
**Consider the hope from the promises of love
in God's covenant relationship with us and our descendants.**

Gen 9:⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹“I now establish my *covenant* with you and with your ***descendants*** after you

Gen 17:⁷ I will establish my covenant as an *everlasting covenant* between me and you and your ***descendants*** after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your ***descendants*** after you.

Exodus 13:² “The first *offspring of every womb* among the Israelites [God's chosen people] *belongs to Me*”

Exodus 20:⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but *showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

Deut 4:³⁵ You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other. ³⁶ From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. ³⁷ Because *he loved your forefathers and chose their **descendants*** after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength

Deut 7:⁷ The LORD did not *set his affection on you and choose you* because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ But it was because the *LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers* that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, *keeping his covenant of love to a **thousand generations*** of those who love him and keep his commands...¹² If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your forefathers. ¹³ He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb

Deut 30:⁶ The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your ***descendants***, *so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.*

Josh 24:¹⁵ as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

Psalm 22:⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb; *you made me trust in you* even at my mother's breast. ¹⁰ ***From birth*** I was cast upon you; *from my mother's **womb** you have been my God.*

Psalm 25:⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. ⁹ He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. ¹⁰ All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant. ¹¹ For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. ¹² Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him. ¹³ He will spend his days in prosperity, and his **descendants** will inherit the land. ¹⁴ The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his *covenant* known to them. ¹⁵ My eyes are ever on the LORD

Psalm 102:²⁸ The **children** of your servants will *live in your presence*; their **descendants** will be established before you.

Psalm 103:¹⁷ But from everlasting to *everlasting the LORD's love* is with those who fear him, and *his righteousness* with their **children's children**

Psalm 127:¹ UNLESS the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Behold, **children** are a *gift of the LORD*; The fruit of the womb is a *reward*. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. ⁵ How *blessed* is the man whose quiver is full of them; They shall not be ashamed

Isaiah 41:⁸ “But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, *whom I have chosen*, you **descendants** of Abraham my friend, ⁹ I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, ‘You are my servant’; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. ¹⁰ *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 44:¹ “But now listen, O Jacob, my servant, Israel, whom I have chosen. ² This is what the LORD says— *he who made you, who formed you in the womb*, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. ³ For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; *I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants*. ⁴ They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams. ⁵ One will say, ‘I belong to the LORD’; another will call himself by the name of Jacob; still another will write on his hand, ‘The LORD's,’ and will take the name Israel.

Isaiah 54:¹⁰ “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you... ¹³ All your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children's peace. ¹⁴ In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear.

Isaiah 59:²¹ “As for me, this is my *covenant* with them,” says the LORD. “*My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth*, or from the mouths of your **children**, or from the mouths of their **descendants** from this time on and forever,” says the LORD.

Isaiah 61:⁷ Instead of their shame my people will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance; and so they will inherit a double portion in their land, and *everlasting joy* will be theirs. ⁸“For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity. In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an *everlasting covenant* with them. ⁹ Their **descendants** will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”

¹⁰ *I delight greatly in the LORD*; my soul *rejoices* in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Isaiah 65:²³ They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a *people blessed by the LORD*, they and their **descendants** with them. ²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

Ezekiel 37:²⁵ They and their **children** and their **children’s children** will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever. ²⁶ I will make a *covenant of peace* with them; it will be an *everlasting covenant*. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. ²⁷ My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. ²⁸ Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.

Joel 2:²⁸ I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

Micah 2:¹⁴ she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

¹⁵ Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because *he was seeking godly offspring*. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

¹⁶ “I hate divorce,” says the LORD God of Israel, “and I hate a man’s covering himself with violence as well as with his garment,” says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.

Malachi 4:⁶ He will turn the *hearts of the fathers to their children*, and the *hearts of the children to their fathers*; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.

Luke 9:⁴⁷ Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. ⁴⁸ Then he said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.”

Luke 18:¹⁵ People were also bringing **babies** to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called the children to him and said, “*Let the little children come to me*, and do not hinder them, for the *kingdom of God belongs to such as these*.”

Acts 2:³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ... And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The *promise* is for you and your **children**

More about children:

Gen 18:¹⁹ For I have *chosen him*, so that he will direct his **children** and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.

Exodus 10:¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them ² that *you may tell* your **children and grandchildren** how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD.” ...

⁸ Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. “Go, worship the LORD your God,” he said. “But just who will be going?”

⁹ Moses answered, “We will go with our young and old, *with our sons and daughters*, and with our flocks and herds, because we are *to celebrate a festival to the LORD.*”

Acts 21:⁵ All the disciples and their wives and **children** accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to *pray*.

2 Samuel 12:

¹⁹ David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realized the child was dead. “Is the child dead?” he asked.

“Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.”

²⁰ Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

²¹ His servants asked him, “Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!”

²² He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.’ ²³ But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? *I will go to him, but he will not return to me.*”

Mark 10:¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

Parents who are part of God’s covenant should have great hope and confidence for the salvation of their children.

Are we children of Abraham?

Heb 2¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s *descendants*. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make *atonement* for the sins of the people.

John 8: “If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do the things Abraham did.”

Romans 4:¹⁶ Therefore, the *promise* comes by faith, so that it may be *by grace* and may be *guaranteed* to all Abraham’s *offspring*—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” *He is our father in the sight of God*, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

Romans 9:⁶ It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷ Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” ⁸ In other words, it is not the natural children who are God’s children, but it is the *children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring*.

Romans 11:¹⁷ If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, ¹⁸ do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.

Gal 3:⁷ Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham.

Gal 4:³¹ Therefore, brothers, *we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman*. 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Consider the opening and closing lines of Galatians: Gal 1:² “To the *churches* in Galatia”; Gal 6:¹⁶ “Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the *Israel of God*.”

Eph 2:¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. ...¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household,

Eph 5:¹ Be *imitators of God*, therefore, *as dearly loved children* ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Rom 8:¹⁴ Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to *fear*, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father*.” ¹⁶ The *Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children*. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ