

SINGLE ALLIANCE

04-11-10

The Covenants- Pt. 1

I. Introduction

A. We are starting a new series today called "The Covenants" The book Kevin Connor will be a significant resource in this series along with the insights the Lord gives me.

B. The Bible is based upon covenants. The Bible is divided into the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. It is important to understand what a biblical covenant is and to understand the covenants given in the Bible. This will help us understand how we are to relate to God today.

C. In every case in the Bible a covenant was initiated by God and given to man for him to accept or reject. A biblical covenant then is a contract between God and man, drawn up by God and presented to man. Covenants begin with God because he is the only one with the mind, authority, and ability to make them effective.

D. In the Western world the concept of covenant is missing. It is understood much more in the eastern world. Many Christians do not think in covenant concepts and do not understand the dynamics of covenant; therefore their faith towards God is often weak. When we understand the deep meaning of covenant and how binding it's force, we will have our faith emboldened and strengthened.

1. Gen. 15:7-10- God made promise to Abraham that he would give him the Promised Land, but Abram had trouble believing Him. To strengthen Abraham's faith God entered into a solemn and binding covenant with him. Because Abraham knew the deep and binding implications of covenant, Abraham's faith in God became anchored. Through Abraham's faith there was birthed a covenant nation and made way for the blessing of the whole world through Jesus Christ the Seed of Abraham in the New Covenant.

II. What is a Biblical covenant?

A. The word covenant in Hebrew is the word beriyth. It means to a compact made by passing between two pieces of flesh. This means to cut a covenant. This word implies sacrifice and the shedding of blood.

B. The word covenant in Greek brings God's covenant to man into greater focus. The Greek word for covenant is diatheke, which means a last will or testament.

C. When we bring both words together we see the ultimate plan for God's covenant with mankind. It would entail the sacrifice and shedding of blood and also the death of a person which would enact a will and testament. This was accomplished in the sacrificial death of Jesus upon the cross, the shedding of His blood, and the enacting of His testament through his death.

D. There are 9 Biblical covenants

1. Edenic
2. Adamic
3. Noahic
4. Abrahamic
5. Mosaic Law
6. Davidic
7. Palestinian
8. New
9. Everlasting

E. The Covenants and the Dispensations of God overlap

- 1. Edenic Covenant- Dispensation of Innocence**
- 2. Adamic Covenant- Dispensation of Conscience**
- 3. Noahic Covenant- Dispensation of Human Government**
- 4. Abrahamic Covenant- The Dispensation of The Patriarchs**
- 5. Mosaic, Davidic, Palestinian Covenants- The Dispensation of Law**
- 6. New Covenant- The Dispensation of Grace**
- 7. Everlasting Covenant- The Dispensation of the Millennium and beyond**

F. There are 7 redemptive covenants. 7 speaks of completion and fullness. God has provided a complete and full redemption for mankind. God took seven covenants to reveal the fullness of His redemptive plan for man. This is why it is important to study these covenants and understand their significance to us today.

G. 3 Components constitute a Biblical covenant

1. The Words of the Covenant- the promises, the terms, the oath

2. The Blood of the Covenant- the sacrifice, the mediator, and the sacred place
3. The Seal of the Covenant- seal, sign, or token
4. The New Covenant- God the Father promised the covenant, Jesus shed His blood for the covenant, and the Spirit of God is the seal of the Covenant.

H. Aspects of Covenant

1. Sacrifice
2. Promises of the Covenant
3. The exchanging of assets and liabilities
4. The setting up of the memorial or planting of a tree
5. The covenant meal
6. Jesus was the sacrifice in which God promised to bless us spirit, soul, and body. Jesus took all our liabilities- sins and transgressions and gave us the assets of God- righteousness, love, peace, etc. The cross was the eternal memorial of God's covenant with us and it was the planting of a tree. Jesus left us the covenant meal- communion as a constant reminder of His binding covenant.

I. Two major types of covenants

1. conditional- God and man both have conditions they must meet- ex. Mosiac Law
2. unconditional- God obligates himself to fulfill promises regardless of man's response- ex. Abrahamic Covenant
3. The New Covenant is an extension and fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant- Christ is the Seed of Abraham. Therefore the New Covenant is an unconditional covenant between God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ- the Seed of Abraham. It can be said that the New Covenant is a conditional covenant only in that it is required that we believe upon Jesus Christ to enter the covenant. Faith is it's only condition. It takes no works on man's part to enter the covenant. Faith is not of works.

III. The Purpose for Covenant

A. A covenant is to provide a **binding since of commitment to an interpersonal relationship**. Those who enter into a covenant obligate themselves to that relationship and provide it with a **strong sense of security**. This is what marriage provides between a man

and a woman. This is why sex outside of marriage is so damaging because of the lack of binding commitment to the relationship.

B. The purpose for the Divine covenants is to reveal God's will and purpose for man and His total commitment towards man.

C. Things get real serious when blood starts flowing! God's covenant deals with bleeding and death. Covenant means that the one who promises backs up their promises with their life. God backed up His covenant with you with His life! Jesus bled and died for you to reveal his will, purpose, love, and total commitment to you for all of you.

D. If you have need of healing today, you have a covenant with God that promises healing. He has bled and died to make your healing sure if you act upon the covenant. If you need financial help today, you have a covenant with God in which you can access God's assets of provision by faith. If you need peace of mind it is in the covenant. Whatever you need, the covenant ratified in the blood of Jesus covers it. You just need to claim it, and receive it by faith.

E. You need to develop a covenant mindset and start walking as a covenant man or woman of God. Say that! I am a covenant man [woman]! Say it again!

F. Prayer