

FIVE SMOOTH STONES

“Smooth Stone Number Two: A Culturally Engaged and Influential Church”

Rediscovering the Covenant: The Prophetic Message of the Priestly Ministry

(Deuteronomy 29:1-15)

*“These are the words of the covenant that the Lord commanded Moses to make with the people of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant that he had made with them at Horeb. 2 And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: ‘You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, 3 the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders. 4 But to this day the Lord has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear. 5 I have led you for forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn off your feet. 6 You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink, that you may know that I am the Lord your God. 7 And when you came to this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out against us to battle, but we defeated them. 8 We took their land and gave it for an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of the Manassites. 9 Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do. 10 You are standing today, all of you, before the Lord your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel, 11 your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, 12 so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the Lord your God, which the Lord your God is making with you today, 13 that He may establish (affirm) you today as His people, and that He may be your God, as He promised you, and as He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. 14 It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant, 15 but with whoever is standing here with us today before the Lord our God, **and with whoever is not here with us today.**”*

Today’s message is:

Rediscovering the Covenant: The Prophetic Message of the Priestly Ministry

II Kings 23:25 which says,

“And before him there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.” (II Kings 23:25)

Key Factors in Our Biblical Heritage

In early America, the most important theological premise was that of covenant.

Covenant Theology was seen throughout the literature of early America.

We must not forget the Covenant! Societies that forget suffer the consequences. They must rediscover it so that there can be a shaping of the Kingdom of God. So what are the ...

❖ Key Concepts of the Covenant

- A Transcendent View of God

This simply means that God is DISTINCT from His creation not DISTANT from it.

- An Authority Based on Representation

This means that God rules through those He has chosen based on His sovereignty and grace.

- A Society Based on Ethics

The covenant is a compilation of the laws of God found in Scripture.

- A System of Sanctions Based on an Oath

When a promise was made or a word was given, a man was expected to keep it.

There were consequences if it were not kept.

- A System of Continuity Based on Something Other than Blood

Success was based on moral and work ethic rather than inherited status.

When we begin to step away from the covenant, every sphere of society diminishes. These spheres of society are:

❖ **Key Spheres of Society**

- Family

The family is an institution.

The family structure was designed by God.

Our children are a priority.

Marriage oaths were to be unbreakable.

An important aspect of covenant in family is **continuity**.

- State

The State has attempted to become **transcendent**.

There is a vacuum of authority in our land. **Representation** is lacking.

Our nation was originally built upon **ethics** – a clear sense of right and wrong.

The concept of **oath** has been nearly obliterated by the determined attacks upon the Word of God.

Continuity faces a crisis and is embodied in the decline of our system of government.

- Church

The Lord is the Head of the Church. He is the **transcendent** One!

The whole issue of authority and **representation** has come to the Church.

Ethics in the Church is a significant matter.

Church activity and participation are serious enough to consider **oaths** and sanctions.

Another concern in the Church is the issue of **continuity**. "Success without a successor is failure!"