

Chapter 3A & 3B: What Was God's Original Plan?

A Covenantal History of the Kingdom in the Hebrew Scriptures (Parts A & B)

I. **Series Theme Verse:** (Matthew 6:10) "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

II. **Note: God's Original Kingdom Plan Is & Must Be His Ongoing, Current & Eternal Plan**

(Isaiah 46:9b-10) For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

(1 Cor. 2:7) ... we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages ...

(Hebrews 13:20-21) Now may the God of peace who by the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, ²¹ equip you with every good thing to do his will, working in us what is pleasing before him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever. Amen. (NET)

(Acts 4:27-30) For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. ²⁹ And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, ³⁰ while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." (Rom. 8:29; 11:2)

(Ephesians 1:4-5) ... in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace,...

(Numbers 23:19) God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind.

Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? (ESV) (See also 1 Samuel 15:29)

III. **A Word About Covenant (s)** – Suzerain Treaties of The Ancient Levant; The Acronym T.H.E.O.S.

- A. Lord and Vassal; Fear vs. Love; Unalterable (Accept or Reject, but No Alterations); Blessings vs.
- B. The Acronym T.H.E.O.S. (Transcendence, Hierarchy; Ethics, Oaths; Sanctions & Succession) Ray Sutton
- C. Eight Ingredients of All Biblical Covenants: (**Note:** Not sure this list is complete / exhaustive)
 1. Identification of the Parties & Declaration of the New Order: Biblical covenants begin with God's absolute Lordship & Grace. He grants covenant. He is the Redeemer King. Identifies the recipients of the Covenant. Members. He declares His intention to "make all things new."
 2. Hierarchy: God always appoints leaders as covenantal representatives. When God's leaders are faithful, His people are protected. When God's people are faithful to God, she obeys her leaders.
 3. Ethical Laws: The central section of the covenant defines how God's people are to live so that they can be His holy nation. (Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16) God's relationship with His people is an ethical relationship. We must be righteous to enjoy the blessings of the covenant.
 4. Oaths: God's people take the oath of the covenant. Vows. Publicly before God & man. Confess.
 5. Ceremonies of Celebration: All Biblical Covenants are Sealed with Ceremonies / Celebrations of Enactment & Reinforcement. The Covenant Meal / Supper / Feast (Genesis 1:29-30)
 6. Signs & Symbols: Biblical Covenants have Boundaries stipulated by the Laws, but also depicted in the Covenantal Signs & Symbols. A Biblical View of Remembrance.
 7. Sanctions: The covenant promises blessings for those who obey and curses for those who rebel. (See Deuteronomy 28) (See Exodus 19:1-6ff)
 8. Succession: Covenants always focus on the heirs of the covenant. God intends for the covenant to continue from generation to generation. Training disciples / children to follow God & working to pass the blessings of faithfulness on to the future is essential to true covenantal obedience.

IV. **A Word About the Biblical View of History** - Transcendent God of History & Historical Selection

V. Chapter 3A: What Was God's Original Plan? A Covenantal History of the Kingdom Highlights in the OT

(Galatians 3:15-17) Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is *only* a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. ¹⁶ Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. ¹⁷ What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. (Heb. 7:22) ... so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. (Heb. 8:6; 12:24)

A. Creation, The Garden, The Kingdom Mandate & the Fall ... Note: "Then God said... and there was..."

1. Mythopoeic Cosmogonic Literature vs. The Eternal God (King) of History. (Chaos vs. Cosmos)
2. The Garden Temple. (Garden, Temple, City vs. Wilderness throughout Scripture)
3. The Dominion / Cultural Mandate (The original: "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven")

(Genesis 1:26-28) ²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

4. The Adamic Covenant: Contained All 7 of the Elements Above
5. The Fall of Adam & the Adamic Kingdom / Dominion Covenant (Genesis 3)

B. Noah / The Societal Covenant: Genesis 6 – 11 (Read Gen. 8:15-22) (Also Read Gen. 9:1-17) Babel

C. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Joseph / The Patriarchal Covenant: (The Seth / Shem Line)

(Genesis 12:1-3) Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; ² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; ³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." ⁴ So Abram went ...

1. Call, Faith & Obedience of Abraham. Promises, Blessing. All Families...
2. Lot's Mistake (Genesis 13:1-13);
3. Limits of the Land & Nation Foretold (Genesis 13: 14-18) (Note: Geo Boundaries in David's Time)

(Genesis 15: 4b-6; 14-16; 18) ... one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." ⁵ And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. ... ¹³ God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete." ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: ...

4. (Genesis 17): Covenant Reiterated; Sealed by Circumcision; God's Covenant to Pass to Isaac; Etc. (Genesis 17:19) But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

5. (Genesis 22): Abraham Tested (Genesis 22:8)
6. (Genesis 24): Father, Son, Servant, Gifts Bride; Succession; Etc.
7. (Genesis 26:1-5): God Confirms the Covenant to Abraham's Offspring – Isaac (Foreshadows Christ)
8. (Genesis 27-36): Jacob Inherits the Covenant Promises & The Blessing / Becomes Israel
9. (Genesis 37-50): Joseph Saves the Covenant People & Purposes of God / Foreshadows Christ

VI. Chapter 3B: What Was God's Original Plan? A Covenantal History of the Kingdom Highlights in the OT