

GETTING THE BIG PICTURE: BLESSING, CURSE, BLESSING RESTORED

Creation (God is King)	Blessing of God (Gen. 1:28) Curse if covenant broken.	Close Relationship & Communication with God (Gen. 2:16; 3:8a)	No Shame (Gen. 2:25)	Heart Innocent (Gen. 1:27, 31; 2:25)	Harmony Between Man and Nature (Gen. 1:28)	Residence in Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:15)	Tree of Life (Gen. 2:16; 3:22)
Fall (Man Rebels)	Curse of God (Gen. 3:17)	Separation from God (man hiding, thrown out of Garden of Eden; Gen. 3:8)	Guilty and Shame (covering needed; Gen. 3:7, 21)	Heart Evil (becomes prone to do evil; Gen. 4:8; 6:5)	Disharmony (Cain kills Abel, animals fear, thorns; Gen. 3:16-18, 9:2)	Expulsion and Exile from Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:23)	Death (Gen. 3:19, 22)
Redemption in Old Testament: Seen often as promise, vision, symbol or type. (God is King)	Blessing Promised (All nations to be blessed through seed of Abraham; Gen. 12:2-3; 22:17-18) Curse for covenant breakers. Themes of suffering and glory.	Closer Relationship & Communication with God (Temple, Prophets; Deut. 4:29-40) God dwells with Israel.	Guilt and Shame Covered Atonement/covering for sin (Leviticus ch. 17) Promise of suffering servant who suffers shame for his people.	Heart Renewed (Circumcised heart, new heart; Deut. 6:5, 10:16, 30:6; Jer. 4:4; Ezek. 36; Ps. 51)	Harmony Promised (Renewal of Nature, Wars Cease; Isaiah 2:2-5 & 11:1-9) Prophetic vision of Eden restored.	Promised Land (Meek inherit Israel; Ps. 37:11) Promised land a down payment of Eden Restored.	Promise of Death Overcome (Eternal life, resurrection; Ex. 3:6; Ps. 23:6; Daniel 12:2)
Redemption According to New Covenant: Accomplished and unfolding through the Messiah. (Messiah is King!)	Full Blessing (Restored through New Adam; Rom. 5:12-19; 1 Cor. 15:22) Messiah suffers covenant curses & restores covenant blessings . Jesus suffers, then glorified.	Relationship with God restored (The Incarnation: God is with us, we become sons and Temple of the Holy Spirit: God is in us. Jn. 1:14; 1Cor. 6:19; Col.3:16; Jer. 31:33)	Guilt and Shame Removed (Jesus atones for sin, we are righteous through His sacrifice; Romans 5:1-5) We are washed clean and clothed in Messiah's righteousness.	New Heart (Born Again; Ezek. 36, John 3:3; Col. 2:11-12) Sanctification and ultimate heavenly glorification with no possibility of sin there. We are new creatures in Messiah.	Harmony Restored (Peace w/God, nature renewed at return; Lk 2:14; Eph 2:14ff; Rom 8:19ff; Rev.22:1ff) Jew and Gentile, all nations made one in Messiah.	New Heavens and Earth, Ultimate Promised Land (Meek now to inherit whole earth; Mt. 5:5; 2 Pet. 3:13, Rev.22:1ff) Through the Second Adam, Eden is finally restored in eternity.	Resurrection: Death Finally Overcome (Messiah rises from dead, eternal life to believers; 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 51-56, Tree of Life recovered, Rev. 22:2)

Progress of the Covenant of Grace:

Restoration promised to Adam (Covenant of Redemption begins) -< Preservation of creation (Noahic covenant) -< Covenant promise of blessing (Abrahamic Covenant) -< Establishment of Israel (Mosaic Covenant) -< Covenant focused on Davidic King (Davidic) -< Messiah accomplishes redemption received through faith (New Covenant) -< New Heaven and Earth when Messiah returns (New Covenant fully realized)

God had a covenant at Creation which was broken (Hosea 6:7). He established a Covenant of Grace with mankind which is administered in different ways until its final expression in the Messiah. We experience the covenant blessings partly now, fully when Messiah returns. Redemption has been accomplished and is still being applied to the world. The Kingdom of God goes forward until fully and eternally established when Messiah returns.