GOD'S COVENANTS DAVIDIC COVENANT

There is nothing in the world quite like a promise.

When I make you a promise I reach into your *unpredictable* future, and make at least one thing in your life *predictable*. It's a known in the unknown.

It's an island of sureness in a sea of uncertainty.

And this is a truly wonderful gift and treasure. Think of a promise as an investment in a person's future.

And the fact that God has made specific promises to His people is one of the wonders of His grace.

We call His special promises "covenants."

God wants to fellowship with people. Even after we rebel against Him, He's still prone to make promises and reestablish terms for relationship. Amazingly, God interjects His promises when we least deserve them.

Survey history and you discover that on the heels of humanity's greatest failures God has countered with a covenant... When the first man lost paradise... After a perverted world was cleansed... When God broke up the rebellion at the tower of Babel... Even when God's own people, Israel, failed to enter the Promised Land...

Every time it seemed we were determined to snuff out the light on our own future, God stepped in and relit a candle. He struck a new deal. He instituted another covenant to revive our hopes of a better life.

The Bible is the story of how God keeps reaching into a future we keep trying to make bleak.

He created us by breathing into Adam's nostrils the breath of life - and despite our sin against Him - God is recreating in us something better than before by breathing His promises into our future. The Bible is all about the covenant promises God has made to man.

We normally divide the Bible into two sections - Old Testament and New Testament. Did you know the word "testament" is an old English term for "covenant?" It's actually the "Old Covenant" and "New Covenant."

Think of a "Last Will and Testament." My testament is an agreement between me and my heirs. No one can ignore my will and just do as they please.

A testament sets out my terms and conditions for the disbursement of my wealth. And this is what God does with His covenants. God desires to disburse His grace, and His covenants lay out His terms of doing so.

Your Bible's *Table of Contents* is divided into **two** covenants, but God has actually instituted **seven** different covenants with mankind... We've discussed the Edenic, Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, and Mosaic...

The last of the covenants is the deal Jesus strikes on the cross: the New Covenant. But the bridge between Moses and Jesus is the Davidic Covenant. Which is this week's topic in our "Shortcut College" series.

Remember the last two covenants we discussed...

After mankind's revolt at the Tower of Babel, God chose one man named Abram. His plan of redemption became *a family business* - call it "Abraham and Sons."

God promised to Abraham and his heirs a parcel of real estate - a great nation - and a descendent through whom the world would be blessed. Here's the Abrahamic Covenant in a nutshell: the land of Canaan, the nation of Israel, and the blessing which was ultimately Jesus... or sod, seed, and salvation.

And like any Last Will and Testament, God clarified who would inherit this vital covenant. Rather than his surrogate son, Ishmael, the covenant passed from Abraham to his natural born son, Isaac; then to his son Jacob or Israel; then to his twelve sons. God brought salvation into the world through the 12 tribes of Israel.

This is why God protected the children of Israel, and put a hedge around them. Either their *annihilation* OR *assimilation* would've thwarted God's plan for them.

God's strategy was for Abraham's family to stand out among the nations - to walk in His ways, and reflect His glory - so He brought them to His holy mountain, Mount Sinai, to establish a covenant through Moses...

It too, consisted of three promises: Law, sacrifice, and a list of blessings and curses... Here's how it worked... An obedient Israel would overflow with God's blessing. A disobedient nation would suffer from His curse. But either way God would be glorified!

By *blessing* or by *cursing* the world would recognize that the Almighty God was dictating Israel's destiny.

Yet sadly, over Israel's history the people experienced far more cursing than they did blessing...

They refused to adhere to God's Law, and at times followed after other gods. Rather than trust in Yahweh, they sought for a king like their neighboring nations. They wanted to follow a human leader they could see.

Their first king, Saul, looked the part, but lacked the heart. Saul was rejected by God, and God chose a king - "a man after His own heart" - a shepherd boy named "David." But what a man he became!

David was a flawed man, but he was a man full of faith. He was a warrior and a worshipper - and into both arenas he brought an intense passion for God.

During the reigns of David, and his son, Solomon, Israel experienced a golden age of God's blessing.

For the first time - and last time, I might add - Israel expanded to fill most of the borders God had promised.

One day, King David was strolling along the portico of his palace, surveying the Jerusalem skyline, and he noted an inconsistency. The king conducted affairs of state in a palatial mansion, while the worship of God was carried out in a rustic tent. It just wasn't right!

David understood that God overflows the heavens, but his home on Earth, His Temple, wasn't consistent with His glory. At the time, the Tabernacle, was just a tent. It consisted of animal pelts laid over bronze poles. The gods of other nations had magnificent Temples dedicated in their honor... why not the God of Israel?

When foreign ambassadors visited Jerusalem - the holy city of God - they saw the king in a palace, but God in a tent? It was an insult to the Almighty!

David wanted to build God a Temple. But when he asked for permission David was refused. God was tougher on him than *Gwinnett County Planning*. David was *the king*, yet God denied him a building permit!

David went on to purchase the property for the Temple, and quarry the stone, and cut the cedar, and gather the gold, and recruit the artisans... God let David make all the logistical preparations, but it would be up to his son, Solomon, to build for God a Temple...

Yet in response to David's noble desire to build Him a house, God did blessed David with a covenant!

He promised to build David a house!

Not a literal house, but a political house - a dynasty of David's descendants would rule over God's people.

Saul's son tried to succeed his father, but failed...

Yet beginning with the nation's second king, David, the kingdom of Israel became a *patriarchal monarchy*. A son of David will sit on his father's throne forever.

When we speak of today's British monarchy, we call it "The House of Windsor." Well from Solomon onward Israel was to be ruled over by "The House of David."

In 2 Samuel 7 God delivers to Nathan the Prophet, a message for King David. God's promise begins in verse 10, "Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies." God reaffirmed to David the *land promise* He had made to the family of Abraham.

Numerous times throughout history Israel has been uprooted from her location on the Fertile Crescent. Yet ultimately, God will plant Israel in the land, and give her peace from her enemies. *And David's son will rule.*

It reminds me of a cartoon. *An American Indian* is in a powwow with *a modern Israeli official*. The Indian chief confesses, "Quite frankly, in our case the land-for-peace deal didn't work out too well..." Sadly, over and over throughout history, Native Americans swapped their land for the promise of peace, and got neither.

Israel needs to learn, swapping land for peace doesn't work. God promised "Abraham and sons" both land and peace. The land of Canaan is not for Israel to vacate. The Bible teaches all the Earth belongs to God. He allocates parcels to whoever He pleases.

God is sovereign over the nations. Thus, the land once called "Canaan" - later known as "Judea and Samaria" - today called "Israel" - is God's gift to David!

But in 2 Samuel 7 Nathan continues with an amazing promise. David wanted to build God a house, *instead*, "The Lord tells you that He will make you a house."

When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." A seed from David's own body - that is, a flesh and blood heir, a natural born son, will reign over Israel and build God a Temple.

And this "son of David" will have a special relationship with God, verse 14, "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you." God stripped the kingdom from Saul and gave it to another, *but not so with David's heir.* God will chasten him when needed, but He won't reject him.

The immediate fulfillment of this promise was David's son, Solomon. When David died, Solomon assumed the throne of Israel. And he built God a glorious Temple. God made Israel great among all the nations.

Solomon was passing out red MIGA hats. (laugh)

But it didn't take long before the House of David needed the correction God promised in the covenant.

Toward the end of his life Solomon strayed from the will of God. He multiplied foreign wives: 700 wives and 300 concubines. How does the wisest man on Earth end up with

1000 mother-in-laws? I'll never know! But his pagan wives led the king and Israel into idolatry.

And according to the covenant God made with David, God disciplined David's house. In fact, the next 500 years of history saw a series of divine spankings.

When the kings of Israel and Judah strayed from God's Law, God would raise up foreign armies to oppress His people... When those kings obeyed God, He would blessed them with peace and prosperity.

It was the blessings and curses in action.

God promised David that His sons would be *disciplined*, but never *deserted*. And 2 Samuel 7:16 seals the deal, "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." What a colossal promise!

This covenant transcended Solomon and the 400 year monarchy that followed. God looked down the halls of history, and made a promise to David that he would never be without an heir to sit on his throne.

Apparently, God's promise to Solomon, like so many biblical prophecies had a dual-fulfillment. God said of David's heir, "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

Immediately, Solomon did build a house for God's name - the Temple. But Solomon's throne wasn't forever. In 586 BC, the Davidic Dynasty came to a halt.

The Babylonian army sacked Jerusalem, and destroyed the Temple. They took David's heir at the time, Zedekiah, into exile. He died a prisoner in Babel.

When this happened, the rabbis of Israel reevaluated the covenant God made with David. They now saw in the covenant a future fulfillment - that of the lineage of David a still future king would arise who'll reign forever.

They realized that like many of the OT prophecies, the Davidic Covenant was a dual-prophecy.

Its immediate, partial fulfillment was Solomon, and his successors - but the covenant's quintessential, ultimate realization was a future and eternal King.

Whenever a new king took the throne in Israel he was anointed with olive oil. A ram's horn brimming with oil was poured over his head. The oil was a symbol of God's Spirit, which the King needed to govern wisely.

All Hebrew kings were called, "The Anointed One."

But in light of the Davidic Covenant this term took on a special meaning. The Hebrew word "Messiah," and its Greek translation "Christ," both mean "Anointed One." These terms became titles for the eternal son of David who would sit on his father's forever throne.

This was the answer to the Davidic Covenant!

And the implications are astonishing - since Messiah, God's ultimate, eternal King, is David's heir and sits on David's throne - and since David's throne is the throne of Israel - that means Israel will one day rule the world.

The tiny country of Israel is destined to govern the entire world. And this is just like God... He chooses the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and the weak things of the world to confuse the mighty.

If God were concerned with earthly criteria Messiah would be a United States President, or the Leader of the EU, or Secretary-General of the United Nations...

But God picks an often besieged nation with a slim population for world domination. Amazingly, Messiah will sit on David's throne and rule the world from Israel.

And God recognizes the irony of His choices, that's why He went to great effort to track His promise through all the various covenants we've studied...

As far back as the Garden of Eden, God promised a "Seed" who would be our Savior. Genesis 3:15, "The seed of the woman" would crush the serpent's head.

Eve would bear a son who would destroy the authority of Satan. But Eve was "the mother of all living." She sired many sons. So God narrowed down the lineage of the Savior to a man named **Abraham**.

In Genesis 22:18 God promised him a "Seed." "In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed..." And from Abraham God continued to track the Seed...

Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, and to further designate the identity of the Seed, God said of the natural born son, Issac, in Genesis 15:4, "but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."

Yet Isaac had two sons, Esau and **Jacob**. A colossal case of sibling rivalry erupted over the Abrahamic covenant. Twice Jacob swindled the birthright from Esau, yet in the end father, Isaac, let the designation stand. Jacob would carry on as the promised Seed.

But Jacob, who was later renamed "Israel," had twelve sons or tribes, so which of these sons would sire the "Seed" who would become the Savior?

And again God narrowed down the choice - to one of the 12 tribes. He chose "Judah" as the royal lineage.

Father Israel said of Judah, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to Him shall be the obedience of the people." The "Scepter" was a symbol of sovereignty. And "Shiloh" was a nickname for the Messiah. Both were seeded in the lineage of Judah.

But the tribe of Judah had many families. That's why Isaiah 11:1 predicted, "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of **Jesse**, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him..." Or literally, He shall be the *anointed One*.

Messiah will rise from Jesse's family - a "branch" or "stem" from Jesse's root on Abraham's family tree.

But Jesse had eight sons? His youngest wasn't even present when Samuel came to select a new king for Israel. They had to fetch the kid out of the fields...

But a humble sheep-herder was the man God chose to shepherd His people, Israel. This was the man who became a great king. Jesse's "stem" was the boy **David**. It was from his loins - "his own body" - that a forever king would rise to rule God's forever kingdom.

Like a package you pay extra to have tracked. You can see your parcel flowing through the supply chain.

Likewise, God's promise was tracked from its *initiation with Eve* to its *culmination with Jesus*.

From Eve to Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Judah to Jesse to David to Jesus... God didn't want us to miss Messiah! God sent a special package, a Seed, His Son, to the world to redeem us from sin and reign over us in love. God went out of His way to point Him out!

Today, we don't have to canvass the globe to find Messiah. God's GPS tracking locates the land where He'll reign, *Israel...* Nor do we have to comb through the genealogies of humanity, for God earmarks *the family of Abraham*, and *the sons of David.* He even traces the lineage through David to a single person...

The tracking of the Seed, Messiah, runs through the whole OT, all 39 books, from Genesis to Malachi, and it all comes together in one verse. The Gospels begin, Matthew 1:1, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham..."

Here He is! The thread that runs the length of your Bible ends at Jesus - from Eve to Joseph and Mary!

Jesus is the promised "Son of David" and "Son of Abraham..." God raised up prophet after prophet so we

wouldn't miss Him. It gives weight to Revelation 19:10, "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

This is why both Gospels, Matthew and Luke, begin with Jesus' genealogy. Matthew traces Jesus' roots from his stepdad, Joseph, to David, through Solomon. This proves Jesus was the legal or royal heir of the Davidic Covenant - a right that passes from the father.

Whereas, Luke tracks the bloodline from *David's son, Nathan -* to *Jesus' mom, Mary*, to prove that Jesus was also the genetic and natural born son of David.

Put the two genealogies together, and it proves Jesus possessed both a legal and natural right to sit on David's throne, and to rule both Israel and all the Earth!

It's interesting, the ancient Jews stored their genealogies in the Temple at Jerusalem, but when the Roman army burned the Temple in 70 AD their records went up in smoke. God allowed the destruction of the genealogies because they were no longer needed.

Messiah had already come. If Jesus had come after 70 AD, He could've never proved His Davidic pedigree.

Jesus is the ultimate heir of the promises God made to David. Like Solomon, God chastised Jesus, but never rejected Him! On the cross Jesus was judged and punished - not for His own sins - for ours.

And today, the Son of David, Jesus Christ, is building a spiritual Temple - one person at a time - the Church.

It's interesting, when Mary birthed Jesus it had been 580 years since a son of David had sat on the throne in Israel. How exciting it must've been for her when the angel appear, and spoke to her the words in Luke 1...

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

The angel was emphatic, Mary's son, Jesus, was to be the eternal king promised in the Davidic Covenant!

The OT was full of prophesies that not only traced Messiah's lineage, but colored between the lines as what to expect from His life, and work, and ministry...

And of all the tree of Abraham... and of all the sons of David... Jesus of Nazareth was only one person who fit all the prophecies spoken of the Messiah.

Take the Prophet Isaiah for example.

Isaiah wrote his prophecy around 700 BC... about the time Rome was founded... Seventy years before the Greeks held the first Olympic Games... and seven centuries before the Angel Gabriel would visit a young virgin girl named Mary with the promise of a Son.

Isaiah stood for God in a terrible time. One of David's successors, Manasseh, was king over God's people, Judah. He was so evil he single-handedly provoked the Babylonian spanking of the Davidic dynasty.

In fact, the king later ordered Isaiah sawn in two. You could say, Manasseh and his executioner had a 50-50 business deal... they split the prophet! (laugh)

The prophet Isaiah was labeled "a seer." He saw into the future... And much of what he saw was Jesus. God gave him amazing insights about the future Messiah.

Isaiah 7:14 predicts Messiah will be born of a virgin.

The same verse reveals His name, "Immanuel."

Isaiah 9 predicts that much of Messiah's ministry will occur in and around the northern region of Galilee - and that He will reach out to the Gentiles in the area.

Isaiah 35 predicts that the Messiah will work miracles. The deaf will hear and the blind will see.

Isaiah 50 predicts He'll be beaten, mocked, spit on.

Isaiah 53 paints a picture of His cruel death on the cross... He'll be executed among thieves... buried in a rich man's grave... eventually rise from the dead... Isaiah charts Messiah's life from birth to resurrection...

And that's just Isaiah... One of his contemporaries, the Prophet Micah foretold in 5:2 that Messiah would be born in the town of Bethlehem... Psalm 22:16 tells us Messiah's hands and His feet will be pierced...

Psalm 22 was written 500 years before the Persians invented crucifixion, yet it depicts Christ on the cross in vivid detail. It forecasts how he was mocked, how his bones were not broken, and men gambled for his robe.

Psalm 41:9 predicts that Messiah will be betrayed by a supposed friend.... And Zechariah 9:9 predicted Messiah's journey into Jerusalem on a donkey...

Daniel 9 is one of the most amazing Messianic prophecies in all the Bible. Daniel was a Jew living in exile in Babylon. Yet God showed him Israel's future.

Israel will return to the land of Canaan. Jerusalem will be restored and rebuilt. The son of David - *the Messiah* - will fulfill God's promises to God's people.

And Daniel sees a timeline for Israel. From the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem to the coming of "Messiah the Prince" there'll be 69 weeks or 483 years.

History tells us the Persian Emperor Artaxerxes gave the decree to rebuild Jerusalem on March 14, 445 BC. Chart on your calendar 483 years, or 173,880 days, and you arrive at April 6, 32 AD - the very day of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. In Daniel 9, over 550 years in advance, God pinpoints the exact day Messiah will present Himself to the nation Israel.

Daniel 9:26 goes on to say that shortly thereafter Messiah is "cut off, but not for Himself..." The phrase implies a violent death - an execution - but not for His own crimes. He's put to death for someone else's sins.

Obviously, Daniel 9 speaks of the crucifixion of Jesus. The chapter is one of the most fascinating in all the Bible. It put Messiah's first coming on the clock.

These are just a few of over 300 OT prophecies that predict details of Messiah's ministry! Think of the probability of one man accidentally fulfilling all 300 prophecies. To have that kind of fulfillment would make the certainty of Messiah's identity crystal clear.

There is a classic book by Peter Stoner, former head of the Math and Astronomy Department of Pasadena City College, entitled "Science Speaks." In it Stoner calculates the probability of a single man fulfilling just eight of the 300 OT prophesies that concerned Jesus.

The probability is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. That's a number with one in front of 17 zeroes - 100 quadrillion.

Keep in mind the probability of you or I dying in a fire is 1 in 40,000 - that's a 4 followed by 4 zeroes...

The odds of getting struck by a baseball at a Braves game is 1 in 300,000 - that's 3 trailed by 5 zeroes.

And the possibility of you getting hit by a lightning bolt is 1 in 2 million - that's 2 followed by 6 zeros...

Yet the probability of Jesus accidentally fulfilling just 8 of 300 OT prophecies is 1 in a number ending with 17 zeroes. Your chances of being struck by lightning is 50 billion times better than Jesus accidentally fulfilling eight promises... out of a total of 292 such promises.

Let me provide a bit more perspective...

Think of a bed of silver dollars two feet deep, covering the entire state of Texas. Paint one of the silver dollars red, then mix up all the coins. Now let's have you reach into the pile... and the odds of you drawing the one red coin are the same

odds of Jesus fulfilling by chance just eight of 300 OT prophecies.

Here's the point, the only explanation for the Bible's fulfilled prophecies is that Jesus is who He says He is!

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of David.

Yet if the evidence was so overwhelming why did the Jews reject Jesus as their Messiah? And the answer is they overlooked certain prophetic details. They latched on to what they wanted to believe and ignored the rest.

For example Daniel 7:13-14 was a favorite Messianic passage among Jews. Daniel writes, "I was watching... and behold, *One* like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and... to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom *the one* which shall not be destroyed."

The Jews of Jesus' day liked the idea of Messiah flying on the clouds, coming in power and glory, but when Jesus washed His disciples feet they balked.

The Jews thought Messiah should be served, not serve others. A humble Messiah didn't fit their expectations. They had not considered ALL the Messianic prophecies - prophecies like Isaiah 42, "My Servant... I have put My Spirit upon Him... He will not cry out, nor raise His voice... a bruised reed He will not break..." The Jews hoped Messiah would break some legs, and raise His voice, and throw His weight around.

The Jews saw the Messiah as a political leader.

They read passages like Isaiah 9:6-7, "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God, Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *His* government and peace *there will be* no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom..."

The Jews saw Messiah as a political powerhouse.

This One ruler will shoulder the government. He'll usher in a new age for Israel. They didn't realize the Messiah's first priority was the condition of their soul.

It's interesting, the Jewish Rabbis in the first century had difficulty with the thought of one Messiah doing all that the Hebrew prophets had foretold He would do.

Some rabbis taught there were two Messiahs...

"Messiah ben Joseph," or "Son of Joseph" was the servant of the people. Whereas, "Messiah ben David," was the mighty ruler who would defeat His enemies.

Other rabbis taught that the Messianic prophecies were conditional on Jewish reaction... If the Hebrews were faithful to God, Messiah would come riding on the clouds... If they weren't, He'd mock them, and come on the back of a donkey... They didn't see how there was room for both scenarios to be simultaneously true.

The Prophet Zechariah predicted that Messiah would come riding on a donkey. This was fulfilled on Palm Sunday when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem.

But Daniel 7 foresaw the Messiah *riding on the clouds*, and Jesus will fulfill that promise too...

Remember at His trial before Caiaphas, Jesus was ordered, "Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"

Jesus replied, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Jesus not only fulfilled Zechariah, and come riding on a donkey, but later, "hereafter" as He puts it, He'll fulfill Daniel's vision of Him riding on the clouds.

Messiah comes to Earth **twice**... The first time as a Suffering Servant to bring us salvation. But at the end of the age, He'll come again, as a Conquering King.

Jesus came the first time to save His enemies.

He'll return to crush His enemies.

Messiah will make *dual-visits* to the Earth. And He has a *dual-nature*. The OT portrayed Messiah as the son of man AND the son of God - or the **God-man**.

This is what Jesus brought up after the Jews approached Him in the Temple and tried to trap Him.

Jesus asked them, "What do you think about the Christ (Messiah)? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.' If David then calls him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" Messiah was the son of David, but at the same time David called Him "Lord," or "Master." How was the Christ both his Son and boss?

The king only had one Master and that was God. So is David calling the Messiah God? Indeed he was!

Jesus was pointing out Messiah was both human and divine - the son of David AND the Son of God.

Why did the Jews crucify their Messiah? For sure, they never recognized His *dual-nature* and *dual-visits*.

Let me read you one more Messianic prophecy...

In Jeremiah 23:5, the Lord speaks, "I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell in safety; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS..."

I love that name. It breathes hope and forgiveness.

The Mosaic Covenant set the bar for righteousness out of our reach. No matter how much Israel tried to act righteous, the sin in their heart sabotaged their efforts.

Spanking after spanking made it obvious no one was good enough, or "right" enough before God. It was obvious that God's people needed a Savior. And that's exactly what the Davidic Covenant promised us.

On our own we pull up terribly short, but put your faith in Jesus. He shares **His righteousness** with us.

As it was said of Abram, "he believed in the LORD, and (God) accounted it to him for righteousness."

The world we occupy is wrong-side up in every way.

But Jesus is into right-ness. And how He turns us *right-side up* is our subject next week - New Covenant.