

Covenant

COVENANT — to bind oneself by contract; a coming together (as in marriage); a meeting or agreement of minds.

Noah was the first person with whom God made a covenant. Previous and contingent on the covenant between them was Noah's building of the ark and then remaining in that prison (which I am sure caused a great change in Noah), until his testing time was over. The covenant was between God and all flesh. His promise was to never destroy all flesh again with water.

Abraham was the next person to whom God promised a covenant between them. In Genesis 17:1, Abraham is commanded to walk before Him and to be perfect as the Father is perfect. He did not say the perfection of the Son but the Father. Until we know God, the Father, we really do not know the Son. The covenant was to make Abraham fruitful and the covenant was to all his seed. God says, "I will do this but you must do something, also," and that was the circumcision of every male. Perfection (maturity) and blessing was to come only with obedience — you do this and I will do that.

Every leader that God called to walk with Him was not to stop short of making a covenant with Him, which meant a total love and commitment above that of family, friends, job, etc. We find Jesus telling His disciples the necessity of being covenanted with God. The words covenant and testament are synonymous in the New Testament.

NOW FOR THE LESSON... DO NOT BE DECEIVED INTO THINKING YOU ARE COVENANTED WITH GOD IF YOU ARE AFFILIATED WHATSOEVER WITH THE CHRISTIAN AGE OR A CHURCH. THIS WILL RILE UP SOME AND BE A WITNESS TO OTHERS WHO SEE THE CHURCH AGE AS AN AGE PASSED AWAY.

JEREMIAH 31:31 — BUT THIS SHALL BE THE NEW COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH YOU. AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAITH THE LORD, I WILL PUT MY LAW IN YOUR INWARD PARTS, AND WRITE IT IN YOUR HEARTS AND WILL BE YOUR GOD AND YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

AMERICA IS ABOUT TO BECOME MARRIED TO GOD BY HIS COVENANT.

In Jeremiah, God has given us a clear picture of the process one must go through to become covenanted to God. In Jeremiah 34:33 He says, "After those days..." If you read the verses that describe the days we must come through you will see how drastic is the process of being covenanted with the living God.

Notice, we all must die for our own iniquity — no scapegoats, no alibis, no righteousness of our own. Our iniquity is the sum of all secret sin. It is the where the source of the motives of our hearts lie. It is the place where Satan dwells. It is the place where our love of the world abides. It is the place where we sit on the throne usurping Christ's rule over our lives. It is also wiped away by the blood of Christ as we purpose to grow up into His image, and the blood is given only after we have died to our iniquities.

Listen to the cry of the prophet Ezra. "Oh my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto heaven." Do you ever hear a cry like that coming from the prophets and teachers of today?? Instead, they say, Jesus did it all and we can just ride into heaven on His back. Although my deceitfulness is hidden in my iniquities, I would rather walk in my own ways.

Also a must for any person who would be covenanted with our God, Ezra gives further instructions: "Now

therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them.” We hear Jesus giving the same instruction to those who would follow Him. If you do not hate Mother, Father, wife, etc., and your own life, you cannot be covenanted with my Father. All attachments must be broken, all ties cut, all idols removed from our hearts.

Hezekiah, in 2 Chronicles 29, begins his reign in Jerusalem and immediately began to prepare the people to be covenanted with God. 2 Chronicles 29:10 — “Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel, that His fierce wrath may turn away from us.” He says that the priests went into the **inner part of the house**. That is the place where our iniquities lie. Verse 16 — all uncleanness that they found had to be brought out. So it is with us today. All masks are being removed. Jesus said that all things would be shouted from the housetop. This, dear little children, is not for your harm but for your good. We cannot be real and at rest as long as we have to act like we are alright instead of really being alright and at peace with ourselves and with God.

Hebrews 9:17 — “For a testament (covenant) is in force after men are dead; otherwise it is of no strength at all.” So we have to understand that we must die to

come into covenant with God — not physically, but to all we have ever been, all we have ever thought, all opinions, motives, etc., etc. And all of this takes place as we shed our spiritual blood and He gives us His blood — in other words, we have our Gethsemane experience.

Now once more in the New Testament, Hebrews 10:16, the Holy Ghost is saying, “This is the new covenant that I will make with them **AFTER THOSE DAYS** — [after the days of the changing of the blood and the death of the one to be covenanted] — I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them. And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”

There is so much more to be said of the covenant but let me close with a quote from *The Hope and the Glory*, by Peter Marshall. “**FOR A WHOLE NATION TO RETURN TO THE COVENANT WAY SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE; BUT IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE; IT HAS BEEN DONE BEFORE. AND WE HAVE THE BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF NINEVEH TO PROVE IT.**” Much pain, disruption, and change is on the horizon. All ordained by a God who loves us and who wants to be our husband. So let all of us submit to the mighty hand of God and thank Him when He afflicts us, for that is the pathway to life.



Marie Kolasinski