

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes
Second Quarter 2021: *The Promise: God's Everlasting Covenant*
Lesson 5 "Children of the Promise"

Read for this week's study

Genesis 15:1–3; Isaiah 25:8; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 22:1–5; 1 Peter 2:9; Genesis 11:4; Genesis 12:2.

Memory Text

"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. Thy Shield
- III. The Messiah Promise: Part 1
- IV. The Messiah Promise: Part 2
- V. A Great and Mighty Nation
- VI. "Make Your Name Great"
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. Read Genesis 15:1-3. Why did the Lord refer to himself as Abram's shield in this circumstance? What was it that Abram had to fear? What was Abram's major concern at this point in time? What would it mean today that God is our shield? Will he keep us from untimely death? Protect us from illness? What exactly does God promise to shield us from? (Sunday's Lesson)
2. Read Genesis 28:14. How were "all the families of the earth" to be blessed through Abraham? What exactly would that have meant to him? What was the point of repeating this promise to Jacob? How did Paul see this promise being fulfilled in his day? Would you agree with the author of the lesson that of all the promises God made to Abraham, this was the most important? (Monday's Lesson)
3. The lesson author invites us to read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 and Revelation 3:12 in light of the following quotation: "To enjoy true happiness we must travel into a very far country, and even out of ourselves" (Thomas Browne). First of all, do you agree

or disagree with the statement? Second of all, what does the statement have to do with the two Bible texts recommended? (Tuesday's Lesson)

4. Read Genesis 18:17-19. Why did the Lord want to make a special nation out of Abraham's seed? Did God know ahead that Israel would fail in that mission, and if so, why did he move forward with this project? Read Exodus 19:5-6, Isaiah 60:1-3, and Deuteronomy 4:6-8. What purpose was the nation of Israel designed by God to fulfill? Read 1 Peter 2:9. Can you see any parallels between what the Lord wanted to do through Israel and what he wants to do through Christ and the church? (Wednesday's Lesson)
5. Read Genesis 12:2. God promises to make Abraham's name great. What does that mean? Why would the Lord want to do that for any human being, whether saint or sinner? Read Romans 4:1-5 and James 2:21-24. What did Abraham do to deserve a great name? Was that great name for Abraham's own benefit or did God intend something more by that? Compare Genesis 11:4 with Genesis 12:2. In what ways does one represent salvation by works and the other salvation by faith? (Thursday's Lesson)
6. What does Hebrews 11:9-19 add to the Abraham story? When the Bible puts forth Abraham as a model of faith, what exactly does it mean by faith? How much of what God promised to Abraham did he actually get to see and experience in the course of his lifetime? (Friday's Lesson)
7. To what degree do the promises of a new heaven and a new earth impact us the way the Abrahamic promises impacted him and his descendants? Read Matthew 5:5, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, Revelation 21:9 and 22:17. (Friday's Lesson)

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

By the way, when he says here, "He'll keep me safe until his heavenly reign begins," what did he have in mind? He seemed to understand that the time for his execution was near. How would you understand that? When we're about to take a long trip in the car, sometimes we offer prayer for a safe journey. They say most people die in accidents within twenty-five miles of home, but we usually don't pray when we go to the store. We pray on a long trip, which raises an interesting question there.

But let's say you're on the way to camp meeting, and you pray for a safe journey, and it's happened more than once, a mishap, and the family is wiped out. Then what was the use of praying? Were they not kept safe? Does God guarantee to safely deliver us to every destination, when he says he'll keep us safe? Paul says, "I know he'll keep me safe," and yet he was looking forward to the day of his execution. Doesn't he elsewhere mention that? So what does it really mean, 'to be safe'? You know, as we understand it, if you die in an automobile accident, you'll awaken the next moment of consciousness, hopefully in the right resurrection.

Would you have any complaints? Isn't it that we want to safely arrive in the right place, in the long run?

So I'm impressed that Paul would say, "He can keep me safe until his heavenly reign begins." And yet he wasn't afraid to die, at all, was he? In fact, he said, "I'd almost like to die and be with the Lord," you remember, earlier on. So we shouldn't interpret 'keep safe' maybe, in such a limited way, because then we feel the Lord has let us down when we have an accident. Or maybe there was someone in the car whose heart wasn't in it when the prayer was offered. Or someone forgot to end it in the right way, or some little thing like that, which we know can hardly be true. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Picture of God in all 66 – 1&2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon recorded May 1982, Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

<http://pkp.cc/71MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/72MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

Further Study with Ellen White

The heavenly intelligences, angels that excel in strength, are waiting, obedient to His command, to unite with human agencies; and the Lord will interpose when matters have come to such a pass that none but a divine power can counteract the satanic agencies at work. When His people shall be in the greatest danger, seemingly unable to stand against the power of Satan, God will work in their behalf. Man's extremity is God's opportunity. {2SM 373.1}

Every weak, doubting, struggling soul who yields fully to the Lord is placed in direct touch with agencies that enable him to overcome. Heaven is near to him, and he has the support and help of angels of mercy in every time of trial and need. {AA 299.1}

But though the conflict is a ceaseless one, none are left to struggle alone. Angels help and protect those who walk humbly before God. Never will our Lord betray one who trusts in Him. As His children draw near to Him for protection from evil, in pity and love He lifts up for them a standard against the enemy. Touch them not, He says; for they are Mine. I have graven them upon the palms of My hands. {PK 570.4}

If in our ignorance we make missteps, the Saviour does not forsake us. We need never feel that we are alone. Angels are our companions. The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us. In the way that leads to the City of God there are no difficulties which those who trust in Him may not overcome. There are no dangers which they may not escape. There is not a sorrow, not a grievance, not a human weakness, for which He has not provided a remedy. {MH 249.1}

The rainbow of promise encircling the throne on high is an everlasting testimony that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should

not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. It testifies to the universe that God will never forsake His children in the struggle with evil. It is an assurance to us of strength and protection as long as the throne itself shall endure. {MH 94.4}

The omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit is the defense of every contrite soul. No one who in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy’s power. It is true that Satan is a powerful being; but, thank God, we have a mighty Saviour, who cast out the evil one from heaven. {MH 94.3}

Jesus had begun to break down the partition wall between Jew and Gentile, and to preach salvation to the world. Though He was a Jew, He mingled freely with the Samaritans, setting at nought the Pharisaic customs of His nation. In face of their prejudices He accepted the hospitality of this despised people. He slept under their roofs, ate with them at their tables,—partaking of the food prepared and served by their hands,—taught in their streets, and treated them with the utmost kindness and courtesy. {DA 193.2}

All men are of one family by creation, and all are one through redemption. Christ came to demolish every wall of partition, ... that every soul may have free access to God. His love is so broad, so deep, so full, that it penetrates everywhere. {TMK 99.5}

The blessings of salvation are for every soul. Nothing but his own choice can prevent any man from becoming a partaker of the promise in Christ by the gospel. {DA 403.2}

The plan of redemption is not merely a way of escape from the penalty of transgression, but through it the sinner is forgiven his sins, and will be finally received into heaven—not as a forgiven culprit pardoned and released from captivity, yet looked upon with suspicion and not admitted to friendship and trust; but welcomed as a child, and taken back into fullest confidence. {7BC 950.6}

Christ brings all true believers into complete oneness with Himself, even the oneness which exists between Him and His Father. The true children of God are bound up with one another and with their Saviour. They are one with Christ in God. {SD 293.5}

God regards us as His children. He has redeemed us out of the careless world and has chosen us to become members of the royal family, sons and daughters of the heavenly King. He invites us to trust in Him with a trust deeper and stronger than that of a child in his earthly father. Parents love their children, but the love of God is larger, broader, deeper, than human love can possibly be. It is immeasurable. Then if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more shall our Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? {COL 142.1}

The living righteous are changed “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.” At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to

meet their Lord in the air. Angels “gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers’ arms. Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the City of God. {GC 645.1}

There immortal minds will study with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There is no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body. {SR 432.2}

God takes men as they are, and educates them for His service, if they will yield themselves to Him. The Spirit of God, received into the soul, quickens all its faculties. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the mind that is devoted unreservedly to God, develops harmoniously, and is strengthened to comprehend and fulfil the requirements of God. The weak, vacillating character becomes changed to one of strength and steadfastness. Continual devotion establishes so close a relation between Jesus and His disciples that the Christian becomes like his Master in character. He has clearer, broader views. His discernment is more penetrative, his judgment better balanced. So quickened is he by the life-giving power of the Sun of Righteousness that he is enabled to bear much fruit to the glory of God. {SD 33.5}

God did not design that His people should build up a wall of partition between themselves and their fellow men. The heart of Infinite Love was reaching out toward all the inhabitants of the earth. Though they had rejected Him, He was constantly seeking to reveal Himself to them and make them partakers of His love and grace. His blessing was granted to the chosen people, that they might bless others. {PP 368.1}

Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power. {DA 347.1}

And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. {AH 548.2}