

How Do We Know the Old Testament Promises Apply to Christians Today?

To whom were the Old Testament promises given?

Obviously, they were given to the Israelites.

Who were the Israelites? Were they Jews – or were they Christians?

The Bible clearly gives us that answer in Galatians, Chapter 3:

“Now to Abraham and his SEED were the promises made. He saith NOT, “And to SEEDS, as of many; but as of ONE, And to thy SEED, which is **Christ.**” Gal 3:16

“**And if ye be Christ’s**, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Gal 3:29

Those who are followers of Christ are Abraham’s seed and heirs of the promise. The promises to Abraham and his offspring are for Christians – NOT for Jews.

The Israelites were Christians (NOT Jews), because they were looking forward to Christ, the Messiah.

The Old Testament is about Jesus Christ – NOT Israel!

Furthermore, the entire Old Testament is NOT about the Israelites, it is about Jesus Christ. Jesus said so Himself,

‘You search the Scriptures, because in them you think you have eternal (*eonian*) life. But they are they which testify of ME.’ John 5:39

The only “Scriptures” that were available when Jesus was on earth were the Old Testament Scriptures. The New Testament had not yet been written.

What were/are the Old Testament promises given to Christians?

Before we discuss the Old Testament promises, we should first look at one very important biblical Rule of Interpretation that has been missed by virtually ALL Christians, including pastors, denominations, churches, and biblical researchers:

The rule that “the FIRST is always physical, and the SECOND is always spiritual.”

“It is sown a natural (physical – soulish = having the 5 senses) body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

And so it is written, the first man, Adam, was made a living soul (he had the 5 senses); the last Adam (Jesus Christ), was made a life-giving spirit.

Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural (physical or soulish); and afterward that which is spiritual.

The **first man** (Adam) is of the earth, earthy; the **second Man** (Jesus Christ) is the Lord from heaven.” 1 Cor 15:44-47

Again, God is telling us that the FIRST is always physical and the SECOND is always spiritual.

1) God has promised to heal ALL our diseases

“He forgives ALL our sins and heals ALL our diseases.” Psalm 103:3

“If you follow My laws, My commandments and My decrees, I WILL keep you FREE from EVERY disease.” Deuteronomy 7:11-15

The “first” type of healings were physical (the early rain):

When Jesus was on earth, He healed instantly and miraculously. That was necessary so the person who had been healed would realize that Jesus Christ had done it. But instantaneous, miraculous healings do not change the heart. Jesus healed 10 lepers, and only one came back to thank Him.

The “second” type of healings are “spiritual” (the “Latter Rain”):

When Jesus changes your heart, then you want to Do right, because it IS right. You WANT to “follow God’s laws, His commandments and His decrees” because your heart has been changed. And through this process, one slowly changes his or her habits, and restores the immune system, and the disease is healed.

2) Promised Land (Physical land of Palestine for the Israelite Christians)

In the Bible, the word “Egypt” symbolizes sin, and the physical Promised Land - Palestine – symbolizes heaven and the new earth (Salvation). Forty years (in the wilderness) symbolized the average adult life span (from age 30, when a man became a man – until 70 = 3 score and 10).

The physical Exodus of the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt to the freedom of the Promise Land of Canaan symbolized God calling us out of sin into His salvation.

3) Jesus’ complete triumph over Satan found in Genesis 3:15: Universal Restoration:

God said, “And I will put enmity between thee (Satan) and the woman (Eve), and between thy seed (non-Christians who are, by default, on the side of Satan) and her seed (Jesus Christ and His followers: true Christians): and it (the seed of Eve = Jesus Christ) shall bruise thy head (Satan’s head) (Jesus Christ will completely triumph over Satan), and thou (Satan) shalt bruise His heel. (Satan would appear to “bruise” Christ by orchestrating Christ’s death on the cross. But Jesus Christ became victorious over death for ALL mankind by His resurrection from the dead, and thus He eventually will save ALL mankind.

“God is the Savior of ALL mankind. Especially (not only) of those who believe.” 1 Tim 4:10

4) “Your Body is the Temple. I will dwell in you.”

Jesus Christ’s apostles did NOT start the Organized Church. Jesus Christ’s enemies – the Pharisees – started the Organized church – the Synagogues – the model for today’s Organized churches.

There was a physical sanctuary in the wilderness, and a physical temple in Jerusalem. God’s presence was in each of those – at different times. Except for the priests, no one was allowed inside the sanctuary or the temple, under penalty of death.

The sanctuary and the temple, where God’s presence resided, were NOT the model for today’s Organized churches. The synagogues – the counterfeit church of Christ’s time – where God’s presence did NOT reside – were the model for today’s organized churches.

The counterfeit “church” was started by the Pharisees – who called for the murder of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ says that now, “Your body is the temple. I will dwell in you, and you will reveal My character.”

Was Judaism in existence during the time of Christ?

No. Judaism didn’t start until 200 to 300 years AFTER Christ, when the Pharisees wrote down their Traditions that became the Talmud. Jesus strongly rebuked these Traditions, saying, “they make the Scriptures of none effect.”

For whom were the Old Testament promises given?

The Old Testament Promises were for ALL Christians down through the ages, as well as for today’s Christians, those who are true worshippers of Jesus Christ, NOT for today’s Jews – except when they become Christians – which all of them eventually will.