

The Failure during the Dispensation of Promise

I. God was seen during the Dispensation of Promise.

1. The object of faith was the Abrahamic promise(s).
 - 1) To Abraham's seed—progeny, bloodline.
 - 2) Regarding the Land.
 - 3) Concerning blessings.
2. God, the preincarnate Son of God, appeared to believers and gave them direct revelation (Heb. 11:6).
 - 1) Abraham, Sarah, Lot, Isaac, Jacob/Israel.
 - 2) Joseph—400 years captivity: slavery.
 - 3) First God came to Moses then all of Israel (Ex. 13:21-22).
 - 4) The Nation had the bones of Joseph throughout their journey (Ex. 13:19; Josh. 24:32).

II. After their rescue from bondage:

1. The Nation collectively doubted, disbelieved God's providential care.
 - 1) At the bitter water (Ex. 15:24).
 - 2) In the wilderness regarding hunger (Ex. 16:3-4).
 - 3) Regarding the instructions for Manna (Ex. 16:27).
 - 4) Concerning thirst at Rephidim (Ex. 17:2, 7).
2. Israel given a last chance at Sinai to believe the promise.
3. God addresses "the house of Joseph", freed slaves, through Moses (Ex. 19:3-6).
 - 1) God confirms His providential deliverance of the Nation.
 - 2) God offers a conditional promise:
 - i. If they obey His words: obey the common law (Ex. 15:26, 18:20).
 - ii. If they keep/guard the covenant: believe in the promise of land.
 - 3) Then God will:
 - i. Make them a special treasure.
 - ii. Elevate them above all people.
 - iii. Make them a kingdom of priests (*cf.* 1 Pet. 2:9).

III. "All that the LORD says, we will do."

1. Rejection of the unconditional promise of the Land.
2. An exercise in futility—promising the impossible.
3. An arrogant promise from disbelief.