

And if so it is the great comprehensive promise of the covenant of grace. That the Jewish church hoped for life everlasting in body and soul, is evident from many scriptures, particularly the following.—“But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers; believing all things which are written in the law and the prophets, and have hope towards God, which they themselves also allow,—that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise, made of God unto our fathers; unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night hope to come; for which hope’s sake King Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?”—(Acts 24. 14, 15.—Acts 26. 6, 7, 8.)

To what promise made unto the fathers, does the apostle here refer, but to the everlasting covenant, made with their father Abraham and to his seed; in which he promised to be his God and the God of his seed, and that he would give unto him and unto his seed the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession? Canaan was viewed by them as a type of heaven—as “that rest that remaineth for the people of God.” Thus it was viewed by Abraham, when “by faith he sojourned in the land of promise as in a *strange country*, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”—(Heb. 11. 9, 10.) If then the pious Jews, and even the Jewish church generally, understood the promise of the Abrahamic covenant to be the promise of eternal life; and if our Lord and the apostle Paul confirm this, is it not certain that it must be the covenant of grace? In further confirmation of this, see Luke 1. 67, 75. “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel for he hath visited and redeemed his people;—to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to *remember his holy covenant, the oath which he sware to our father Abraham &c.*” Read this prophecy of Zacharias brethren, and see if the promise made to Abraham, and confirmed by circumcision and by the oath of Jehovah, was not the covenant of grace, which is still fulfilling and must continue to be fulfilling, until God