



# World Christian Fellowship

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## Zacharias 06 Praise- New Covenant Luke 1:67-80

**Luke 1:67-80**, *Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: <sup>68</sup> "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, <sup>69</sup> And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, <sup>70</sup> As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, <sup>71</sup> That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, <sup>72</sup> To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup> To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, <sup>75</sup> In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. <sup>76</sup> "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, <sup>77</sup> To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, <sup>78</sup> Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; <sup>79</sup> To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace." <sup>80</sup> So the child grew*

*and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.*

We can divide Zachariah's praise then into those three parts.

Fulfilment of the Davidic Covenant,  
Fulfilment of the Abrahamic Covenant, and  
Fulfilment of the New Covenant.

All these three covenants are what we would call salvation covenants, / saving covenants.

These covenants have to do with blessings that come by salvation.

No one will experience the fullness of the Davidic Covenant apart from salvation. Everyone who is saved will participate to one degree or another in the fulfilment of the Davidic Covenant.

No one will enter the full blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant apart from salvation and all who believe will to some degree enter into the fullness of the promises and blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant.

No one will either experience the Davidic Covenant or the Abrahamic Covenant if they do not experience the forgiveness of sin provided in the New Covenant.

So, these are covenants which have to do with salvation!

- The Davidic Covenant is universal, insofar as it relates to the universal and eternal rule of Jesus Christ.
  - The Abrahamic Covenant is national, insofar as it deals primarily with promises made by God to Israel for blessing.
  - The New Covenant is personal, in that it deals with how God works for the forgiveness of sin in the life of an individual.
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- ✓ The Davidic Covenant, universal,
  - ✓ The Abrahamic Covenant, national,
  - ✓ The New Covenant, personal.

### **What was the Davidic Covenant?**

The Davidic Covenant was a promise to David by God that a Son would come out of David's loins ultimately who would rule in Israel and would rule over the whole earth and would rule forever.

It was not fulfilled by Solomon. After that the kingdom split and for centuries there has been no real king in Israel. But there will be a king.

God promised a greater son of David, somebody out of the Davidic line with David's blood would come to reign on the throne of Israel. That throne would bring peace and prosperity to Israel, would rule with a rod of iron and His rule would extend over the whole earth.

The Davidic kingdom looked primarily at the rescue of Israel from all the rulers around them and over them so that they would have ruled their own nation and that the Messiah would not only rule Israel but from Israel rule the world.

Zachariah's anticipation was Messiah's almost here, that means the Son of David has arrived, that means the Davidic kingdom is coming soon. Maybe even Zachariah could hang on long enough, though he was an old man, to live to see its inauguration.

He did not have any idea that they would reject the King, they would crucify the King and the kingdom would be postponed and still has not yet come.

Zacharias had a second hope. He knew this too was connected to Messiah and this is Abrahamic Covenant hope. The Abrahamic Covenant is one of those rock-bed elements to biblical interpretation.

If we understand this then we can get the big picture. There are lots of people who come to church and all they want is a little fix on something in their life. But we are not going to be able to address that today. Some days we do that.

The foundation by which we can understand the whole of redemptive history and it is all bound up in the Abrahamic Covenant.

While essentially the fulfilment of the Davidic Covenant is universal. He will literally rule the world someday and it will be a world of believers and unbelievers during the Millennial Kingdom.

- The Abrahamic Covenant is national.
- The Davidic is universal.

### **What was the Abrahamic Covenant?**

Zachariah was rejoicing because mercy was coming, mercy which God had showed toward their fathers in the promise that He gave, the holy covenant, the oath which He swore to Abraham.

A promise of a land

A great nation

Blessing on that nation.

That was the heart and soul of the Abrahamic Covenant.

The Abrahamic Covenant was basically given in the book of Genesis to Abraham, **Genesis 12:1-7**.

It was reiterated again in chapter 15, reiterated again in Genesis chapter 17 and 22.

This was the promise of profound and far-reaching and permanent blessing on the nation Israel.

God sealed that covenant in Genesis chapter 15. God did something by asking Abram to cut the animals into half and making Abraham to sleep then He walked through it.

God Himself comes like a smoking oven and like a burning lamp and passes through the pieces Himself.

The Abrahamic Covenant was unilateral,  
The Abrahamic Covenant was irrevocable.

It was a pledge that God made to Himself. It was not dependent upon Abram. It was God covenanting with Himself, but He ratified it with bloodshed. Interesting that the Abrahamic Covenant was ratified with bloodshed; so was the New Covenant, namely in the blood of Jesus Christ.

### **New Covenant:**

- ✓ The New Covenant is the covenant that brings the forgiveness of sin.
- ✓ The New Covenant is the covenant that brings the personal experience or personal knowledge of salvation.
- ✓ The New Covenant is the covenant that extends God's tender mercy or grace to us.
- ✓ The New Covenant brings the sunrise that shines on our darkness and delivers us from the shadow of death and leads us in the way of peace.

One truth that the Bible makes abundantly and unmistakably clear is that all men are sinners.

Sin is not just a

- behavioural problem.
- attitudinal problem.

But it is a deep-seated flaw in their nature.

Just as we have five senses physically, we have some non-physical components.

Emotion, thought, will, and sin.

It is in the fabric of man by virtue of the Fall. In Adam, who sinned, the whole race was plunged into sin because Adam was cursed and passed on that curse to all who came from him.

So, man is sinful, and it is not just a minor problem.

**Jeremiah 17:9**, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”*

**Romans 3:10-18**, *As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup>There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. <sup>12</sup>They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” <sup>13</sup>“Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of*

*asps is under their lips”;<sup>14</sup> “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”<sup>15</sup> “Their feet are swift to shed blood;<sup>16</sup> Destruction and misery are in their ways;<sup>17</sup> And the way of peace they have not known.”<sup>18</sup> “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

Very comprehensive description of the systemic sinfulness of man.

**Romans 7:21**, *I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.*

Paul calls this presence of sin as the law of sin.

He says there is a law in us called the law of sin and it is in me and it is in my flesh.

Let us use that metaphor "law" to help us to understand.

Paul does use the term "law" metaphorically because it expresses something with power, authority, and that controls. The word "law" is used not a law written on a book, but more like an operative principle such as the law of gravity.

When we say the law of gravity we are talking about a force, and that is the way the apostle Paul uses the term "law."

Sin is a force that is in us. It is a law that is in us. It is an operative principle.

It is that there is in us a force, there is in us a power. Like the law of gravity, it bends us, it draws us, it pulls us toward itself.

- Hunger is a law because it has the power to drive us, to compel us.
- Thirst is a law because it has the power to drive us and compel us.
- Sexual desire is a law because it has the power to drive us and compel us.
- Fear is such a law.
- Anger is such a law.
- Sorrow is such a law.
- Because they impel us, they bring a force to bear upon us that ends in a certain kind of behaviour.

Indwelling sin is that kind of force.

- It entices us.
- It pushes us.
- It manipulates us.
- It bends us.
- It dominates us.
- It controls us.

The law of sin does not work from the outside like other laws, it works from the inside. We have a lot of laws on the outside. They are all around us.

Laws in the Bible that God has established, laws in society, rules in our careers, our business, our workplace, schools or wherever else we live out our daily lives, standards that we adhere to in our home. We have a lot of external demands,

- No promises from God however good you are to overpower the law of sin.
- No threats from God, no matter how powerful, formidable, frightening, eternal, no threat from God can overpower our nature to do evil.

We can take the whole law of God, the whole Mosaic law, and the whole righteous standard that God laid out, we can read it, memorize it, and it will have no effect on us because it cannot from the outside overpower the force on the inside.

Or take the Ten Commandments, you may really desire to keep them. Forget it. You cannot, because even though it is the law of God, you cannot keep it.

Or maybe reduce it to the simpler by, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbour as yourself," which in effect is the fulfilling of the whole law. See it, memorize that, believe that, and try to apply that. Cannot be done.

When God made that promise to Abraham, that promise had no ability to make those people obey so that they could receive that promised blessing.

When God made the promise to David that some time Messiah would come and He would be of the line of David, and He would establish His rule in Jerusalem, bring peace to Israel and the glorious wondrous kingdom promised. Through Israel would rule the entire world and that His kingdom would be everlasting. When God gave such a glorious promise out in front of them and asked them to obey, it was impossible for them to do.

No matter how wonderful that promise it would have been to receive all the promises of Davidic blessing and Abrahamic blessing. There was not anything in the Davidic Covenant and Abrahamic Covenant that could overpower the force that was in them.

There was nothing that could cause them to live their lives in a way that would bring them into the place where they would be able to receive those blessings.

So, when God made promises to David that there would come the great King in the line of David, Messiah, would come someday and set up the glorious throne of royalty in Jerusalem. He would set aside all the enemies of Israel, bring Israel freedom from all its enemies.

A kingdom which Messiah would rule the entire world eternally when He promised that they were excited and looking for that fulfilment.

They did not have the ability in their own hearts to meet the conditions to bring it about.

When God promised to Abraham a great nation, a land, a people, prosperity, peace and blessing to them. They longed for that.

They could not keep His law.

- No matter how great the promises,
- No matter how frightening the threats,
- external promises and external threats from God cannot overpower the bent of the human heart.

The Mosaic law just made it clear that they could not do what God wanted them to do. No matter how severe the threats, or how glorious the promises, threats and promises even from God cannot break the power of the more compelling law of sin.

**Would they never receive those promises then?**

**Was there any hope?**

**How were they ever going to receive the promises of God?**

Two things should happen:

- They should be forgiven for their violations.
- They could obey the standards by any means.

What they needed was another covenant.

The Davidic Covenant gave them great promise.

The Abrahamic Covenant gave them great promise.

The Mosaic Covenant at Sinai, or Horeb, condemned them.

If they were ever going to inherit what was promised to David and Abraham, then the sins, the violations of the Mosaic Covenant were going to have to be forgiven.

Secondly, they were going to have to be changed on the inside so that they possessed another force that could overpower the force of sin.

**Another covenant that could do two things:**

Forgive their sin and  
change their heart.

We need to understand the need for the New Covenant.

Deuteronomy is a word really from the Greek, *deutero nomos*.

**Deutero** means "second."

**Nomos** means "law."

This is the second giving of the law.

From **Chapter 10 of Deuteronomy** God gives various laws and commandments to the people of Israel.

**Deuteronomy 26:16**, *“This day the Lord your God commands you to observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.*

The Israelites declared that they would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His ordinances and listen to His voice.

That was what they did.

They made this in Exodus 24 where they did the same thing.

They killed the animals and took the blood half of the blood they poured it on the book of the law and the tabernacle to show that was God’s part.

Then they took the other half of the blood they splashed it on the people to make the commitment on their part.

They made the commitment to God by the blood.

Similarly, they were going to make the commitment with God keep the law of God in Deuteronomy 26.

**Deuteronomy 26:17**, *Today you have proclaimed the Lord to be your God, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice.*

They said,

- We are going to do it.
- We are going to walk in His ways.
- We are going to keep His statutes.
- We are going to keep all His commandments.
- We are going to keep all His ordinances.
- We are going to obey His voice.

**Deuteronomy 26:18-19**, *Also today the Lord has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments, <sup>19</sup>and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honour, and that you may be a holy people to the Lord your God, just as He has spoken.”*

God makes the commitment that they will get the Davidic promise and Abrahamic promise, all of that is going to come to pass if they are obedient.

**Problem:**

They cannot do it.

**Deuteronomy 27:1-8**, *Now Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people, saying: “Keep all the commandments which I command you today. <sup>2</sup>And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime. <sup>3</sup>You shall write on them all the*

*words of this law, when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the Lord your God is giving you, 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' just as the Lord God of your fathers promised you. <sup>4</sup>Therefore it shall be, when you have crossed over the Jordan, that on Mount Ebal you shall set up these stones, which I command you today, and you shall whitewash them with lime. <sup>5</sup>And there you shall build an altar to the Lord your God, an altar of stones; you shall not use an iron tool on them. <sup>6</sup>You shall build with whole stones the altar of the Lord your God, and offer burnt offerings on it to the Lord your God. <sup>7</sup>You shall offer peace offerings, and shall eat there, and rejoice before the Lord your God. <sup>8</sup>And you shall write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law." <sup>9</sup>Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the Lord your God. <sup>10</sup>Therefore you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today."*

God just keeps saying it over and over one word. Obedience, obedience, and obedience.

Obedience to the law of God.

**Illustration done by God:**

**V 12,** Moses commands 6 tribes to go to Mount Gerizim.

**V 13,** Moses commands another 6 tribes to go to Mount Ebal.

Those were two mountains separated by a valley in which Shechem existed and it might have been that the priests were in the valley and the Ark of the Covenant was in the valley.

- Ebal was the mountain that would express the curses.
- Gerizim was the mountain that would express the blessings.

They were to dramatize the situation.

The curses were recited from Mount Ebal.

The blessings were recited from Mount Gerizim.

They start shouting blessings from one place and curses from the other. Idea is that God is pouring out promises in one hand and threats on the other.

From Deuteronomy 27:15-26 curses were pronounced.

From Deuteronomy 28:1- 14 blessings were pronounced.

From Deuteronomy 28:15-68 curses were pronounced.

God's given the Mosaic law.

God has already laid out Abrahamic promise to them.

Davidic promise will come later.

But in order for them to receive the blessings that God has included in the Abrahamic promise, in order for them to receive

the blessings that God will include in the Davidic promise, they have to be obedient.

God recites again and again how important it is for them to obey. They make a very explicit expression as a nation that they are going to obey the law of God. God seals the importance of this by promises to incite them to obedience and threats to warn them against disobedience.

No matter how hard they tried they could not obey.

**Romans 3:20**, *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

They could not do it because even the promises of God and even the threats of God could not break the power of the law of sin, the force that is in you. They needed something else.

They needed another covenant, a covenant that incorporated two things, forgiveness and a new heart, a new capacity.

That would open the door to Davidic fulfilment.

That would open the door to Abrahamic fulfilment.

This is where we come to the New Covenant.

**Luke 1:77-80**, *To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, <sup>78</sup> Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; <sup>79</sup> To*

*give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,  
To guide our feet into the way of peace."*

Now Zacharias coming out of the Abrahamic Covenant and says, "The Messiah is going to come to give His people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of sins,"

He has now gone beyond Abrahamic, Davidic and Mosaic Covenants and talking about the New Covenant, because it's the New Covenant that provides the forgiveness of sins.

It is the New Covenant that gives light on darkness and liberates us. The New Covenant that takes us out of the way of death and takes us into the way of peace. Everything Zacharias said is New Covenant phrase.

Jewish people standing there on that day on those two mountains and in the valley between trying to figure out how they were going to avoid the curses and receive the blessings of God.

When there was a force for sin in them, how they were going to be able to overpower that?

They were in a difficult situation, the same situation any person is in who tries to achieve God's standard of righteousness on his or her own.

**Deuteronomy 29:1**, *These are the words of the covenant which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb.*

This is a new covenant. This is a covenant which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the sons of Israel to give to the sons of Israel besides the covenant which He made with him at Horeb.

if they had only the covenant at Horeb then they are all damned. Because they cannot keep the law, so they are all under its curse.

**James 2:10**, *For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.*

They needed another covenant beside the covenant at Sinai because they could not get saved by keeping the law.

This is the reason the New Testament makes such a monumental point about the fact that you cannot be saved by works. Every false religious system in the world can be known because they have a salvation by works, religious, or moral, or both.

Moses is here introducing a new covenant, not like any other covenant.

**Deuteronomy 30:1**, *“Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God drives you,*

Here is a good indication of how they are going to do on keep the commandments!

They are going to end up banished.

Obviously, they are not going to receive the promise of the Abrahamic Covenant if they are banished because the promise of the Abrahamic Covenant was the land.

History confirms to us exactly what is stated right here happened, that they are banished.

**Deuteronomy 30:2-3**, *and you return to the Lord your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul,<sup>3</sup> that the Lord your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you.*

Even though Israel has reconstituted a nation in 1949. This is not the regathering spoken of here because they have not yet returned to the Lord their God or obeyed Him with all their heart and soul.

**Deuteronomy 30:4-5**, *If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.<sup>5</sup> Then the Lord your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.*

This is a kingdom regathering. This is the future millennial regathering.

### **How is it going to happen?**

**Deuteronomy 30:6**, *And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*

God is going to have a spiritual surgery!

**Deuteronomy 30:7-10**, *“Also the Lord your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.<sup>8</sup> And you will again obey the voice of the Lord and do all His commandments which I command you today.<sup>9</sup> The Lord your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the Lord will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers,<sup>10</sup> if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in*

*this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

God is saying that their blessing depends on turning to the Lord with all their heart and soul.

Turning to the Lord with all your heart and soul depends on God giving you a new heart.

This is New Covenant truth!

**V 6** is the key: *The Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*

- ✓ Isaiah,
- ✓ Jeremiah,
- ✓ Ezekiel,
- ✓ Hosea,
- ✓ Joel,
- ✓ Amos,
- ✓ Zephaniah,
- ✓ Zechariah,
- ✓ Malachi,

In the New Testament, apostle Paul, speak of this ultimate salvation of the nation Israel.

Remember now, this is a national promise.

- Davidic Covenant was a national promise with universal implications.
- The Abrahamic promise was a national promise that also had wide implications.
- The New Covenant is a personal promise that has national implications because salvation, being personal, but someday the persons who are saved will constitute the nation Israel.

So, the prophets anticipated the fulfilment of Abrahamic promise, Davidic promise, and this New Covenant promise when God would circumcise the heart.

That is the New Covenant.

There would not be any way to keep the law of God unless you had a different heart. There would not be any way to keep the law of God and to avoid the threats and accept the blessings if there was not a way to overcome the power of sin, the force, the law of sin that operates in your flesh.

Anybody talks about the New Covenant they always go to Jeremiah 31 because this is its most explicit interpretation.

This gets us right in touch with where Zacharias was.

By the time of Jeremiah, they desperately needed a New Covenant. They were in a hopeless situation.

**Jeremiah 31:31**, *“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—*

What God spoke to them way back in Deuteronomy chapter 30 when their hearts are going to be circumcised.

**Jeremiah 31:32-34**, *not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”*

I will put My law in your heart.

The word "law" again. Law means Force.

I will put My force within them. I will put My power within them. It will cause them to bend My direction.

When God says, I am going to put My law within them, He's talking about a righteous force in the life of His people.

## **What we desperately need if we are going to avoid threats?**

We need to have two things:

- Forgiveness for our violations,
- A new heart.

The only hope for Israel to receive Davidic hope, promise and Abrahamic promise is that they would have a new heart that could obey. The only hope for Israel that they could avoid the judgment, the just and righteous judgment for their violation for the Mosaic Covenant is if they were forgiven.

This New Covenant needs to do two things:

- It needs to empower us to obedience by putting a force in us that is greater than the force that is already there, namely sin,
- It needs to be able to deal with all the violations that we have committed against the law of God by the forgiveness of sin.

Exactly what the New Covenant does.

Now this again is an unconditional, unilateral, eternal, irrevocable covenant from God, as are the other ones. This is what is necessary.

God promised a future to Israel in the land with blessing and prosperity and through them to bless the world.

God promised a kingdom to Israel and a King, Messiah reigning in Jerusalem over Israel and over the entire earth, ruling with a rod of iron and a kingdom that will never end.

But they cannot receive those things because they cannot ever get to the point of obedience to receive the blessings. On their own, it is hopeless.

Israel has a great future.

There is a King coming to rule over Israel.

There will be a King, Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will set up His throne in Jerusalem.

He will rule over the land of Israel.

They will have peace and safety.

They will have Abrahamic prosperity, blessing, and they will possess their land to the fullest.

They will also be blessed by God to be a blessing to the entire world.

They will all know God.

They will all have new hearts, able to serve God and overpower the force of sin that is in them.

They will all have all their sins forgiven.

That is to come.