

OT Theme: Promises Made (our need for them, our God who made them/keeps them)

- **Genesis**
 - God reveals his character through the world he has created.
 - God's people, in God's place, under his rule, being a blessing to the nations
- **Exodus**
 - God introduces himself to the broader world as the God of the Israelites... and as the all-powerful one at that.
 - God is establishing the covenant terms to direct His people how to live in fellowship with Him since he will now dwell with them (the law)
- **Leviticus**
 - God is holy, therefore his people must also be holy
 - Offerings, the establishment of the priesthood, the holiness code (then/now), day of atonement
 - Feel the weight of their sin... the beauty of the sacrifice given in the Gospels and discussed in Hebrews
- **Numbers**
 - Past promises will prevail in spite of present problems
 - God preparing his people
 - God punishing his people (preserves his promises)
 - God's patience with his people
- **Deuteronomy**
 - Second-giving of the law
 - 1400 BC... stopping on the edge of the promised land to listen to a sermon
 - Moral Laws, Civil Laws, ceremonial laws
 - Covenant Renewal
- **Joshua**
 - Trusting a faithful savior to lead God's people to land and rest
 - They enter, take and divide the promised land. Then they accomplish promised rest
- **Judges**
 - Requiring a perfect savior to maintain this land and rest
 - Cycle of rebellion, suffering, crying out to God, God raising up a savior to rescue them from their enemies
 - Punishment that leads to repentance
- **Ruth**
 - Does God still care?
 - God is our "kinsman-redeemer" who perfectly cares for us in the midst of our trials
 - God sovereignly orchestrates all things - even trials - for the good of his people, who he will one day redeem through the perfect rule of the kinsman king.
- **Samuel**

- God rules his people through the king who is a representative of the people whose actions will bring either God's blessing or punishment
- **Job**
 - Understanding how we can trust a good and sovereign God in the midst of unexplained suffering
 - God is completely sovereign over all the affairs of his universe, for his own glory. Often, his motives, reasons, and goals are not revealed to us. We find in his character and in our Redeemer, reason to trust in his care.
 - We often suffer, we only sometimes understand, we can always trust
- **Psalms**
 - The prayer and praise book of God's people
 - 150 psalms, in 5 books, each ending with a doxology
- **Proverbs**
 - Wisdom is fearing the Lord, being teachable, and having skill in godly living
 - The source, the means, and the goal of wisdom is the Lord
- **Ecclesiastes**
 - In the midst of a life that is completely pointless and vain due to us racing towards death... we see that
 - Life is Meaningful because all is ordained by an eternal, sovereign, and purposeful God.
 - This gives us reason to fear God and rejoice in what He has given us to do and to have.
- **Song of Songs**
 - God has created a beautiful intimacy to be shared between a man and a woman
 - It is this closeness of relationship that God uses to illustrate his relationship with his chosen bride (the church, his people)
 - Satan works hard to destroy and pervert that which God has created (we should not be ashamed of who we are and what he has created us to be)
- **Kings**
 - Trying various means of human leadership to "fix" the sin problem
 - God → people
 - God → King (covenant representative) → people
 - Blessed, glorifying God, but needing mercy
 - Prophets inserted between God and the King
- **Isaiah**
 - Introduction to prophecy (foretelling and forthtelling)
 - Know the structure, look for recurrent/sweeping themes, Consider the NT interpretation
 - Jesus as the promised messiah, as the holy one, the promised redeemer, the suffering servant, the conqueror
- **Hosea**
 - Hosea's strange love story (unfaithful wife)
 - We are the wife...

- Sin, repentance, restoration
- **Joel**
 - Call to lament, call to repent, Promise of salvation, Promise of Justice, promise of restoration,
 - Punishment described *positively* - used to draw his people back to him.
- **Amos**
 - Focused on northern Kingdom, God is angry because his people are getting rich by oppressing their own kinsmen, and despising righteousness and His word
 - God judges the nations, God judges his people
 - With justice and certainty
 - With mercy
- **Obadiah**
 - Entirely focused on the nation of Edom
 - God will judge those who arrogantly mistreat his people
 - Coming destruction for oppressing God's people which results in the establishment of God's kingdom.
- **Micah**
 - God will judge all people, yet he will save a remnant through a future king
 - God wants wrongs to be rebuked, his people to be restored, and his character to be known
- **Jonah**
 - It was Jonah's knowledge of God's character that caused him to want to avoid going to Ninevah... "But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry, and prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to
 - anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." (chapter 4)
- **Nahum**
 - 100 years later... Assyria is threatening Judah... a picture of God's protection of his people.
 - God will protect his people, his threatened judgment, vision of Nineveh's demise
- **Habakkuk**
 - God is sovereign over the acts of the wicked... even in their wickedness they serve God's purpose.
 - Yet, they are still responsible for their actions and will be judged by God in his time.
 - God's people should wait patiently for his work.
 - How long, until God judges through a wicked nation, ???, be patient and trust
- **Zephaniah**
 - Prophesied just before Habakkuk... of the impending fall of Judah to Babylon
 - Sin has consequences... God will judge and it will be terrible

- Even in the midst of this, God will create a remnant for himself.
- **Jeremiah**
 - You can't do it on your own... you *can't* do right... it is only God who can work in and through you (via a new heart) to be holy.
 - Pointing to the new covenant
- **Lamentations**
 - We are mourning because of God's punishment (even though we know we deserve it)
 - We need God to change our hearts and to comfort us
 - The city's sin, the judge's wrath, the compassion of God
- **Ezekiel**
 - Spans a 20-year period telling of the upcoming invasion, and then hope of mercy and restoration.
 - "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes" (36:22-23)
- **Daniel**
 - God has humbled even the great king, Nebuchadnezzar, conqueror of Judah
 - The Most High, the God of Daniel, sovereignly rules and reigns supreme over all mankind. Therefore, his people are brave in the face of persecution
- **Chronicles**
 - Remind the people that the covenant was still valid
 - Point them to what the true king would be like
- **Ezra/Nehemiah**
 - God is renewing the covenant by restoring his people, the temple, true worship, and Jerusalem.
 - This, however, is not the end... it doesn't fulfill all the great prophecies
 - There is still a looking forward to in the future...
- **Esther**
 - God protects his people, even if we can't see how he is working
 - God will judge
 - God works through circumstances
 - God will save his people
- **Haggai**
 - God is turning the hearts of his people to seek His glory and to please Him in rebuilding His temple.
- **Zechariah**
 - God has restored the old ways to prefigure and point to new ways in the future: the grand restoration from spiritual exile by the coming Messiah
 - The unification of the king and priest roles into that of the Messiah

- **Malachi**

- preached against religious apathy 100 years after they had gotten things back on track... the last OT prophet
- They were “mailing it in”... doing only the minimal socially-acceptable bit
- We see God’s incredible patience

Silence...