

TWO COVENANTS

(Part 3)

The New Covenant

We have been looking at the Bible from the perspective of a Covenant agreement. The Old Covenant was a covenant of promise, while the New Covenant is the covenant of possession.

The Biblical Covenant is a contractual document between God and man. No covenant is valid without the shedding of blood and under the New Covenant it has been ratified with the shed blood of Jesus Christ. In Matthew 26:28 (AMP) Jesus says *“For this is My blood of the new covenant, which [ratifies the agreement and] is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

The Bible gives us the details of the Mosaic Covenant with details of the establishment of the Levitical system and the Law as a type and a shadow to show us all that Jesus represents. (Study the book of Hebrews chapters 8 and nine,)

This week let us take a look at the Covenant procedure and what Jesus had provided for us through the New Covenant by examining the covenant procedures outlined in a previous study.

- 1) **The terms of the Covenant** – We have nothing to offer God. In our sin nature, we deserved the same punishment that awaits the devil and his angels, but God in His grace and mercy determined that He would pay our price. He has bought back for us all that Adam lost at the fall in Eden. Dominion and authority in the earth, including power and authority over the devil and all his works. God asks in return that we walk as priests and kings in the earth. As priests, we live holy lives, dedicated to God and in obedience to Him. As kings, we accept the responsibility of ruling and reigning over all that He has entrusted to us and exercising the authority He has given to us through Jesus Christ. In order to fulfill our part, and even be eligible as a party to the Covenant, we must accept the representative who has performed the Covenant procedure on our behalf.
- 2) **The representative** – Mankind had no one who qualified to represent him in a covenant with God. The entire human race was contaminated with sin. God therefore had to find someone without the sin nature who could act on mankind’s behalf. Jesus became our representative, born a human being without an earthly father because the sin nature is inherited from the male man. This is why God told satan in Eden *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”* (Genesis 3:14-16 KJV) Jesus was God-man and no sin was in Him. (Galatians 3:4 AMP) *“But when the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject to [the regulations of] the Law,”* Romans 8:3 (AMP) *For God has done what the Law could not do, [its power] being weakened by the flesh [the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit]. Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, [God] condemned sin in the flesh [subdued, overcame, deprived it of its power over all who accept that sacrifice.*

Hebrews 4:15 (AMP) "For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning."

- 3) **Coats are exchanged** by the representatives. The coat represented the strength and authority of each tribe. God and man had the same representative. On behalf of man, Jesus took away our sin, defeat, pain, sickness, poverty, lack, and everything that the devil had afflicted mankind with under the curse of the law. Mankind had become weak and lacking authority in the earth. Jesus made it possible that on accepting Him we could cast off the old man and put on the new nature as a creation in Christ Jesus. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV) and Colossians 3:9-10 (KJV) *"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

Jesus also gave us authority (Mark 16:16-18 NKJV) "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

- 4) **Weapons belts were exchanged.** God has given us His armor. This is spiritual armor that protects every area of our lives. *"For the **weapons of our warfare** are not physical [**weapons** of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds,)" 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (Amp.) and Ephesians 6:11-18 (KJV) *11Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

- 5) **Blood sacrifice** – Jesus was our blood sacrifice and as Paul says in Hebrews 9:11-12 (NKJV) : *"But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."*

- 6) **The seal of the covenant** of the New Testament believer is the Holy Spirit, - 2 Corinthians 1:22 (AMP)[*He has also appropriated and acknowledged us as His by] putting His seal upon us and giving us His [Holy] Spirit in our hearts as the hearts as the security deposit and guarantee [of the fulfillment of His promise].*

Ephesians 1:13 (KJV) *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

Ephesians 4:30 (AMP) *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God [do not offend or vex or sadden Him], by Whom you were sealed (marked, branded as God's own, secured) for the day of redemption (of final deliverance through Christ from evil and the consequences of sin).*

- 7) **Name Exchange** – During the course of His ministry, Jesus approved the use of His name. When the disciples wanted to restrain a man from operating in the name of Jesus, “- *Jesus said, “Do not restrain or hinder or forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in My name will soon afterward be able to speak evil of Me.” (Mark 9:39 AMP)* Jesus also gave us the authority to use His name -Mark 16:17 (NKJV) *And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; (Matthew 28:19 NKJV) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, John 14:14 (AAMP) says “And I will do [I Myself will grant] whatever you ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], so that the Father may be glorified and extolled in (through) the Son. Luke 21:17 (AMP) tells us that we not only have the authority and power of the name, but we will also have the persecution that comes with that name “And you will be hated (despised) by everyone because [you bear] My name and for its sake.”*

- 8) **Covenant Feast** – Before His crucifixion, Jesus established the New Covenant Meal at what we term the Last Supper. (Matthew 26:26-29 AMP) *“Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread and, praising God, gave thanks and asked Him to bless it to their use, and when He had broken it, He gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body. 27And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of you; 28For this is My blood of the new covenant, which ratifies the agreement and] is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29I say to you, I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it with you new and of superior quality in My Father's kingdom.*

As covenant partners with God, operating in faith under the authority of His name, His Word and His Blood, nothing can defeat us. His word that cannot lie declares in Romans 8:31-39 (The Message) *“So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a*

wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:

They kill us in cold blood because they hate you.

We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.”

Abraham walked by faith together with all those listed in Hebrews 11; however, they walked in the shadow of a promise. We live in the reality of redemption!

Take time to study your New Covenant. See what your rights and privileges are in Jesus Christ and begin to exercise those rights. As you recognize your rights please also be cognizant of your responsibilities. You are responsible for what your life is now and what it will be in eternity!

God has already given all – are you willing to receive all?

34 My covenant will I not break or profane, nor alter the thing that is gone out of My lips. (Psalm 89:34 Amp.)

