

PROMISE & PLAN

GOD'S STORY | AN EPIC OF LOVE

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THE WAITING ROOM?

- None of us knows in advance exactly what God will do, and we must learn to wait patiently for the Lord. Faith is always required.
 - The Nicholls waited in faith for a child
 - The world would need to wait for God's promise to overcome sin and save mankind. It would not happen for thousands of years, but the promise began immediately.

COVENANT PROMISES

- Since the beginning of His relationship with mankind, God has given specific requirements and promises known as 'covenants'.

"A covenant is an unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God and man that stipulates the conditions of their relationship."

Wayne Grudem Systematic Theology

- Elements of a Covenant are: parties involved, conditions explained, and promises given.

COVENANT OF GRACE

- THE PARTIES: God and the people He will redeem
- THE CONDITION: Faith in the work of God
- THE PROMISE: Eternal Life in God's Family

5 POINTS OF GRACE

- Romans 4:1-25
 1. Abraham is revered as the founder of Israel. As the founder of God's people his status before God was established by faith, and not obedience to the Law.
 2. Abraham's relationship with God was by faith, NOT works, circumcision, the Law, or his descendants.

3. Abraham is the spiritual father of the uncircumcised Gentiles and the circumcised Jews. God's people are those who have faith in God's promises!

4. Abraham at 100 experienced the life giving power of God in the birth of Isaac. We experience it in the life of Jesus' resurrection.

5. Salvation has always and only been available by grace, through faith in God who keeps His promises!

BY FAITH TAKE A LONG-RUN OUTLOOK

- God's Story requires faith in God to keep His promises in His time. "He is never late, rarely early, and always on time."
 - Our generation looks for 'quick fixes' and self fulfillment rather than patient endurance.

"In 50 years there will be no more "us", so we need to embrace the future NOW and concentrate on expanding God's kingdom: In the long term process we are all short term solutions."

Erwin McManus

- In Israel small towns with 10 or more Jewish men would build the finest facility in town- a synagogue. It would often take 3 generations to build it, but they sacrificed to get it done.

