

Power In Redemption Series:
A New and Better Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34 NKJV "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Luke 22:19-20 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

Hebrews 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

Covenant is a very important idea when we study the relationship between God and humanity. The intent of God in creating man was to have a creature in His own image with whom He could share both the blessings and the responsibilities of ruling the earth. Adam's sin interrupted that plan. The purpose remains the same, but the problem of man's fallen nature must be dealt with first. He sums up the story to come in Gen 3:15 – He will raise up a human, the seed of the woman, who will crush the head of the serpent, but who will suffer injury at his hands.

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Through the first 11 chapters of Genesis, we see the progression of violence in the earth as a result of the evil in men's hearts. The earth and its inhabitants are judged by the flood. After 10 generations from Adam, He starts over with Noah, but He knows the problem still exists. The fallen heart of man has not been dealt with. In His mercy, He makes a covenant promise not to judge the earth and all its inhabitants again by a flood.

In Genesis 12, the Lord chooses a man out of the human race through whom He will raise up a people for His own. 10 generations from Noah God makes a covenant with Abraham which He calls "an everlasting covenant" (Genesis 17:7). It is a covenant of grace (God did it all) and it is received by faith. We follow the growth and expansion of Abraham's seed through their entry to Egypt.

After their exodus, God makes an add-on covenant with Israel that deals specifically with 2 problems: their behavior due to the fallen nature and His desire to be able to dwell with them. Through the rites of the tabernacle, God is able to dwell among His people and to meet with them there. He later promises by covenant an eternal king after the line of King David whose throne and kingdom will last forever.

The next step will be to bring One who will be His tabernacle in human flesh. He will announce the Kingdom of God and be its King. This One will offer His life as a sacrifice for all humanity. He will deal with the serpent and bring transformation to the hearts of men. He will enable them to become sons of God. He will take up residence in their hearts and serve as High priest for a new and better Covenant.

- I. Jesus Christ fulfilled the requirements of the Law
 - A. He became our offering for sin: Hebrews 10:1-7
 1. Offerings and sacrifices under the Law were only shadows of the real thing. They could not take away sin permanently.

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2. Jesus was the real thing. His body was prepared and given Him for the purpose of becoming our sacrifice. He fulfilled all four kinds of sacrifices prescribed under the law: Sacrifice and offering (θυσίαν καὶ προσφορὰν) The animal-offering and the meal-offering. Burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin (ὁλοκαυτώματα καὶ περὶ ἁμαρτίας) The burnt-offering and the sin-offering. Hebrews 10:5-6 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU DID NOT DESIRE, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME. 6 IN BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES FOR SIN YOU HAD NO PLEASURE.
- B. He became our High Priest and offered His own blood once for all; Hebrews 9:11-15
1. Luke 22:19-20 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.
 - (a). His body was broken, just like the animals in Abraham's day.
 - (b). His blood was shed to ratify a new agreement that supersedes the Law of Moses. John 1:29-30 / 1 Peter 1:18-19
 - (c). His blood is representative of His life given for us. Leviticus 17:11.
 2. Hebrews 9:14-26 Jesus Christ is the representative sacrifice of the New Covenant
 - (a). Notice the play on words. He is the sacrifice which ratifies the covenant through shedding of blood, and He is also the one who died,

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leaving His last will and testament to us, His heirs. He is the only man ever to be the living executor of His own will.

- (b). Note the Greek word for “testament” is the same as “covenant.” In the context here, he is emphasizing that the sacrifice had to die, but the Mediator had to live!
 - (c). Hebrews 9:26 “but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
- C. Hebrews 8:4-6 He became both the High Priest and the sacrifice. He entered into the heavenly holy of holies in a tabernacle not made with hands. He fulfilled every shadow and type given to Moses in the Law. Jesus is the real thing.
 - 1. Hebrews 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.
 - 2. Hebrew 7:20-25 Because He was made a high priest through an oath, He is able to make intercession for us forever, saving us completely.

II. The significance of this New Covenant to us:

- A. He sealed the covenant with His own blood. He is committed to His promise: Luke 22:20
 - 1. God is not a man who needs to lie:
 - (a). Titus 1:2 The God who cannot lie
 - (b). Numbers 23:19
 - (c). If He cannot lie, then why did He swear?

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2. Heb 6:15-20 He made an oath to convince us. We can have anchored souls.
 - (a). Remember the institution of the covenant with Abraham: Hebrews 6:13 “He swore by Himself,”
 - (1). Gen 15: 8-9 Covenant was the answer to Abram’s question : “ How can I be sure?”
 - (2). Gen 17: 2 A covenant is God’s guarantee.
 - (3). Genesis 22:16 The LORD said, “I swear by My own name.”
 - (b). Jesus, the Son of God, is now our new high priest. His entry into the Holy of Holies with His own blood was the confirming oath of the New Covenant. Hebrews 6:19-20
 - (c). He now sits on the throne making intercession for us. He is our guarantee of a better covenant. Hebrews 7:22-25
 - (d). No matter what the circumstance, we can trust the oath of God Himself, witnessed and sealed by the shed blood of Jesus, the Christ.
- B. Our covenant gives us access to the throne of God
 1. Jesus Christ established a New Covenant for mankind by the shedding of His own blood. Luke 22:20
 2. His blood testifies before the throne of God that the work of redemption is complete. Hebrews 9:11-15 / 12:22-24
 3. Because of this, we can make bold entrance into the presence of God and have confidence that we will be received. We can expect to receive mercy and grace to help. Hebrews 4:14-16 / 10:19-23 / 1 John 1:7-2:2

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- C. The New Covenant deals with the core issue, the fallen nature of man: We are made new, re-born in His image! John 3:3-8 / 1 Peter 1:3; 22-25 /
- D. He has given us the Spirit as the token, or guarantee, of our Covenant. Ephesians 1:13-14 / 2 Corinthians 1:22
- E. The New Covenant is inscribed, not on stone, but on our hearts. Hebrews 8:7-13 / Colossians 2:11-12
- F. The New Covenant is established between God and Jesus. Jesus is our representative head. We are part of the covenant “in Him.” Galatians 3:26-29
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 - 3. Colossians 2:9-11 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. 11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,
 - 4. Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
 - 5. Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

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6. Etc.
- G. The New Testament tells us who we are. The old man has died. We are enjoined to put on the new identity in Him. We have exchanged garments. He took our filthy rags and gave us His robe of righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 / Ephesians 4:17-5:10 / Colossians 3:1-17
- H. As covenant partners, we can come to the throne of grace and plead our case based not on our need, but on His covenant promise. Put Him in remembrance!
 1. Hebrews 4:15-16
 2. Isaiah 43:25-26 "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember (*zakar!*) your sins. 26 Put Me in remembrance (*zakar!*); Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted.
 3. He likes it when we adamantly plead our case based on who He is and what He has promised.
 - (a). See *zakar* – from Lesson 2. God remembered Noah, He remembered His covenant. He wants us to boldly put Him in remembrance of His promise.
 - (b). See the example of Moses in Exodus 33:12-23 / Numbers 11:11-15 / 14:11-20. Also Abraham in Genesis 18:22-33
- I. Our New Covenant is better than the previous one because it is established on better promises. Our job as believers is to find what is ours in the agreement we have with God.
 1. New Mediator. Under the Law, the covenant was mediated by men applying the law and approaching

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God through the Levitical priesthood. Jesus is our new mediator and High Priest. He deals with us based on His work, not ours.

2. New Creation. The old man is dead. I live in a new creation. I am a new kind of human. I find my value, my identity, and my destiny in Him.
3. New Commandment. Love God and love people

J. Remember the big issues from Eden

1. God wanted a creature made in His image with whom He could dwell and work with to oversee the creation.
2. The fall delayed the fulfillment of that plan. It required dealing with both the hindrance of the serpent and the nature of humans.
3. The New Covenant is the culmination of a long process of dealing with the fallen heart and bringing restoration. We have authority over the serpent, and the capacity to walk with God and share in His regency in the earth. This took a new kind of covenant: This new covenant is not a sovereign/vassal arrangement, though it could be if He so desired. He is God! Neither is it a friend to friend agreement negotiated between equals: He is God! In this covenant, the sovereign saw fit to offer Himself as the ratifying sacrifice and by grace invite us to be His children.
4. Think of the things we are called in the New Testament. This is not a slave or a vassal. We are:
 - (a). Sons. Galatians 4:6-7
 - (b). Friends. John 15:13-17 / James 2:23
 - (c). Co-laborers. 1 Corinthians 3:9
 - (d). A royal priesthood. 1 Peter 2: 5,9

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- (e). The household of God. Ephesians 2:19
 - (f). The Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:27
- K. Jesus instituted the Lord's Table as a place where we remember or call back into our minds the reality and benefits of the covenant in His blood. 1 Corinthians 11:24-26 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.
- 1. Heb 10:3 – the O.T. sacrifices were reminders of sin. The New Covenant gives us a place to remember Jesus and His work Calling covenant benefits to remembrance is an important Biblical principle. Psalm 103:1-5
 - 2. This is our covenant meal of which we may partake at any time. Whenever you need to be reminded of what God has done for you in Christ, sit with Him at table and remember.