

I. The Developing Promise

A. Progressive Understanding of the Promise - From the moment that humanity rebelled, a promise was given to them by God that He would bring about a restoration of that which was lost. As redemptive history unfolded, more and more details were given of how the promise of restoration would actually come about. By the close of the New Testament canon, the church was given an incredibly clear prophetic roadmap of how the fullness of the promise of restoration would be fulfilled.

B. Three Main Pillars of the Promise of Restoration

1. **The Seed** - The first pillar of the promise of restoration is the provision of a child (seed) who would crush Satan and end the curse of sin and death. This crushing and ending of the curse would bring back the **blessing** of existence that was lost. (Gen. 1 Blessed vs Gen. 3 Cursed and the Promised Seed (Heb. 11:8-10); Gen. 4:1, 4:25-26, 12:1-3; 21:12-13, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14)
2. **The Dwelling Place** - The second pillar of the promise of restoration is the removal of the impenetrable chasm between the dwelling place of God and the dwelling place of man. It is critical that the church understands that this pillar of the promise is primarily about intimacy, not residency. The land He promised to Abraham and his descendants would be the place He would dwell with them forever. (Ex. 25:8, 29:42-46; Lev. 26:12; Eze. 40:1-4, 43:1-10, Ps. 68:18; Zec. 2:10; Jn. 14:17-23; Rev. 21:3)
3. **The King** - The third pillar of the promise or restoration is a coming king who would rule the earth from the throne of David in the land. This final pillar ties together the first two and shows us how the fullness of the three pillars work together to bring about the fullness. (Ps 2:1-12; Ps. 45:1-6; Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; Dan. 7:1-14)
 - a. The long promised **child** (seed) would be the **king** of the earth and through His rule and reign He would restore the **dwelling place** of God. Thus, the entirety of the promise of restoration hinges upon one individual who would rule as king in the promised land and who would be the hope of all humanity. This promised individual's identity and work became known to all who believed

in the promise as the Messiah or Christ. (2 Sam. 7:1-29; Ps. 48:1-14; Rom. 1:1-4)

- C. The Kingdom of God - These three pillars of promise were clearly established in the hearts and minds of all Israel and became known as the Coming Kingdom of God and/or the Kingdom of Heaven. This king and His kingdom would usher in the fullness of the restoration of all things, thus fulfilling the long awaited promise that was given to Adam and Eve.

- D. This is the great hope of the scriptures and is to be so strongly held by Christians that it actually shapes our worldview, priorities, and most importantly, is our great hope that serves as the anchor for our soul in each and every season of this age of waiting.