

The Covenant Day Blessing **Genesis 6:18; 9:8-17; Hebrews 12:24**

Definition: The word Covenant has the following synonyms or term:

- (i) Agreement (ii) Contract (iii) Convention
- (iv) Treaty (v) promise (vi) Pledge

It is essential to note that each of the definitions or terms above would have to be applicable to two or more parties. This could be at a Human level or at the Divine level viz.:

Human level:

- Between two people such as (i) two men e.g. David and Jonathan, (ii) two women (iii) a man and a woman such as in marriage relationships, etc.
- Between two groups of people such as (i) two families, (ii) two tribes, (iii) two nations, etc.

Divine level:

- Between God and Specific Man such as (i) God and Noah (ii) God and Abraham (iii) God and Isaac (iv) God and David {although it is often maintained through the entire generations that follows God in obedience to the terms of the initial covenant
- Between God and a tribe e.g. God and Levites
- Between God and a nation e.g. God and nation of Israel
- God and the entire human race through Jesus' redemptive blood covenant.

Features:

In general, a covenant will feature some or all the following things:

- (i) Exchange of vows
- (ii) Verbal pronouncements
- (iii) Physical symbols of remembrance
- (iv) Exchange of items
- (v) Blood seal and for rituals
- (vi) Terms and conditions
- (vii) Penalty for covenant breakers, etc.

Never-ending things of God's Covenant with Noah (Genesis 8:21-22; Genesis 9:8-17)

- All living creatures (Genesis 8:21; 9:10-16)
- Seedtime, planting by men (Genesis 8:22)
- Harvest, reaping by men (Genesis 8:22)
- Cold (Genesis 8:22; Job 38:22,23,29)
- Summer (Genesis 8:22; Psalm 74:17)
- Winter (Genesis 8:22; Psalm 74:17)
- Day (Genesis 8:22; Psalm 72:17; 89:29,36,37)
- Night (Genesis 8:22; Psalm 89:29,36,37)
- Generations of natural people (Genesis 8:22,9:12,16;)

The new covenant is that which secures God's favour for man through the everlasting covenant made by the blood of Jesus.

Features, Benefits and Implication of God's Covenant with Abraham Genesis 15:1-18; 17:1-14; 22:15-18.

This Covenant was made with Abraham after the confusion of tongues. It marked the beginning of the dispensation of Promise. Before the covenant, God had already called Abram (Abraham) out of his family. This called was backed up with promises from God and requires obedience from Abraham. This agreement was later solidified with a covenant seal.

Some Commands to Abraham

- (i) Get out of your country (Genesis 12:1, Acts 7:2)
- (ii) Leave your kindred and your father's house (Genesis 12:1)
- (iii) Go to a land I will show you (Genesis 12:1)
- (iv) Arise, walk through the land (Genesis 12:1)
- (v) Make a sacrifice to Me (Genesis 13:17)
- (vi) Walk before Me and be thou perfect (Genesis 17:1) and
- (vii) Keep My covenant. (Genesis 17:9-14)

Some Promises to Abraham

- (i) I will show you the Land and make of you a great nation (Genesis 12:1, 2)
- (ii) I will bless you and make your name great and you will be a blessing (Genesis! 2: 2; 22:17)
- (iii) I will bless them that bless you and curse them that curse you (Genesis 12:3).
- (iv) In you all nations of the earth will be blessed (Genesis 12:3; 22:15-18).
- (v) I will make an eternal covenant with you (Genesis 17:4, 7) and I will make a covenant with your seed eternally (Genesis 17:7)
- (vi) I will multiply you exceedingly (Genesis 17:2; 22:17)
- (vii) I will make you exceedingly fruitful (Genesis 17:6).
- (viii) I will be a God to you and to your seed (Genesis 17:7,8).

Applications and Significance:

1. *Galatians 3:7, 13, 14*; Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, so that the blessings of Abraham might come to us who have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour Hence, we can lay claim on God's promises to Abraham.
2. *Isaiah 55:1-3*; Listening to God and obedience to His commands secure and preserves covenant blessings.
3. *Hebrews 13:20,21*; Perfection, pleasing God and doing good works are possible to Christians because of Jesus Christ.
4. *Isaiah 24:5*; Defilement, pollution and possibly death can occur as a result of broken covenant.

SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST'S REDEMPTION COVENANT

All our confidence and hope must be in Christ; He is superior to all others and He is sufficient for all our spiritual, earthly and eternal needs. All we need is in Jesus. We do not need a combination of animal sacrifices and Christ's Sacrifice; of Aaron and Christ; of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. He is all we need. Christ, the Mediator of the New Covenant leads us beyond the earthly tabernacle right through to the presence of God to sit on the throne with Him.

SUPERIORITY OF THE NEW COVENANT

Hebrews 8:5-7; 9:23,24; Colossians 2:16,17; Exodus 25:40; Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 9:15.

As substance is greater than shadow, so the New Covenant is greater than the Old Covenant. There should be no confusion between the shadow and the substance: the temporary and the permanent; or between the reflection and reality. A shadow has no substance in itself, no independent existence or meaning apart from what it is a shadow of. It exists only as evidence of the real thing. The gifts and sacrifices of the Old Covenant serve as shadow of what was to come. We have the reality in the New Covenant.

Christ superior seat and His superior sanctuary are evidences of His superior ministry. His superior ministry is evidence of the superior covenant, which He mediates and which has superior and better promises. The New Covenant has a better Mediator as well as better promises.

SUFFICIENCY OF THE NEW COVENANT

Hebrews 8:8-13; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Romans 11:27; Matthew 26:28; 1:21; Luke 1:72-75; 1 Thessalonians 5:23,24; Hebrews 10:14-17.

All our needs, physical and spiritual needs, are provided for in the New Covenant. The Old Covenant was limited but those limits have been taken away from the New Covenant. God Himself is the Author of the New Covenant and He Himself called it "a new covenant" thereby making the first old (Hebrews 8:8,13).

The benefits in the New Covenant are clearly presented: total forgiveness of all sins; past sins never to be remembered by God; uninterrupted fellowship with God; God's laws written in our hearts and minds; gracious obedience to the Lord. The New Covenant even promises every believer a resident Teacher of truth who will bring all things to our remembrance and lead us into all truth. What a covenant! What a privilege is ours!