came 430 years later did not cancel the covenant previously ratified by God so as to nullify the promise. **18** For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by the promise. But it was by a promise that God so graciously gave it to Abraham. **19** Why, then, was the law given? It was added because of transgressions until the descendant came to whom the promise was given. It was put into effect through angels by means of an intermediary. **20** Now an intermediary involves more than one party, but God has acted on his own. **21** So is the law in conflict with the promises of God? Of course not! For if a law had been given that could give us life, then certainly righteousness would come through the law. **22** But the Scripture has put everything under the power of sin, so that what was promised by the faithfulness of Christ might be given to those who believe. **23** Now before this faith came, we were held in custody and carefully guarded under the law in preparation for the faith that was to be revealed. **24** And so the law was our guardian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.

The written law is the 'instructor' of how to carry out the terms of the covenant. While we read these instructions, He writes them on our hearts by His Spirit **through our faith in Him.** They become a part of our character etched in our hearts, the same as Abraham by faith believed.

Gen 26:5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

The instructions are still valid – when we sit under an instructor for our success and prosperity, we don't abandon his teaching when we graduate! In fact, as we mature, his teaching becomes all the more dear.

*Lev 18:4 **You shall follow my rules** and keep my statutes and walk in them. **I am the LORD** your God. 5 You shall **therefore keep my statutes and my rules**; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.*

The word 'law' is a poor word to use. When we hear that word, we think of restrictions on living, we think of punishment, we think "club on the head!"

The proper word is Torah. This means **instructions and teachings** of God. Is there anyone who believes we can't learn from God how to walk in His ways? Because the law (Torah) is part of the terms to receive the promise it cannot be the part that changes. What changes is the way the agreement is sealed/signed.

As with the covenant with Abraham; only God walked through the pieces of sacrificed animals to seal the promise. That way it was sure to never be broken. It would stand forever. Man was not involved.

As with the covenant with the people at Mt. Sinai; God involved the people in taking part in the cutting of the pieces or the sealing/signing, and then **wrote** the terms down on stone for them which Abraham had always followed. However, they didn't keep their promise.

*Exo 19:8 All the people answered together and said, "**All that the LORD has spoken we will do.**" And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.*

*Heb 8:7 For if the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one. 8 But **God found something wrong with his people** when he said, "Look! The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 9 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors at the time when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. **Because they did not remain loyal to my covenant, I ignored them, declares the Lord.***

Now I know some may be saying: “What about Hebrews 8:13? Okay, what about it?”

Heb 8:13 In speaking of a "new" covenant, he has made the first one obsolete, and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

If you read just that verse you can get the wrong picture. You must read it in the proper context. Let's go back to verse 8.

Heb 8:8 But **God found something wrong with his people** when he said, "Look! The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

In that context, what was becoming obsolete? Could it be the part that involved the people? The thing they couldn't keep **like their promise**? What was becoming null and void was their signature!

So, what is the new covenant?



TO SEE CLEARLY

We may need to stop here and allow the light of God's Word to clarify what the new covenant really is. Has God's promise changed for us? He promised to send THE Seed (Messiah) to

redeem His children from the curse started back in the garden. He also promised to cause the seed of faith to multiply even as the stars and the sand and the dust, and to inherit the land forever. All seems to still be in force. What about the terms? Obey My voice; follow My instructions (Torah). This hasn't been removed either. So what makes it new?

***Jer 31:31** "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, **32** not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. **33** But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

The 'new' is writing His law (terms) on our hearts. What does this mean? It means that the Spirit of His Torah (Word/law) becomes truly alive within us to do His will; not as mechanical dos and don'ts, but because we love Him. With eagerness we run to do His will; to love Him with all our heart, mind and soul and to love our neighbor as He loves us by obeying His commandments.

***Rom 7:14** For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*

***Joh 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Exo 20:6 And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

1Jn 2:3 This is how we can be sure that we have come to know him: if we continually keep his commandments. *4* The person who says, "I have come to know him," but does not continually keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. *3* For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Rev 14:12 Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Let's examine this a little more. We have no problem standing upright in the last five commandments. If we were asked - is it right to murder? Is it right to commit adultery? Is it right to steal? Is it right to lie? Is it right to covet someone else's' possessions? We would say absolutely not! If we look at the many people of the world, there are a lot of 'good' people that agree with this, but, they do not obey the voice of God. This is relying on doing the good deeds of the law for merit (I'm a good person!), but this is not by faith. By dismissing the first five commandments they have not acquired a place in the covenant, but still stand under the curse. These first five 'hang' on the words: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, mind and soul." (*Deut. 6:5*) We must do these first five along with the last five: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (*Lev. 19:18*). Or as Jesus said - as I have loved you.

Here is where we ask ourselves: Do I do the first five? Do I obey His voice? Do I keep Him first? Do I place any other gods before His face? Do I use His name honorably? Do I keep HIS Sabbath? Do I give my parents respect? This is truly showing love to Him when we strive to do these with all our heart; when we set aside our will and do His will.

*Rom 3:31 Do we, then, abolish the law by this faith? Of course not!
Instead, we uphold the law. (same Torah!)*

Rom 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. He condemned sin in the flesh 4 so that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Rom 8:7 That is why the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile toward God. For it refuses to submit to the authority of God's law because it is powerless to do so.

Gal 3:13 The Messiah hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Heb 9:15 Therefore he(Jesus) is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant

It was not the law that was taken away; it was the curse of death upon us started back in Eden and our sin for breaking the agreement (law/terms) that was removed. (see *Jas 1:12-16*)

Continuing on to the finalizing of this 'new' covenant; how was it sealed/signed? Once again Father took on the whole responsibility so it would stand firm. He came in flesh and became the sacrifice; the cutting of the pieces for both sides; by Him only.

Isa 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Joh 19:28 After this, Jesus, **knowing that all was now finished**, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." *29* A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. *30* When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "**It is finished.**" and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? *2* By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? *3* **Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?** *4* **We were buried therefore with him** by baptism into death, **in order that**, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **we too might walk in newness of life.** *5* For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. *6* We know that **our old self was crucified with him** in order **that the body of sin** might be brought to nothing, **so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.** *7* **For one who has died has been set free from sin.**

Rom 7:1 Don't you realize, brothers-for I am speaking to people who know the law-that **the law can press its claims over a person only as long as he is alive?**

1Jn 3:4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; **sin is lawlessness.** *5* You know that **he appeared to take away sins,** and in him there is no sin. *6* **No one who abides in him keeps on sinning;** no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

What is the picture of Jesus that has been revealed to us?

Joh 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word,** and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** *2* He was in the beginning with God. *3* All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. *4* In him was life, and the life was the light of men. *5* The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Joh 1:9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. *10* He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. *11* He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. *12* **But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,** *13* who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. *14* **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,** and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Heb 2:16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; **but he took on him the seed of Abraham.**

Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham were the promises spoken, and to his seed. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, **which is Christ.**

Mat 4:4 But he answering said, `It hath been written, Not upon bread alone doth man live, **but upon every WORD coming forth from the mouth of God.**'

Joh 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life.** He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Rev 3:20 Look! I am standing at the door and knocking. **If anyone listens to my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he will eat with me.**

Joh 10:14 I am the good shepherd. **I know my own and my own know me,** *15* just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. **And I lay down my life for the sheep.** *16* **I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must lead these also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock and one shepherd.** "

Joh 10:27 **My sheep hear my voice.** I know them, and they follow me. *28* **I give them eternal life,** and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. *29* What my Father has given me is greater than all

else, and no one can snatch it from the Father's hand. **30 I and the Father are one.**"

WHAT THEN DOES THE NEW COVENANT LOOK LIKE?

The promise

Send the seed – Jesus **to redeem** man from his lawless state (curse). And the whole house of believing Israel **as the stars and dust** will be gathered to Him as His bride, sheep, children and **inherit the land** and eternal life.

The terms

All who believe in Him and **obey His voice** are grafted into His family, Israel, who will have His **Torah (word) written on their hearts** (the rules of His house)- His Kingdom

The Seal/Signing

Taking on Himself all sin to wipe away the curse by **being sacrificed upon the tree**. Making it possible to **re-marry** His betrothed He had divorced.

By comparing the two bridal contracts (the covenant at Mount Sinai and the covenant at the cross), we see that the promise and terms have not changed. Only the 'material' used for the Torah (law) is different (from hearts of stone to hearts of flesh). We as **individuals** (by faith) instead of a whole nation come under the terms and the seal/signing is again put back totally in the hands of God.

Eze 36:26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And **I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.** **27** And I will put my Spirit within you, **and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**

THE TAPESTRY OF GOD

This adventure that the Father has been leading me through has only begun. Each day I discover a new treasure about Him and my identity in Him. We who have been mixed in with the world have a hard time seeing the clear way of His path.



We say “it’s either this way or that! It can’t be both physical and spiritual!” But in His way it can and **is** both! His seed is physical and His seed is spiritual. His Word is spirit and came in the flesh. His promise was given to Abraham both in the physical and in the spirit (by faith). We, His seed, inherit the land and the land is His. Jesus is God in flesh. He is the Word (Torah). He is our King. He is our Redeemer. He is the Light, the Bread of Life, the Truth, and the Way. He is the descendent of David who was promised to rule forever over the Kingdom. He is the Good Shepherd. He is the Door. He is the True Vine. He is our Rock. This is a wondrous picture. How could one fulfill this multifaceted picture **except He be God!**

The Word, the Light, the Truth and the Way:

***Psa 43:3** O send out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead me; let them bring me unto Thy holy mountain, and to Thy dwelling-places.*

Isa 42:3** A bruised reed shall he not break, and the dimly burning wick shall he not quench; he shall make the right to go forth **according to the truth.

***Psa 37:34** Wait for the LORD and **keep his way,** and **he will exalt you to inherit the land;** you will look on when the wicked are cut off.*

Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Joh 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Savior, King, Redeemer and Rock:

Isa 43:11 I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior.

Act 13:23 Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.

Isa 44:6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

Mat 27:11 Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so."

Job 19:25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

Psa 78:35 They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer.

Tit 2:14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Deu 32:3 For I will proclaim **the name of the LORD**; ascribe greatness to our God! **4** "**The Rock**, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

1Co 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the **spiritual Rock** that followed them, and **the Rock was Christ**.

The True vine, The Bread of Life and The Good Shepherd:

Isa 40:10 Behold, **the Lord GOD comes** with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. **11** **He will tend his flock like a shepherd**; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Psa 100:3 Know that **the LORD, he is God!** It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, **and the sheep of his pasture**.

Eze 34:11 "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, **I myself will search for my sheep** and will seek them out.

Mat 15:24 He answered, "**I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**"

Joh 10:2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** To him the gatekeeper opens. **The sheep hear his voice**, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and **the sheep follow him, for they know his voice**.

Joh 10:7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep**.

Joh 10:11 **I am the good shepherd**. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Isa 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and **a branch from his roots** shall bear fruit.

Jer 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a **righteous Branch**, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Joh 15:1 "**I am the true vine**, and my Father is the vinegrower.

Rom 11:16 If the first part of the dough is holy, so is the whole batch. **If the root is holy**, so are the branches. *17* Now if some of the branches have been broken off, and you, a wild olive branch, **have been grafted in their place to share the rich root of the olive tree**, *18* **do not boast** about being better than the other branches. If you boast, remember that **you do not support the root, but the root supports you**.

Deu 8:3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, **that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD**.

Joh 6:33 For **the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world**." *34* Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." *35* And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

The Bible is a masterpiece picture of who God is and who we are and our relationship to Him from the first word in Genesis to the last word in Revelations. Not one word written is without great meaning for our lives. I have put only a fraction of scripture verses in this book that illuminates the picture. We just can't comprehend the depth of His love and care for us. So many times we read without asking for understanding. He said if we would only ask He would open His word to us.

Isa 11:10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples--of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Mat 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

This is a tapestry that can only be examined as a whole. To take only a corner and look at it would distort the full glory of His message to us who are His seed.

Jesus came to fill in all the holes in our understanding by giving His Holy Spirit to open all of His Word to us if we only reach out with both hands wide open and a heart willing to learn.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined the things that God has prepared for those who love him." *10* But God has revealed those things to us by his Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the deep things of God.

Psa 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

The sign for us:

Luk 2:34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall or rise. He will be a sign that will be disputed, *35* so that the inner thoughts of many people might be revealed. Indeed, a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

We need to let go of our own thoughts and ideas and read the words of our God and King with new openness and understanding. What a wonderful adventure awaits us who believe and trust Him.

Rev 18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, **"Come out of her, my people, so that you don't participate in her sins and suffer from her plagues.** *5* For her sins are piled as high as heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

Rev 19:11 Then I saw heaven standing open, and there was a white horse! Its rider **is named Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges** and wages war. *12* His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many royal crowns. He has a name written on him that nobody knows except himself. *13* He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, **and his name is called the Word of God.**

Rev 19:9 Then the angel said to me, "Write this: **'How blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the lamb!'**" He also told me, "These are the true words of God."

Rev 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." **14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, so that their right shall be to the tree of life, and they may enter by the gates into the city.**

Jer 33:11 the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, **the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride,** the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD: "'Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for **his steadfast love endures forever!**' **For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the LORD.**

Rev 22:16 I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify these things to you for the churches. **I am the Root and the Stock of David, the Bright and Morning Star.**" *17* And **the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"** And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. The one who desires, let him take the water of life freely.

A FINAL



THOUGHT

We must try to understand Gods' plan. If we see how we fit in with Ephraim as the gentiles becoming part of God's people, then we will understand we have not replaced the Jews (Judah) but have become co-heirs with them in the inheritance of what God set up at the very beginning.

***Eze 47:21** "So you shall divide this land among you according to the tribes of Israel. **22** You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the sojourners who reside among you and have had children among you. They shall be to you as native-born children of Israel. With you they shall be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. **23** In whatever tribe the sojourner resides, there you shall assign him his inheritance, declares the Lord GOD.*

***Isa 8:14** And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*

***Hos 6:4** What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away.*

How did the house of Judah stumble? By not receiving and believing Jesus as the Messiah from God and their redeemer promised of old.

Rom 11:11 So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.

The Israel mentioned here is Judah. When the Northern Kingdom was scattered and lost, the title 'Israel' was used for those remaining who were identified as Judah (Jews), for they are still part of the whole house of Israel.

How did the house of Israel (Ephraim) stumble? By rejecting GOD's ways and failing to see that Jesus, the Word in flesh is the Torah (law) of God and there for them to follow as part of His covenant.

Hos 8:11 Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin. *12* I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.

Hos 11:3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them.

Hos 14:8 O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit.

We cannot accept Jesus and reject the law (Word) for they are one and the same. We cannot diminish the role of the Father and lift up the Son for they are one. That which the Father has established, the Son upholds.

***Mat 5:17** "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I didn't come to destroy them, but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not one letter or one stroke of a letter will disappear from the Law until everything has been accomplished. 19 So whoever sets aside one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

Are you willing to keep our end of the bargain and re-study God's commandments, instructions and teachings to learn how they apply in our lives today?

Jesus said "If you love me keep my commandments".