

The Promise: God's Everlasting Covenant
#6 – "Abraham's Seed"
Seventh-day Adventist Adult Sabbath School Lesson
1st Quarter, 2003 (for Sabbath, February 8, 2003)

Scripture and E. G. White references from Graham Maxwell's Audio Lesson Study
(Times given are approximate and are based on the on-line version)

8:01

Luke 1:18-20, NRSV

(Partially quoted, partially paraphrased.)

¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹ The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."¹

8:55

Luke 1:31-38, NRSV

(Referred to and somewhat paraphrased.)

³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.²

9:28

(Referred to.)

Zacharias well knew how to Abraham in his old age a child was given because he believed Him faithful who had promised. {DA 98.2}³

9:50

Luke 1:54-55, NRSV

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."⁴

10:20

Luke 1:68-75, NRSV

⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to

¹ *The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version*. 1996, c1989. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

² *The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version*. 1996, c1989. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ White, E. G. (1898;2002). *The Desire of Ages; DA; Conflict of the Ages Series, Vol. 3; Desire of Ages* (Page 98). Pacific Press Publishing Association.

⁴ *The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version*. 1996, c1989. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.⁵

13:59

1 Peter 2:9, NIV

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.⁶

14:37

1 Peter 2:9, KJV

(“Peculiar people” portion mentioned in lesson.)

⁹ But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.⁷

15:42

Deuteronomy 7:6, KJV

(“Special people” portion mentioned in lesson.)

⁶ For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth.⁸

23:58

Romans 9:20, NIV

(Partially quoted in a different translation.)

²⁰ But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’”⁹

30:21

Isaiah 9:6, NRSV

(Partially quoted.)

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.¹⁰

48:40

Genesis 15:7-18, NRSV

⁷ Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” ⁸ But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. ¹³ Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; ¹⁴ but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a

⁵ *The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version*. 1996, c1989. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁶ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

⁷ *The Holy Bible : King James Version*. 1995. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁸ *The Holy Bible : King James Version*. 1995. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁹ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

¹⁰ *The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version*. 1996, c1989. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." ¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,"¹¹

51:35

(Portions in italics quoted in the lesson.)

Still the patriarch begged for some visible token as a confirmation of his faith and as an evidence to after-generations that God's gracious purposes toward them would be accomplished. *The Lord condescended to enter into a covenant with His servant, employing such forms as were customary among men for the ratification of a solemn engagement. By divine direction, Abraham sacrificed a heifer, a she-goat, and a ram, each three years old, dividing the bodies and laying the pieces a little distance apart. To these he added a turtledove and a young pigeon, which, however, were not divided. This being done, he reverently passed between the parts of the sacrifice, making a solemn vow to God of perpetual obedience. Watchful and steadfast, he remained beside the carcasses till the going down of the sun, to guard them from being defiled or devoured by birds of prey. About sunset he sank into a deep sleep; and, "lo, a horror of great darkness fell upon him." And the voice of God was heard, bidding him not to expect immediate possession of the Promised Land, and pointing forward to the sufferings of his posterity before their establishment in Canaan. The plan of redemption was here opened to him, in the death of Christ, the great sacrifice, and His coming in glory. Abraham saw also the earth restored to its Eden beauty, to be given him for an everlasting possession, as the final and complete fulfillment of the promise. {PP 137.1}*

As a pledge of this covenant of God with men, a smoking furnace and a burning lamp, symbols of the divine presence, passed between the severed victims, totally consuming them. And again a voice was heard by Abraham, confirming the gift of the land of Canaan to his descendants, "from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates." {PP 137.2}¹²

1:00:00

The day of deliverance is at hand. "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him." 2 Chronicles 16:9. *Among all nations, kindreds, and tongues, He sees men and women who are praying for light and knowledge. Their souls are unsatisfied; long have they fed on ashes. See Isaiah 44:20. The enemy of all righteousness has turned them aside, and they grope as blind men. But they are honest in heart and desire to learn a better way. Although in the depths of heathenism, with no knowledge of the written law of God nor of His Son Jesus, they have revealed in manifold ways the working of a divine power on mind and character. {PK 376.2}*

At times those who have no knowledge of God aside from that which they have received under the operations of divine grace have been kind to His servants, protecting them at the risk of their own lives. The Holy Spirit is implanting the grace of Christ in the heart of many a noble after truth, quickening his sympathies contrary to his nature, contrary to his former education. The "Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (John 1:9), is shining in his soul; and this Light, if heeded, will guide his feet to the kingdom of God. The prophet Micah said: "When I sit in

¹¹ *The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version.* 1996, c1989. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹²White, E. G. (1890;2002). *The Story of Patriarchs and Prophets as Illustrated in the Lives of Holy Men of Old;PP;Conflict of the Ages Series, Vol. 1;Patriarchs and Prophets* (Page 137). Review and Herald Publishing Association.

darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. . . . He will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold His righteousness." Micah 7:8, 9. {PK 376.3}¹³

1:01:59

To every human being in the wide world who will give heed must be made plain the principles at stake in the great controversy being waged, principles upon which hang the destinies of all mankind. {PK 716.1}¹⁴

1:02:43 and 1:03:51

It is His purpose that every Christian shall be surrounded with a spiritual atmosphere of light and peace. {PK 720.1}¹⁵

¹³White, E. G. (1917;2002). *The Story of Prophets and Kings as Illustrated in the Captivity and Restoration of Israel;PK;Conflict of the Ages Series, Vol. 2;Prophets and Kings* (Page 376). Pacific Press Publishing Association.

¹⁴White, E. G. (1917;2002). *The Story of Prophets and Kings as Illustrated in the Captivity and Restoration of Israel;PK;Conflict of the Ages Series, Vol. 2;Prophets and Kings* (Page 716). Pacific Press Publishing Association.

¹⁵White, E. G. (1917;2002). *The Story of Prophets and Kings as Illustrated in the Captivity and Restoration of Israel;PK;Conflict of the Ages Series, Vol. 2;Prophets and Kings* (Page 720). Pacific Press Publishing Association.