

A PERFECTED FINAL GENERATION PROMISED AND GUARANTEED, I

The Perfection of the Final Generation Promised

1. In order to make a lie Satan's claim that God's Law cannot be obeyed perfectly and thus, bring the great controversy to an end, God needs to exhibit a group of people who perfectly keep that Law—the 144,000
 - a. The 144,000 will prove by their testimony that the Law of God is holy, just and good and its demands are not grievous
 - b. Satan will be allowed to bring every weapon in his arsenal to bear against the 144,000 during the time of trouble to see if they will remain faithful to God's commandments, and they will
2. Unfortunately, after nearly 6,000 years from the fall of Adam, that has not happened yet
3. So the question is, is God able to do what He says he will do? What guarantee do we have that God will bring it pass, regardless of the long wait?
4. He promised it and His promises cannot fail; it is impossible for God to lie (**Heb 6:18**)
5. So where do we find the promise that God will in fact, do what He says He will do—i.e., produce a people who He can showcase to the universe as keeping His commandments perfectly, in spite of Satan's claim?
6. **Heb 10:16-17**--It is found in the new covenant promise
7. Notice the strong connection between perfection of the conscience or the mind and the new covenant in **Hebrews 10**
8. In **Hebrews 10**, Paul contrasts the old and the new covenant
 - a. The old covenant had provisions for sacrifices which could not make anyone perfect as pertaining to the conscience (**verse 1-2**)
 - b. In contrast, the new covenant provides a better Sacrifice (Jesus) and brings perfection to the worshippers (**verses 12-17**)

What Perfection Includes

9. **REMEMBER:** Perfection of the conscience means more than just sinless behavior; it means sinless thoughts, sinless memory! We cannot claim perfection of character while our conscience keeps reminding us and accusing of past sins; memory of sin is imperfection of thought
10. There are five things in the new covenant in which God promises to fulfill
 - a. They shall all know me
 - b. I will be their God and they shall be my people
 - c. I will forgive their sins
 - d. I will write my laws in their hearts
 - e. I will remember their sins no more

11. **IMPORTANT:** Notice that it is the full and complete application of the new covenant promise which will result in the experience where there is absolutely no more sin **AND** absolutely no more memory of sin, in the mind of God and in our minds
 - a. That is guaranteed in the promise *"I will remember their sins no more"*
12. The reason why no generation in the past could attain to this glorious experience is because the provisions of the new covenant have not been completely and fully applied
13. Not until the new covenant promise is fully and completely applied to the final generation will it be possible to announce to the universe *"Here are they that keep the commandments of God. . ."*

The Blessedness of the Christian Experience

14. It is important to realize that the Christian experience is nothing but the result of applying these five promises of the new covenant in the life
15. In other words, the experience of conviction, pardon, justification, acceptance, conversion, daily sanctification and glorification are the result of applying the five-fold new covenant promise in the life of the believer
16. Without these promises in the new covenant, there can be no progress in the Christian walk

The New Covenant Is Better than the Old

17. **Jer 31:31-14**--But why does the text say *"not according to the covenant God made with Israel?"*
18. It was a dead-end covenant
 - a. Paul said it had weaknesses or "faults" (**Heb 8:7-9**)
 - b. The implication is, the new covenant has no faults or weaknesses
19. The old covenant is described in **Exo 19-24**
 - a. **Exo 19:5-7**--God proposes to make a covenant with the Israel at the foot of mount Sinai
 - b. **Exo 19:8**--The people promise to keep their part of this covenant
 - c. **Exo 20**—the terms of the covenant spelled out in ten commandments
 - d. **Exo 21-23**--the ten commandments broken down into rules and regulations that affected day to day living
 - e. **Exo 24**—the old covenant ratified with the blood of animals and written in a book; the people promise two more times to stay faithful to this covenant
20. **Exo 23:20-22**—the "fault" of the old covenant becomes apparent when the Israelites break it after 40 days
 - a. There was no provision for pardon in case of transgressions
21. This explains why God was furious and ready to destroy His people 40 days after it was broken
22. It also explains why Moses said, *"If you cannot forgive their sin, blot my name out. . ."*; Moses knew there was no pardon in this covenant
23. The Spirit of Prophecy clearly points out that the people *"could not hope for favor through the covenant which they had broken"* (PP 371)

. . .The people did not realize the sinfulness of their own hearts, and that without Christ it was impossible for them to keep God's law; and they readily entered into covenant with God. Feeling that they were able to establish their own righteousness, they declared, "All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient."

Exodus 24:7. They had witnessed the proclamation of the law in awful majesty, and had trembled with terror before the mount; and yet only a few weeks passed before they broke their covenant with God, and bowed down to worship a graven image. **They could not hope for the favor of God through a covenant which they had broken;** and now, seeing their sinfulness and their need of pardon, they were brought to feel their need of the Saviour revealed in the Abrahamic covenant and shadowed forth in the sacrificial offerings. Now by faith and love they were bound to God as their deliverer from the bondage of sin. Now they were prepared to appreciate the blessings of the new covenant. **PP 371**

24. Why did God enter into such a terrible covenant with the people to begin with? To teach His people three important things:
- To help them see that they were morally weak, depraved and sinful
 - To help them realize that without Christ, it was impossible for them to keep the Law
 - To help them see that without the grace of God, they were condemned to die
25. As a result of the intercession of Moses, the old covenant received an upgrade
- Forgiveness was now added and the Lord told Moses to build a sanctuary so that atonement may be made and sin forgiven (**Exo 25:8,9**)
26. This upgraded version of the old covenant was still not very sinner friendly though; only sins of ignorance (**Lev 4:27-28**) and few willful sins could be forgiven (**Lev 6:1-6**)
- People who committed serious offenses like breaking the Sabbath and committing adultery were stoned to death; there was no sacrifice for these sins
 - David and Bathsheba had no chance under this covenant; there was no sacrifice for their sin (**Ps 51:16**)
27. This was the “fault” of the old covenant Paul talked about in **Heb 8:7-8**; it wasn’t very accommodating to weak, struggling, defective sinners; it was not “sinner-friendly”
28. The new covenant is better
- Acts 13:38-39**—sins that could not be forgiven under the law of Moses can be forgiven under the old covenant
 - Heb 8:6**--It is based on better promises
 - Heb 9:15**—the benefits of the new covenant extend even to transgressions committed under the old covenant
 - Heb 10:16-17**--It is God that Himself Who promises to enable weak sinners to conform their lives to His Law

“I will put my law in their inward parts and write it in their hearts. . . I will be their God, and they shall be my people; They shall all know me. . . I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more” (Jer 31:31-34)

- Human promises are like ropes of sand (**SC 47**); but God’s promises cannot fail
- Phil 2:12**--“For it is God that works in you both to will and to do according to His good pleasure”

The New Covenant Promise Fulfilled and Applied

29. The application of this **five-fold** new covenant promise results in five stages of the Christian experience:
30. **Stage 1 Conviction:** *“They shall all know me. . .”* --this is the starting point of the Christian experience; it is the stage where the sinner moves from ignorance to a saving knowledge of God; from darkness to light and from death to eternal life
- John 17:3**—*“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God. . .”*.
 - Rom 2:4**--Knowledge of the goodness of God leads one to repent; Knowledge of God makes one realize that he is a sinner in need of pardon and grace
 - Matt 11:29**—Jesus invites sinners to learn of Him; learn of me, if they are to find rest in their souls

The experimental knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, transforms man into the image of God. It gives to man the mastery of himself, bringing every impulse and passion of the lower nature under the control of the higher powers of the mind. It makes its possessor a son of God and an heir of heaven. It brings him into communion with the mind of the Infinite, and opens to him the rich treasures of the universe.
COL 114.

- On the flip side, people who do not know the Lord end up doing terrible things
 - 1 Sam 2:12**—the sons of the high priest Eli did not know the Lord
 - Exo 5:2**--the pharaoh of Egypt—*“Who is the Lord? I don’t know the Lord and I will not let the people go!”*
 - Rom 1:28-32**—The Gentiles who will not retain God in their knowledge end up committing horrendous sins
31. **Stage 2: Adoption:**—*“I will be their God and they shall be my people;”* this is called adoption in the Bible, where penitent believers are adopted into the family of God
- 2 Cor 6:18**—*“He will be a Father unto you and you will be my sons and daughters”*
 - “Our Father which art in heaven”
 - Rom 9:4**--The Israelites received the adoption as sons and called His firstborn
 - Eph 1:15**--“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will”
 - Heb 12:24**—likewise, believers today are part of the church of the firstborns by adoption
32. **Stage 3 Justification:** *“I will be merciful and forgive their iniquity”* --the third stage of the Christian experience is based on this new covenant promise
- This is where repentance and pardon and **justification by faith** or **righteousness by faith** come into being
 - The sinner is restored to favor with God on the basis of faith and repentance
 - 1 John 1:9, 7**—sins pardoned when confessed

- d. **Eph 1:7**--In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
 - e. **Rom 5:1**—the pardoned, justified believer experiences peace with God
33. **Stage 4 Conversion:** *“I will put my laws in their inward parts and write them in their hearts. . . .”*—this is next stage in the Christian experience
- a. **2 Cor 5:17**--This is the stage of the Christian walk where the pardoned sinner learns to lovingly obey the Law of God; this life of obedience is also called **sanctification** which is a daily process
 - b. **Ps 40:8**--*I delight to do thy will, O my God, yea, thy law is within my heart*

Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfillment of the **covenant** God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, His Son, and His Spirit in holy fellowship. **7BC 908.**

34. **Stage 5 Perfection:** *“I will remember their sins no more”* – This is final stage of the Christian experience
- a. This last part of the new covenant promise and is the best of all the promises
 - b. This includes the final cleansing from sin and the blotting out of sin from the books of heaven
 - c. **Isa 43:25**—“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”
35. The blotting out of sin is not merely a judicial act on the part of God, but a life-changing experience
36. Called the perfecting of the conscience (**Heb 9:8**)
- a. No more consciousness of sin (**Heb 10:2**); the conscience no longer accuses of sin
 - b. **Jer 50:20**--The mind or the character is perfected to the extent that there is no more awareness or memory of sin whatsoever

Conclusion

37. Again, these provisions of the new covenant form the basis of the entire Christian experience from beginning to end-- from conversion, adoption, justification, to daily sanctification and finally to character perfection (glorification)
38. Without the promises and provisions of the new covenant promises, there would be no such thing as salvation by grace through faith;
39. No conviction of sin, no faith, no repentance, no forgiveness, no change of heart, no righteousness by faith, no change of status from children of wrath to children of God
40. Without the new covenant promises, there would be no gospel, no power of God unto salvation, no righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith (**Rom 1:16-17**)
41. Which covenant are we under? The old or the new?