



SHORELINE.CHURCH

# PROMISE

OCTOBER 2021

WOMEN'S  
DISCIPLESHIP  
COMMUNITY



## THE SEAMLESS STORY FROM BEGINNING TO END

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*And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.*

Genesis 9:12-13

There is nothing more beautiful than a sky blasted by a rainbow arch of color after a storm. There is beauty built into that spectrum of color that far surpasses anything the eye can see. For those that know God, it's a reminder of how our God never forgets or goes back on His promises.

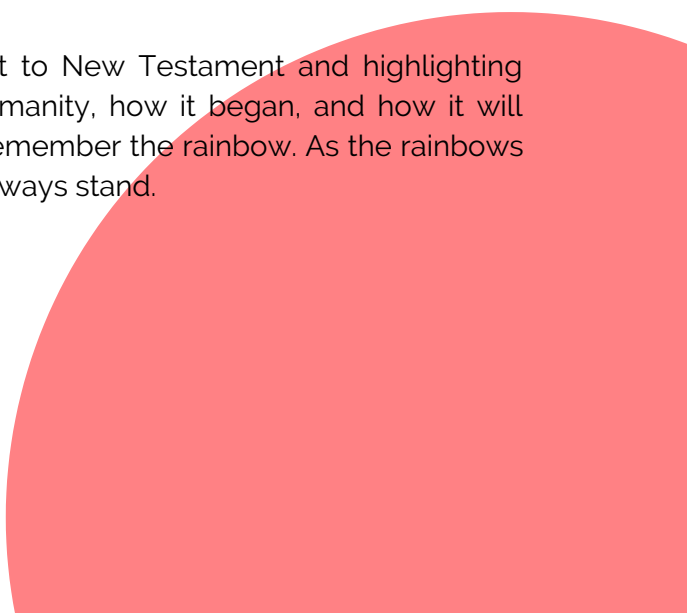
The books of the Bible are sewn together by a golden thread. This golden thread is the promise of Heaven, the promise of restoration for the world, and the promise of eternity in perfect relationship with God. As we are now we can have a relationship with God, but it is not perfect as we are constantly distracted by the struggles of this earthly life.

Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice for our sins so that we could enter Heaven sanctified and blameless (Hebrews 13:12). That, through Him, we can have a perfect relationship with God for eternity. When Jesus gave His life on the cross He fulfilled promises made centuries before.

When God speaks He does not need to add a pinky promise, He does not need to preface His words with "I promise I will..." because He only speaks in words of promise. However, since He is our creator He knows that sometimes we need extra words or signs that we can still trust Him.

When God gave the rainbow to Noah, he and his family had been on the ark for over a year. God knew they would need a visual reminder of what He had told them. We also need reminders. God gave us His Word filled with prophecy and fulfillment. These are signs to us that as God never went back on His word, and He will never go back on His word to us.

In these next pages, we are going from Old Testament to New Testament and highlighting scriptures that speak to God's plan and promises to humanity, how it began, and how it will continue through eternity. As you read these passages, remember the rainbow. As the rainbows color our skies, we can be sure that God's promises will always stand.



# GENESIS 9: THE PROMISE TO MANKIND

*So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between Me and all life on the earth."*

Genesis 9:17

## DEFINE

What does the word "covenant" mean? Google this word or search it using your favorite Bible reference tool. Write the definition in your own words below.

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A covenant is more than an agreement or a strong promise. A covenant is a sacred bond between two parties, ratified by swearing an oath. Covenant-making was widespread in ancient Near Eastern culture, serving as a means to forge legal bonds between individuals or groups. The ramifications of breaking such an agreement would result in serious punishment or even death. But God's covenants are unlike human covenants; there is no risk that God will not hold up His end of the deal. Human covenants often are based on profit and self-interest, while divine covenants are based on self-giving loyalty and sacrificial love. God's covenants always reveal His radical faithfulness to His people in perfect union with His immeasurable affection and love.

## RESPOND

Why are God's covenants better than any human promise? What hope can we gain from this definition of the word "covenant"?

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Reflect on your reading of Genesis 9. The rainbow was given as a reminder of God's covenant to all of mankind. Why is it important to remind ourselves of God's promises in the flow of our daily lives?

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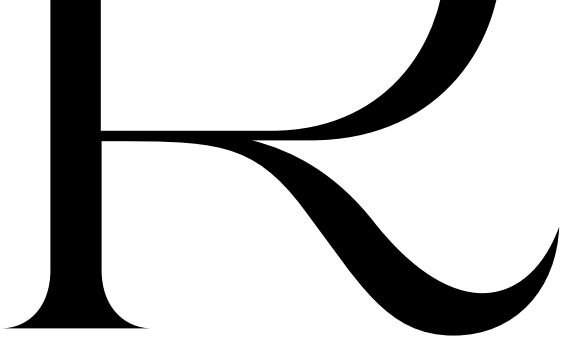
## READ

Genesis 9:8-17



## REFLECT

Circle, highlight, underline, or note how many times the word "covenant" appears in this passage.



## RAINBOW FRUIT PIZZA RECIPE



PREP  
30 MIN



CHILL  
1.5 HR



COOK  
10 MIN

*This rainbow fruit pizza is a beautiful and delicious dessert. In this recipe, cream cheese frosting is spread over a chewy sugar cookie crust and piled high with fruit in every color of the rainbow!*

### INGREDIENTS

#### *Sugar Cookie*

1/2 cup butter, softened  
2/3 cup granulated sugar  
1 egg  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 tsp baking soda  
1/2 tsp sea salt  
1 package cream cheese frosting

#### *Fruit*

1 cup each of your favorite colored fruit:  
Red: Strawberries, raspberries, cherries  
Orange: Peaches, mango, cantaloupe  
Yellow: Pineapple, bananas  
Green: Kiwi, green grapes, honeydew  
Blue/Purple: Blackberries, blueberries  
1 cup shredded coconut (for the clouds)

### DIRECTIONS

#### *Sugar Cookie*

1. Cream together butter and granulated sugar in the bowl of your standing mixer fitted with the paddle attachment until smooth (1-2 minutes). Add egg & vanilla and beat just until combined.
2. In a small bowl combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add dry ingredients to the wet ingredients in your standing mixer and beat until evenly combined. Remove dough from the bowl and shape it into a circle. Cover with plastic wrap and let chill for 1-2 hours.
3. When you're ready to bake the cookie, preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Shape the dough into the shape of an arch, and cut cloud shapes out by hand. Transfer the rainbow-shaped cookie onto the baking sheet. Bake for 10 minutes. Let the cookie cool before decorating with toppings.

#### *Putting It All Together*

1. Make sure the cookie crust is on your desired serving dish. Spread cream cheese frosting on top of the cookie until it is evenly covered.
2. Add the chopped fruit of your choice in a rainbow design. Sprinkle coconut on the clouds. Chill for at least 2 hours before serving. Cut in long pieces so that each piece has all of the rainbow-colored fruits on it!
3. Enjoy with friends and family!

*Recipe from the table of the Joy, Food, Sunshine Blog, published March 2018.*  
[www.joyfoodsunshine.com/rainbow-fruit-pizza/](http://www.joyfoodsunshine.com/rainbow-fruit-pizza/)

# GENESIS 12: THE PROMISE OF BLESSING

*All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*  
Genesis 12:3b

## READ

Read Genesis 12:1-3 in the NIV translation and fill in the blanks below.

The LORD had said to Abram, "\_\_\_\_\_ from your country, your people and your father's household to the \_\_\_\_\_ I will show you. I will make you into a great \_\_\_\_\_, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a \_\_\_\_\_. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be \_\_\_\_\_ through you.

With stories from the Bible as familiar as this one it can be easy to scan right over it and miss the majesty of the moment. There is no account of God speaking to anyone for over 420 years when He speaks this promise to Abram (later Abraham). At this point in Scripture, there were no Ten Commandments, no laws on how to worship, or laws on how to live. God gives Abram one command to follow.

Look at the first blank above, what is it? \_\_\_\_\_

Circle every time you see "I will" in the passage above. How many did you get? \_\_\_\_\_

What an example of God's goodness and love! God loves using His people to show His greatness. He loves using our ordinary selves as an example of His extraordinary might. He just needs us to trust Him first.

Look forward to verse 4. What are the first three words of that verse?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Abram followed God's instruction to go and because He did we all received the blessing of God's promise. We do not deserve it. We never have and we never will deserve His blessings. But even before the foundation of the world, He had a plan. And that plan it included you.

## REFLECT

What answered promises have you received by following God's instruction?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## READ Genesis 12:1-4



## REFLECT

How does it make you feel to know that you were included in God's promise of blessing to Abram generations before your birth?

## 2 SAMUEL 7:

### THE PROMISE TO THE LINE OF DAVID



#### READ

2 Samuel 7:1-27  
1 Kings 5:1-5  
Matthew 1:1-16



#### REFLECT

In 2 Samuel 7:15a, God promises that His love will never be taken away, echoing His promise in Deuteronomy 31:8 to never leave or forsake His people. How does it comfort you to know God's love will never be taken away from you?

*Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever.*

2 Samuel 7:16

#### READ

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17. At this time in Israel's history, the Ark of the Covenant - where God's Spirit resided with the people - remained in a tent-like structure in the center of their community. King David constructs a grand palace for his own residence, but compared to God's dwelling place, the tent is no match for what David built. David longs to build a temple for the Lord that exceeds the glory of his own. But God had a different plan; He had this task reserved for David's son, Solomon as we read in 1 King 5. Instead, God promises David that He will build David's "house," that is, David's family line for generations to come. This family line would rule the nations and be a great name for the whole world to recognize (2 Samuel 7:9).

While God's promise to David in this passage is a promise for David to flourish, God's perspective of time exceeds that of our limited understanding. In these words to David, He announces an eternal kingdom that would last long after David was gone - a promise that someone from his family would become the true king of Israel and rule the nations forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16). As we read in Matthew 1:1-16, this promise would reach its fulfillment generations later by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through His ministry and sacrifice, no longer would God's people seek His presence at the temple and continue to make animal sacrifices to cover their many sins. Instead, God's people will meet Him beyond the temple walls in every moment of every day.

#### RESPOND

Read 2 Samuel 7:18-27. Notice how David responds to God's promise to establish this eternal kingdom through him. In the space below, write a prayer to God modeling David's heart of worship, thanking Him for the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. In David's petition to God, David boldly requests that God keep the promises He has made. In your written prayer, use the space to do the same. Ask that God would continue to provide for you, protect you, and walk with you all the days of your life.

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# ISAIAH 65:

## THE PROMISE OF HEAVEN

*See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered nor will they come to mind.*

Isaiah 65:17

### READ

Read Isaiah 65:17-25. Isaiah's words provided comfort and hope to Israel as they were wrought with fears of captivity from the evil world around them. Through Isaiah God gave the people a visual understanding of what was to come for His children. Although these words were spoken to the people in exile, they are also a promise to us that this world is not the end. God has something so great planned for us that He will have to establish something completely new to encompass it.

### MIND MAP

Using the passage as a guide, write each promise to the children of God by an open line in the mind map below. Add more lines to the map if you need it. Use this map to encourage you of the future hope of Heaven.



### RESPOND

Which one of the promises in your map resonates with you the most in this season of your life? Why?

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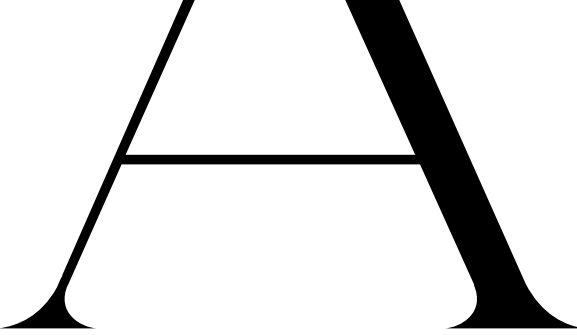


READ  
Isaiah 65:17-25



### REFLECT

"In the graces and comforts which believers have in and from Christ, we are to look for this new heaven and new earth."  
- Matthew Henry



## ACTS 2: THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



READ  
Acts 1:1-11  
Acts 2:1-21



REFLECT  
Journal your thoughts to this question: How does this passage encourage you that God never gives up, never moves on, and never forgets anything that He has promised His children?

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Acts 1:8

READ ACTS 2:1-13 AND CIRCLE IN YOUR BIBLE EACH NATIONALITY LISTED.

When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples that day, Jerusalem was in the midst of one of the most sacred Jewish festivals called Shavuot (or Pentecost). The festival commemorates God giving the Law to Moses. This pilgrimage festival brought Jews from all over the known world to Jerusalem - just in time for God to do something incredible.

The Spirit descended upon the disciples in a violent wind; one minute they were speaking Aramaic and the next they were speaking in languages some of the disciples had never heard before. In the streets surrounding the disciples, pilgrims were drawn to the sound of the wind. They gathered around and heard the Gospel presented in their own languages, as if from native tongues. God made sure there would be nothing lost in translation here.

READ

Read Acts 2:14-21. Circle in your Bible the people that are covered by the Spirit. Peter quotes the words of the prophet Joel - *Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.* God's perfect timing was not just to draw a crowd. It was also a perfect symbol that no longer would Israel be justified through the law because Jesus fulfilled the law through his death and resurrection. Now all people could receive justification and the Holy Spirit through faith alone.

How amazing that God would establish a festival for His Law, then more than a thousand years later use that festival to bring scattered people to one location so they could hear that the Law had been fulfilled. Imagine those people leaving Jerusalem and taking with them the good news of salvation through Jesus. The promise of Heaven was available to all.

There were nearly 800 years between Joel's prophecy and Peter's sermon. That is quite a while to wait for the fulfillment of a prophecy! It was not because He forgot or was making it up as He went along, it was His perfect plan from the very beginning.





## REVELATION 21: THE PROMISE OF RESTORATION

*No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.*

Revelation 22:3

### REFLECT

Every promise to Abraham, David, the prophets in exile, Jesus' disciples, and to all mankind culminates in this glorious promise found in Revelation chapters 21 and 22. The long-awaited eternal Kingdom would finally be fulfilled. The New Heavens and the New Earth will be experienced in its fullest and original design; the people of God will enjoy the blessing of God's perfect presence without the barriers of sin and brokenness. Echoing Jesus' words on the cross, God declares that "It is done." (Revelation 21:6a). In the space below, reflect on these promises found in these two passages. What hope does this bring you today, knowing what is to come in the future?

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### RESPOND

While this glorious Heaven is what we eagerly wait to experience in the future, we still experience the effects of sin and brokenness in the present. This is often referred to as the "already-but-not-yet" reality. We have received the power of the Holy Spirit and experience God's restoration in little bits and pieces right now but still wait for the full restoration of the world in the future. In the space below, jot down a few places where you see God's goodness and blessing breaking through, despite the broken state of the world today.

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When we follow in Jesus' example by living as He lived, we participate in bringing God's goodness and restoration to the world. We live as reminders of God's promises to mankind - God's living rainbows for the whole world to see. What is one step we can take this week to live in such a way that shows the world who God is?

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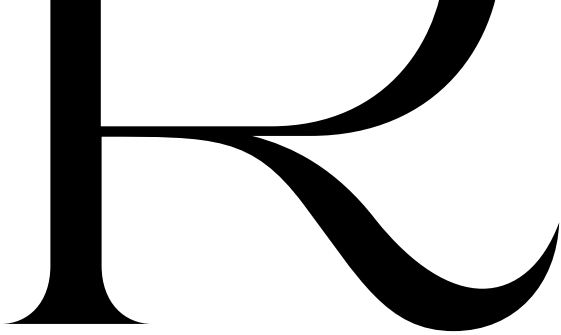
### READ

Revelation 21:1-7  
Revelation 22:3-5



### REFLECT

In a journal or in the space below, write all of the names for God listed in Revelation 21:1-7 passage.



## MORE RESOURCES

### SPOTIFY PLAYLIST

Search our profile, ShorelineMonterey or the name of the playlist: "[October 2021 Women's Discipleship Community](#)."

*Spotify's search bar is case-sensitive. Be sure to include proper capitalization and spacing!*

### PRAYER WALL

Post a prayer request and join us in praying for the women in our Women's Discipleship Community. This page will be private to just our group!

[www.shoreline.church/prayer-wall](http://www.shoreline.church/prayer-wall)

### BOOKS & ARTICLES

*The Promises of God* by Charles H. Spurgeon

*Covenant and God's Purpose for the World* by Thomas R. Schreiner

*The Shelter of God's Promises* by Sheila Walsh

*Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God* by Max Lucado

### BIBLE STUDIES

*Seamless: Understanding The Bible As One Complete Story* by Angie Smith

*God of Covenant* by Jen Wilkin

*Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God* by Max Lucado

*God's Unbreakable Promises* by Jada Edwards, Jennie Allen and Lauren Chandler on RightNow Media

### SERMONS & PODCASTS

"Understanding Heaven and Hell" *Supernatural Sermon Series* with Kevin Harney, Shoreline Church

*I Saw Heaven Opened! Sermon Series* with Kevin Harney, Shoreline Church

*Covenants Podcast Series* with Dr. Timothy Mackie, The Bible Project