

Genesis 12:3—In You All The Nations Of The Earth Will Be Blessed: The Promise Of The Messiah

Memory Verse

Genesis 12:1-3, 7 NKJV—*The unconditional promises given to Abraham*

Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. ² **I will** make you a great nation; **I will** bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³ **I will** bless those who bless you, and **I will** curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants **I will** give this land.”

Introduction

Last week we saw how Israel rejected the gospel and so now God is temporally using the church instead of the nation of Israel to be His ambassadors to this dark world. We also saw how the church has a mandate to bless the nation of Israel by demonstrating the love of Christ to them by doing all we can to help them in practical ways as well as sharing the gospel with them. God wants the church to make Israel jealous of what the the church has that they don’t—the privilege of being God’s light in a dark world. God wants the physical nation of Israel to experience His love through the church, for the purpose of bringing at least some of them to repentance. Remember that it’s His kindness that leads us to repentance (see Romans 2:4). While the rest of the world hates the Jews, the church is mandated to love them, even if they don’t love us in return, even if they persecute us. This should make the Jews question, “Why would anyone love us when we treat them so poorly? These people (the church) claim to put their trust in Yeshua (Jesus). These people (the church) demonstrate a love for others that we simply don’t have. Maybe, just maybe, what Yeshua said about Himself was true? Maybe, just maybe, Yeshua is the true Messiah? Maybe, just maybe I need to put my trust in Him as well?”

Of course the Church is meant to love everybody, but our message to the physical nation of Israel is very specific—“You are God’s physical chosen people, but you have rejected your Messiah. We are sent by God to let you know that God still loves you and wants you to repent of your sin and put your trust in Him.”

This week we’ll quickly recap how much of the church became antisemitic.

We’ll also learn about the spiritual reason why Israel rejected the gospel. It’s the same reason why many today still reject the gospel—spiritual pride or self-righteousness.

We’ll then see how God uses Abraham as an example of how to be saved—of how to receive God’s gift of forgiveness. All through Scripture Abraham is used as the primary example of how to be saved: He is contrasted with those who are self-righteous and think of themselves as being good enough to get into heaven. We will explain the unconditional “I will” promise, “And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3b NKJV).

Finally, we’ll see in more detail how God’s promises to Israel will only be fully fulfilled during the 1,000 year or Millennial reign of Christ on earth.

Outline:

1. How much of the church became antisemitic.
2. The spiritual reason why Israel rejected the gospel—spiritual pride or self-righteousness.
3. The example of Abraham: salvation by grace through faith and not by works.
4. The ultimate fulfilment of all God's promises to Abraham and Israel will be during the Millennial Reign of Christ on Earth.

1. How much of the Church became antisemitic

The person first responsible for introducing this doctrine into the Church was Origen, a church leader or father from the 3rd Century after Jesus. He introduced the allegorical method of interpreting the bible, especially prophecy. This in turn influenced many of the other church leaders or church fathers who followed him. One of those was Augustine who lived in the late fourth, early fifth centuries. He then systematised, formalised, organised or finalised these ideas, especially the allegorical interpretation of prophecy.

Now, you may be thinking, so what? Well, because of Augustine's allegorical method of interpreting the bible, especially prophecy, the Catholic church thought that they were the new Israel. They came to believe that all the covenants or promises that were given to Israel (to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) were forfeited when they rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Augustine decided that if Israel had rejected Jesus as their Messiah or Saviour, then God must have turned His back on Israel, and so now the Church must be the recipients of all the promises, covenants and blessings that were given to Israel.

The reformers continued this false teaching. Although the message of salvation by grace alone was reformed or corrected, the clear teaching regarding Israel as God's people, infant baptism, teachings about communion, the priesthood, and other hand-me-down Catholic doctrines remained, even to this very day.

I just want to point out that to come to this conclusion, all of them, Origen, Augustine, the Catholic church, and the reformers had to ignore specific and repeated bible passages where God emphatically promised over and over again that He would never reject Israel, no matter how much they rebelled, and that He has a future for Israel, as we are witnessing first hand today. I'll give you just one example:

Jeremiah 31:35-37 NLT

It is the Lord who provides the sun to light the day and the moon and stars to light the night, and who stirs the sea into roaring waves. His name is the Lord of Heaven's Armies, and this is what He says:

³⁶ "I am as likely to reject My people Israel as I am to abolish the laws of nature!"

³⁷ This is what the Lord says: "Just as the heavens cannot be measured and the foundations of the earth cannot be explored, so I will not consider casting them away for the evil they have done. I, the Lord, have spoken!"

Again, for specific examples of how the church has persecuted Israel and how the replacement theology teaching affects how you interpret Scripture, see the links below.

Links to antisemitism previously covered in Revelation 12.

Audio	Revelation 12:1-9 Antisemitism Pt 1	Revelation 12:10 Antisemitism Pt 2	Revelation 12:11-17 Antisemitism Pt 3
Notes	Revelation 12:1-9 Antisemitism Pt 1	Revelation 12:10 Antisemitism Pt 2	Revelation 12:11-17 Antisemitism Pt 3

2. The spiritual reason why Israel rejected the gospel—spiritual pride or self-righteousness.

Romans 9:30-10:4 NLT

What does all this mean? Even though the Gentiles were *not* trying to follow [keep or live up to all of] God's standards [laws], they were made right with God. And it was *by faith* that this took place. ³¹ But the people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. ³² Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him. They stumbled over the Great Rock [Jesus] in their path. ³³ God warned them of this in the Scriptures when He said, "I am placing a stone in Jerusalem that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall. But anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced."

10:1 Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved. ² I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal. ³ For they don't understand God's way of making people right with Himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law. ⁴ For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given [because Jesus kept the law for us, in our place, we don't have to keep it perfectly in order to be made right with God]. As a result, all who believe in Him are made right with God.

There has always only been one way to be saved, and that is by grace through faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Why can't the law save us?

The Law of Moses is a conditional promise. God says, "If you perfectly obey my laws... then you will find life through them".

Leviticus 18:5 NLT

"If you [perfectly] obey my decrees and my regulations, [then] you will find life through them. I am the LORD."

Here God says that if anyone man keeps the law perfectly, then he will live forever with God. However, if he doesn't keep the law perfectly, then he won't experience eternal life—instead he will experience eternal death in the Lake of Fire. The Law of Moses is probably the most well known example of a *conditional* promise. Paul in Galatians makes it very clear that to be saved by keeping the Law of Moses, a man must keep *all* of it. Any sane human being would readily concede that this is an impossible task, given that we are all born with a corrupted or broken human nature that loves to sin.

Galatians 3:5-14 NLT

I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ.

⁶ In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." ⁷ The real [or spiritual] children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God.

⁸ What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in His sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹ So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

¹⁰ But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under His curse, for the Scriptures say, “**Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God’s Book of the Law.**” ¹¹ So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” ¹² This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, “It is through obeying the law that a person has life.”

¹³ But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When He was hung on the cross, He took upon Himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” ¹⁴ Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing He promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

Why then did God give us the Law of Moses?

The actual reason God gave us the Law of Moses was to show us just how pure, perfect, and holy God is. God gave the Law of Moses to Israel, summarised by the 10 commandments, not because He thought that it was possible that people could keep them if they tried really, really hard to be good (like the Pharisees did)—but rather because He knew that we cannot. Listen to what God thinks of people who are proud and refuse to accept the fact that they are sinners who need the Saviour.

Matthew 23:27-28 NLT

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. ²⁸ *Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.*”

Luke 18:9-13 NKJV

Also He [Jesus] spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ ¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ ¹⁴ *I tell you, this man [the humble tax collector] went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*”

Remember! *The law was not given as a way to find eternal life: Rather, the Law of Moses was given to reveal to every man that we are sinful at heart, with every part of us having been corrupted at the fall (when Adam sinned).* The purpose of the Law of Moses is to reveal to us that we cannot help ourselves, that we are in an absolutely hopeless situation, that we are born condemned to eternity in the Lake of Fire with no way to save ourselves.

Romans 3:19-20 NLT

Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. ²⁰ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. *The law simply shows us how sinful we are.*

Romans 3:19-20 AMP

Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that [the murmurs and excuses of] every mouth may be hushed and all the world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰ For no person will be justified (made righteous, acquitted, and judged acceptable) in His sight by observing the works prescribed by the Law. For [the real function of] the Law is to make men recognize and be conscious of sin [not mere perception, but an acquaintance with sin which works toward repentance, faith, and holy character].

We need this revelation of God's glory and holiness because, without it, we are so easily deceived by our wicked and deceitful hearts that we are good people, and therefore don't need the Saviour.

Romans 3:23 NKJV

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory [the perfect law] of God.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 NLT

The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? ¹⁰ But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve."

Proverbs 20:6 NKJV

Most men will proclaim each his own goodness,
but who can find a faithful man?

God has revealed to us through the Law of Moses that our situation, if we are left to ourselves, is absolutely hopeless—we cannot save ourselves from spending eternity in the Lake of Fire because we are unable to perfectly keep the law. Only perfect people can go to a perfect Heaven to live with a perfect God—but no-one is perfect. Why? Because we are born with a sinful nature that loves to sin. *The law is a mirror that shows us our true selves—we all need to continue to look into the mirror of God's word to get greater and greater revelation of just how gloriously perfect God is and how utterly sinful we are.*

3. The example of Abraham: salvation by grace through faith and not by works

Another example of a conditional promise is God's promise to save us from the brutal consequences of sin (eternity in the Lake of Fire), if we will choose to receive His very precious gift of Salvation:

John 3:16 NKJV

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish [suffer forever in the Lake of Fire] but have everlasting life [enjoy living in the presence of God's love for eternity].

John 11:25-26 NKJV

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die [physically], he shall live [for eternity with God]. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me [and is taken up at the Rapture] shall never die [physically]. Do you believe this?"

Acts 2:21, 36-41 NKJV

²¹ And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'

³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they [the Jews from all over the world in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover] were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “[Choose to] Be saved from this perverse generation.” ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received [believed] his word were baptised; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Romans 10:11-13 NKJV

For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Making the choice

I must come to understand that even my best efforts to try to be good enough to be accepted by God, which is salvation by *works* or *human effort*, is a pursuit that is always destined to fail. Why? Because I can never be good enough. However, God gives another conditional promise that brings us much hope. It is a promise that is based on *grace*, which means that God is offering us something good and wonderful that we don't deserve. God's offer of salvation by *grace* (by receiving forgiveness as a free gift), is the opposite of salvation by *works* (trying to earn God's favour or be good enough by human effort or merit). **The life of Abraham is used throughout Scripture as an example of someone who comes to Christ by faith in what God freely did for them (grace), and not in what they try to do for themselves (works). This is the cure for self-righteousness.** We see this in the following verses.

Galatians 3:10-14 NLT

But those who depend on the law [good works, human effort] to make them right with God are under His curse, for the Scriptures say, “*Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God's Book of the Law.*” ¹¹ *So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law.* For the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” ¹² This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, “It is through obeying the law that a person has life.”

¹³ But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When He was hung on the cross, He took upon Himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” ¹⁴ *Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the **same blessing He promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.***

Again, *Abraham is used many times in the Scriptures as the primary role model of a man who made the choice to repent and believe, to turn from his sins and put His trust in the promised Saviour.* This Saviour would be God Himself, who would come to earth as a baby, and live a perfect life—Jesus is the only One who ever kept the entire law perfectly. He would become, by His willing death in our place, the full payment for all the sins of all mankind.

Paul spends an entire chapter in the letter to the Romans using Abraham as the prime example of how to be saved by faith.

Romans 4:1-25 NLT

Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? ² If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. ³ **For the Scriptures tell us, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith [Genesis 15:6].”**

⁴ When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. ⁵ But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners. ⁶ David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it:

⁷ “Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight.

⁸ Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin.”

⁹ Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles? Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his faith.

¹⁰ But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised? **Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised!**

¹¹ ***Circumcision [like baptism] was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith.***

¹² **And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, but only if they have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised.**

¹³ Clearly, God’s promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God’s law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith.

¹⁴ If God’s promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise [of being saved by faith in the Messiah that was given to Abraham] is pointless. ¹⁵ For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)

¹⁶ **So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses [whether or not we are Jewish], if we have faith like Abraham’s. For Abraham is the [spiritual] father of all [Jew and gentile] who believe.** ¹⁷ That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, “I have made you the father of many nations.” This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

¹⁸ Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” ¹⁹ And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb.

²⁰ Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. ²¹ He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever He promises. ²² **And because of Abraham’s faith, God counted him as righteous [Abraham didn’t have to do anything to be saved].** ²³ **And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn’t just for Abraham’s benefit. It was recorded** ²⁴ **for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in Him, the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.** ²⁵ **He was handed over to die because of our sins, and He was raised to life to make us right with God.**

4. The ultimate fulfilment of all God’s promises to Abraham and Israel will be during the Millennial Reign of Christ on Earth

Explaining amillennialism, postmillennialism, and premillennialism

David Guzik comments on how the Replacement theology has changed the way many interpret the Bible, and how the thinking has changed over time: “The Bible speaks powerfully to other aspects of the millennial earth. Tragically, the Church through history has often ignored or denied the promise of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ [when Jesus physically returns to the earth and reigns for a 1,000 years from the temple in Jerusalem].

The early church until Augustine almost universally believed in an earthly, historical reign of Jesus, initiated by His return. Tyconius (in the late 300's) was the first to influentially champion a spiritualised interpretation, saying that this Millennium is now (amillennialism) [a = no, i.e. no physical reign of Jesus on the earth for a 1,000 years]. His view was adopted by Augustine, the Roman Catholic Church and most Reformation theologians.

Growing out of amillennialism is the doctrine of postmillennialism, saying the millennium will happen in this age, before Jesus' return—but that the church will bring it to pass [post = after, i.e. Jesus returns at the end of the millennium, after the church has fixed the world].

But the clear teaching of the Bible isn't amillennialism or postmillennialism, but what is called premillennialism—the teaching that Jesus Christ will return to this earth [pre] before the millennial earth, and He will establish and govern it directly. There are more than 400 verses in more than 20 different passages in the Old Testament which deal with this time when Jesus Christ rules and reigns personally over planet earth."

After Jesus returns to the earth at the end of the 7 year Tribulation, He will establish His kingdom on earth. Jesus will rule from His temple in Jerusalem for 1,000 years, and Israel will be the superpower that rules the world. Our faithfulness to God now will determine our position or role in Christ's Millennial kingdom (see Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 19:11-27)."

Here are some amazing facts about the coming kingdom of God on the earth. Some of the associated scriptures are quoted below. Others are there for you to look up.

1. King David will have a prominent place in the millennial earth (Isaiah 55:3–5, Jeremiah 30:4–11, Ezekiel 34:23–31, Ezekiel 37:21–28, Hosea 3:5).
2. There will be blessing and security for national Israel in the millennial earth (Amos 9:11–15).
3. The Millennium a time of purity and devotion to God (Zechariah 13:1–9).
4. Israel will be a nation of prominence in the millennial earth (Ezekiel 17:22–24).
5. There will be a rebuilt temple and restored temple service on the millennial earth (Ezekiel 40–48, Ezekiel 37:26–28, Amos 9:11, Ezekiel 20:39–44, Zech 6:12, 14:16, Micah 4:1-3).
6. Both the Old and New Testaments specifically promises a literal reign of Jesus Christ [the Branch] (Isaiah 11:1, Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15, Zech 3:8, Luke 1:32–33).
7. In their resurrected state, the saints will be given responsibility in the Millennial Earth according to their faithful service (Luke 19:11–27, Revelation 20:4–6, Revelation 2:26–28; 3:12, 21-22, 1 Corinthians 6:2–3)."

1. King David will have a prominent place in the millennial earth

Ezekiel 37:21-28 NLT (notice all the unconditional "I will" promises)

And give them this message from the Sovereign LORD: I will gather the people of Israel from among the nations. I will bring them home to their own land from the places where they have been scattered. ²² I will unify them into one nation on the mountains of Israel. One king will rule them all; no longer will they be divided into two nations or into two kingdoms. ²³ **They will never again pollute themselves with their idols and vile images and rebellion, for I will save them from their sinful apostasy. I will cleanse them. Then they will truly be My people, and I will be their God.**

²⁴ **"My servant David will be their king, and they will have only one shepherd. They will obey My regulations and be careful to keep My decrees. ²⁵ They will live in the land I gave My servant Jacob, the land where their ancestors lived. They and their children and their grandchildren after them will live there forever, generation after generation. **And My servant David will be their prince forever.** ²⁶ And I will make a covenant of peace with them, an everlasting covenant. I will give them their land and increase their numbers, and I will put My Temple among them forever. ²⁷ I will make My home among them. I will be their God, and they will be My people. ²⁸ And when My Temple is among them forever, the nations will know that I am the LORD, who makes Israel holy."**

Isaiah 55:3-5 NKJV

Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of **David**. ⁴ **Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, a leader and commander for the people.** ⁵ Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, and nations who do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you.”

Hosea 3:5 NKJV

Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days.

Jeremiah 30:4-10 NKJV

Now these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah.

⁵ “For thus says the LORD: ‘We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

⁶ Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins [stomach] like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale?

⁷ **Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it [the seven year Tribulation].** ⁸ ‘For it shall come to pass in that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. ⁹ **But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.**

¹⁰ ‘Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,’ says the LORD, ‘Nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid.

Ezekiel 34:23-24 NLT

And I will set over them one shepherd, my servant David. He will feed them and be a shepherd to them. ²⁴ **And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be a prince among My people.** I, the LORD, have spoken!

2. There will be blessing and security for national Israel in the millennial earth

Ezekiel 34:25-31 NLT

²⁵ “I will make a covenant of peace with My people and drive away the dangerous animals from the land. Then they will be able to camp safely in the wildest places and sleep in the woods without fear. ²⁶ I will bless My people and their homes around My holy hill [Jerusalem]. And in the proper season I will send the showers they need. There will be showers of blessing. ²⁷ The orchards and fields of My people will yield bumper crops, and everyone will live in safety. When I have broken their chains of slavery and rescued them from those who enslaved them, then they will know that I am the LORD. ²⁸ They will no longer be prey for other nations, and wild animals will no longer devour them. They will live in safety, and no one will frighten them.

²⁹ “And I will make their land famous for its crops, so My people will never again suffer from famines or the insults of foreign nations. ³⁰ In this way, they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them. And they will know that they, the people of Israel, are My people, says the Sovereign LORD. ³¹ You are My flock, the sheep of My pasture. You are My people, and I am your God. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!”

Amos 9:11–15 NLT

“In that day I will restore the fallen house [dynasty, line of kings] of David. I will repair its damaged walls. From the ruins I will rebuild it and restore its former glory. ¹² And Israel will possess what is left of Edom and all the nations I have called to be mine.” The LORD has spoken, and He will do these things.

¹³ “The time will come,” says the LORD, “when the grain and grapes will grow faster than they can be harvested. Then the terraced vineyards on the hills of Israel will drip with sweet wine!

¹⁴ I will bring my exiled people of Israel back from distant lands, and they will rebuild their ruined cities and live in them again. They will plant vineyards and gardens; they will eat their crops and drink their wine. ¹⁵ I will firmly plant them there in their own land. They will never again be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the LORD your God.

3. The Millennium a time of purity and devotion to God

Zechariah 13:1–9 NLT

“On that day a fountain will be opened for the dynasty of David and for the people of Jerusalem, a fountain to cleanse them from all their sins and impurity.

² “And on that day,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, “I will erase idol worship throughout the land, so that even the names of the idols will be forgotten. I will remove from the land both the false prophets and the spirit of impurity that came with them. ³ If anyone continues to prophesy, his own father and mother will tell him, ‘You must die, for you have prophesied lies in the name of the LORD.’ And as he prophesies, his own father and mother will stab him.

⁴ “On that day people will be ashamed to claim the prophetic gift. No one will pretend to be a prophet by wearing prophet’s clothes. ⁵ He will say, ‘I’m no prophet; I’m a farmer. I began working for a farmer as a boy.’ ⁶ And if someone asks, ‘Then what about those wounds on your chest? [from when he used to cut himself as a part of worshipping false gods]’ he will say, ‘I was wounded at my friends’ house!’

⁷ “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd [Jesus], the man who is My Partner [Companion or Equal],” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “Strike down the Shepherd [Jesus’ crucifixion], and the sheep [Israel] will be scattered, and I will turn against the lambs.

⁸ [During the 7 year Tribulation] Two-thirds of the people [Jews] in the land [of Israel] will be cut off and die,” says the LORD. “But one-third will be left in the land. ⁹ I will bring that group through the fire [the 7 year Tribulation, Jacob’s Trouble, see Jeremiah 30:7] and make them pure. I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘These are My people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’”

5. There will be a rebuilt temple and restored temple service on the millennial earth (Ezekiel 40–48)

Ezekiel 20:39–44 NLT

“As for you, O people of Israel, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Go right ahead and worship your idols, but sooner or later you will obey Me and will stop bringing shame on My holy name by worshiping idols. ⁴⁰ For on My holy mountain, the great mountain of Israel, says the Sovereign LORD, the people of Israel will someday worship Me, and I will accept them. There I will require that you bring Me all your offerings and choice gifts and sacrifices. ⁴¹ When I bring you home from exile, you will be like a pleasing sacrifice to Me. And I will display my holiness through you as all the nations watch. ⁴² *Then when I have brought you home to the land I promised with a solemn oath to give to your ancestors, you will know that I am the LORD.* ⁴³ You will look back on all the ways you defiled yourselves and will hate yourselves because of the evil you have done. ⁴⁴ You will know that I am the LORD, O people of Israel, when I have honoured My name by treating you mercifully in spite of your wickedness. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!”

Zech 6:12-13 NLT

Tell him, 'This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Here is the Man called the BRANCH [the Messiah]. He will branch out [sprout up] from where He is and build the Temple of the LORD. ¹³ Yes, He will build the Temple of the LORD. Then He will receive royal honour and will rule as king from His throne [in the temple]. He will also serve as priest from His throne, and there will be perfect harmony between His two roles [both king and priest].'

Zechariah 14:16 NKJV

And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem [the battle of Armageddon which marks the end of the 7 year Tribulation] **shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles [the feast the foreshadows the Millennial Reign of Christ].**

Micah 4:1-3 NKJV

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. ² Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths."

For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³ **He [Jesus] shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off;** they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, **neither shall they learn war anymore.**

6. Both the Old and New Testaments specifically promises a literal reign of Jesus Christ [the BRANCH]

Isaiah 11:1 NKJV

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots [the Messiah, the Branch, will be a physical descendant of Jesse, David's father].

Jeremiah 23:5-6 NKJV (very similar to 33:15-16)

"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ⁶ In His days [when the Messiah returns to rule for the Millennium] Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Zech 3:8-10 NLT

"Listen to Me, O Joshua the high priest, and all you other priests. You are symbols of things to come. **Soon I am going to bring My Servant, the Branch [Jesus, the Messiah].** ⁹ Now look at the jewel I have set before Joshua, a single stone with seven facets. I will engrave an inscription on it, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, **and I will remove the sins of this land in a single day.**

¹⁰ "And on that day, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, each of you will invite your neighbour to sit with you peacefully under your own grapevine and fig tree."

Luke 1:32-33 NKJV

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.** ³³ **And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."**

7. In their resurrected state, the saints will be given responsibility in the Millennial Earth according to their faithful service (Luke 19:11–27)

Revelation 20:4-6 NKJV

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands [during the 7 year Tribulation]. **And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** ⁵ But the rest of the dead [the unbelievers] did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**

Revelation 2:26–28 AMP

And he who overcomes (is victorious) and who obeys My commands to the [very] end [doing the works that please Me], I will give him authority and power over the nations; ²⁷ and he shall rule [shepherd] them with a sceptre (rod) of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, and [his power over them shall be] like that which I Myself have received from My Father; [Ps. 2:8, 9.] ²⁸ And I will give him the Morning Star [Jesus will give them Himself].

Revelation 3:12 NKJV

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

Revelation 3:21-22 NKJV

To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

²² "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' '

1 Corinthians 6:2–3 NKJV

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? ³ Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

In view of all these great and wonderful revelations of what Jesus 1,000 year rule and reign on the earth will look like, let's take seriously this life and seek to live a life that pleases God, to rid ourselves of all the sin that defiles us and run the race with perseverance.

Hebrews 12:1-4 NLT

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the Champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne. ³ Think of all the hostility He endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. ⁴ After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.

For homework and meditation read Luke 19:11-27. In this story or parable, Jesus explains that our faithfulness in this life will result in being rewarded in the Millennium.