

THE VICTORY OF THE BELIEVER IN COVENANT

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall have no other gods before Me.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not murder.

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not commit adultery.

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not steal.

THE NINETH COMMANDMENT

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

GOD'S HOLY COVENANTS

The Biblical idea of covenant does not coincide with our idea of a mutual contract, but involves God's unilateral binding of himself to carry out his purposes. Such binding on God's part may or may not be tied to conditioned responses in men.

The Character of the Covenant of Grace.

1. It is Trinitarian.

- a.** The Father elects and then establishes the Covenant with the elect.
- b.** The Son meets the requirements of a Mediator, and provides the means of effectuating the promises of the Covenant.
- c.** The Holy Spirit applies the blessings of the Covenant to the elect.

2. It Is Eternal and Unbreakable

Being based on the eternal counsels of God, the work of Christ and of the Holy Spirit, this Covenant is a sure promise. God remains true to his promise, and will bring the Covenant to full realization in the elect. Man may fail to meet the covenant requirements of faith, and thus break the covenant, but God is faithful in all that he covenants.

3. It Is a Particular Covenant

We have already suggested this in that we have defined the Covenant as between God and the elect. Though the provisions of the Covenant of Grace are sufficient for the salvation of all, it was not the purpose of God that all should be saved thereby. He has designed it specifically for the elect, whom he has chosen according to his own good pleasure.

4. It Is a Gracious Covenant

This is implied in the name applied to the Covenant. By grace is meant the favor of God that is given to those who deserve his wrath. In other words, it is unmerited or undeserved favor. God elected some of a hell-deserving race for salvation. He did this on the basis of his own good pleasure, and not on the basis of any foreseen goodness of men. He entered into the agreement with the Son to send him for the salvation of this sinful world (John 3:16). The Son agreed to meet the requirements as Mediator of the Covenant. He came to assume our place, and to suffer the penalty of our sins in his own body that we might have life through him. This life is offered as a free gift, to be received by faith alone. The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Church at Pentecost, and continues to apply the redemption accomplished by Christ to the elect.

THE LORD MAKES COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

Gen 15:18 On the same day **the LORD made a covenant with Abram**, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates--

Before the Lord called Abraham, his name was Abram. It was after Abraham entered into covenant with the Lord that his name was changed, from Abram, meaning Father of many, to Abraham, Father of a multitude. Abraham was a pagan, worshipping other gods, the gods of his father. Like many of us he went from day to day trying to find out the reason for his existence. One day the Lord of heaven and earth called Abraham out of his country, his family and his gods. The Lord told Abraham to separate himself from everything and follow him, and that's precisely what Abraham did. Although he did not understand everything, he followed his God wholeheartedly.

Abraham to be a blessing

The Lord spoke to Abraham and said that he was going to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth. But the Lord had to take Abraham through some trials and tribulation before he would come into covenant with him. Covenant is a very serious thing, on the part of God, because he will not go back on His Word. When God speaks something into existence he keeps His Word no matter what happens. God promised Abraham many things, but he did not come into covenant with Abraham until he was ready to shed some blood.

Jesus operated out of the old testament covenant, primarily because, the new testament had not yet been established. Jesus knew that he had to shed his own blood in order for the new covenant to come into existence. We must also pay a price when we come into covenant with the Lord.

Abraham's belief in God brings him into righteousness

The covenant of Abraham is a very interesting one, because it involves the word **belief** and **blood** in it. God came to Abraham and spoke promises to him concerning his seed and all that he had for him, and Abraham by faith believed God and it was credited to him as "Righteousness".

God chose Abraham to be the one through whom we would receive our righteous inheritance. All the blessings of the covenant has its origin in the faith of Abraham who believed God and would not waver in his faith. **He was righteous because he believed God. Likewise we who are in Christ are saved from sin and are righteous through his blood.**

Abraham's righteousness guarantees the promise of the Holy Spirit

Through Abraham we also received the promise of the Spirit which came through Jesus Christ. God separated Abraham from his family and his land in order that he might become the patriot Father of the Hebrew nation. It is through him that God establishes his covenant forever, both for the Jew and the Gentile. Abraham was to be a blessing to the whole world through this covenant.

This promise of the Spirit which came through Abraham was an everlasting covenant, even after the Ten Commandments was given four hundred and thirty years later, it did not cancel out the covenant which God made with Abraham. Because this covenant or oath was a promise of grace not of law. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, has set us free from the law of sin and death".

THE COVENANT BRINGS A MULTIPLE BLESSING

Gen 17:2 "And I will make **My covenant** between Me and you, and **will multiply you** exceedingly."

Note: The words { **My covenant- will multiply you** }

We see according to this particular verse of Scripture, that Abraham would receive a blessing of a multitude, because this covenant extends to all the peoples of the earth. So we see that God's covenant is a (**multi-fold blessing covenant**).

The Lord revealed himself to Abraham as the God who had more than enough, because **he**, the **Lord** was more than enough. The Lord **told** Jeremiah, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God **of all** flesh." **Then** the Lord **asked him**, " Is there **anything too hard for Me?** Jer 32:27. All the promises of God are yes and Amen for us. God gave us heaven and earth, because he created them.

Whenever we come into covenant with God, we receive a multiple blessing. In the book of Ephesians chapter 1:3 we see this principal in action, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has blessed us** in the heavenly realm with **every spiritual blessing in Christ**". Notice these blessings are (in Christ). Christ is the covenant of God to the believer. No Christ, No blessing.

A COVENANT FOR ALL THE NATIONS

Gen 17:4 As for Me, behold, **My covenant is with you**, and you shall be a **father of many nations**.

When God made covenant with Abraham, it was a covenant of Fatherhood, that would eventually reach all the nations of the world. This covenant lifted, exalted Abraham up far beyond that which he could ever go on his own. Covenant with God always takes us beyond our own power.

This covenant not only changed his name, but it changed his nature, and his character because he was consumed with all the promises of God. God puts himself entirely into his covenant, therefore, when we draw near to God and come into covenant with him, we receive the fullness of his blessing, his power, and his presence in the covenant. If we receive spiritual blessings through Christ than this covenant is a spiritual covenant accomplished only through the blood of his redemption.

The Holy Spirit, Jesus and the blood

When God gives us the Holy Spirit he seals us for the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit came as a result of Jesus giving his life on the cross as a sacrifice, bringing us into the righteousness of God. This righteousness of God is the same righteousness that Abraham was clothed with. This righteousness which came to us was the result of the blood of Jesus being shed for us.

When Jesus was taking the Passover with his disciples, he told them that the blood that he was about to shed, was the new testament or (*the new covenant*) in his blood. Everyone that receives Jesus and believes in him, comes into the covenant of the blood, therefore making us the blessing to all the nations of the world, just as Abraham is. I am reminded of the words of Jesus, "Go therefore into all the world and preached the gospel". Matthew 28:19

THE LORD'S COVENANT IS PERPETUAL [everlasting]

Gen 17:7 "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an **everlasting covenant**, to be **God to you and your descendants after you**.

God said to Abraham that this covenant was an everlasting covenant. Notice that God said this covenant is between **me** and **you**, not **you** and **me**. God established the covenant not Abraham. God established the terms. God established the promise. God was the first to speak. God was the first to act. This covenant is a covenant of God being God to you, and to your descendants after you.

Why is this covenant and everlasting covenant, because God is an everlasting God. Everything that God does has an eternal effect. The sacrifice of Jesus is eternal, salvation is eternal, the blessings of God are eternal, the Holy Spirit is eternal, Jesus Christ is eternal, heaven is eternal.

We are called into an everlasting friendship, an everlasting fellowship. We can be completely reassured that when Yehovah says, “I will establish, I will give, I will guide, I will protect, I will hold, I will send, we can believe without any shadow of doubt, God will perform it.

The beautiful thing about the covenant that God makes with us is, that It’s not just for us alone, but for our descendants after us. **Praise God.** God wants to bless our whole family. The Holy Spirit calls us to minister to our loved ones, through the precious love of God that’s in us.

This covenant is a covenant of love. Just before Christ went to the cross, the Bible says he showed his disciples the full extent of his love. He was about to announce the new covenant in his blood. He wanted them to know that this covenant was driven, compelled, motivated, filled, and 100 percent completely given by his love.

Paul, Silas and the jailer

One day Paul and Silas was visiting in a city, and on a particular day, they were going down to the river to a place of prayer. At the river they met a demon-possessed slave girl who was a fortuneteller, and earned much money for her masters.

This slave girl followed Paul and Silas shouting, these men are servants of the Most High God. This went on day after day, until Paul was in great distress. Paul turned and spoke to the demon within her. I command you, Paul said, in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her, and instantly the demon left her.

The men who owned the slave girl became very angry with Paul, because he destroyed their hope of making money, through this demon-possessed girl. These men grabbed Paul and Silas and brought them before the judges at the market place.

They accused Paul and Silas of corrupting their city and teaching the people to do things that were contrary to the Roman Law. A mob was formed quickly and they took Paul and Silas and stripped off their clothes, and beat them with wooden whips. After they beat and whipped them they threw them into prison, clamping their hands and feet with chains.

These people who placed Paul and Silas in jail, assigned a jailer to watch them so that they would not escape. About midnight, the Bible says Paul and Silas began praying and singing praises to God--the other prisoners were listening.. When suddenly the jail was shaken down to its foundation, the chains fell off of Paul and Silas, and the doors flew opened. Not only did the doors open for Paul and Silas, but for all the prisoners in that jail.

The shaking and the noise awakened the jailer. On seeing the doors of the jail opened, he thought to himself that these men had escaped; the jailer panicked, because the people who put him in charged threaten to kill him if he let Paul and Silas escape. The jailer proceeded and took his sword and was about to run himself through, but Paul yelled to him, don't do it! We are all here! Trembling with fear the jailer called for the lights, ran to the dungeon and fell down before Paul and Silas. He brought them out and begged them, "*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*", they replied, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus and *you will be saved, and your entire household.***"

How can Paul and Silas say, that he and his whole household will be saved, it's because they knew that the covenant Jesus made with his own blood, was an everlasting household covenant. **Hallelujah! ...** People can only entered into this heavenly covenant when the gospel of the kingdom is preached.

Jesus was confirming the covenant that was made with Abraham. God told Abraham this covenant is an **everlasting covenant** for all generations. It was through Abraham that the whole earth would be blessed. So in essence, when we come to Jesus he washes us in his blood and forgives us all our sins, and brings us into his covenant. We must also bring

the good news of the covenant to our families. This covenant extends to you and your household.

WE MUST KEEP THE COVENANT

Gen 17:9 And God said to Abraham: "**As for you, you shall keep My covenant**, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.

God holds us responsible for keeping the covenant. We cannot blame anyone if we break covenant because, God not only gives us the promises, but he gives us the power, and all authority to keep covenant. God will not bring into existence a promise that he cannot keep, neither will he ask us to keep a promise that's beyond our ability to fulfill.

Adam and Eve blame one another

When Adam and Eve fell from their original state of perfection, that very same evening they heard the sound of the Lord in the garden. *The Lord deals with sin quickly.* God called out for Adam not Eve, why, because God made covenant with Adam and Adam made covenant with Eve. Eve coming into covenant with her husband, came into covenant with God. The Lord asked Adam, "Why are you hiding?" And Adam replied, "I heard you coming and didn't want you to see me naked. So I hid. Notice when we break covenant we become **naked**.

When God asked Adam did you eat fruit from the tree that I warned you about, Adam said yes, but he **blamed his wife**. When Adam blamed Eve for making him sin and breaking covenant, the Lord God asked Eve, how could you do something like this, but she put the blame on the serpent, (the devil). God pronounced judgment on all of them.

Don't blame the devil, don't blame your next door neighbor, don't accuse your doctor, your mother, brother, sister or anyone else. Be a man, Be a women and take responsibility for your own sin. If you break covenant with God, you will have to pay the price just like Adam and Eve did. Because of one act of sin, (disobedience) look what happen to these two

people, they got out of fellowship, out of the garden, out of the blessing, and most of all they were not able to eat from the tree of life any more.

The tree of life was the sign of the covenant that the Lord established with his creation. Therefore let us look to the tree on which Jesus died to give us life, which is the sign of the new covenant in his precious blood. The blood of Jesus is the **new covenant**, just as the **cross is the sign or monument of that covenant**. Breaking covenant is a serious offense to God.

THE COVENANT OF CIRCUMCISION

Gen 17:10-11 "This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; "and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

The origin of circumcision

Before touching the subject of circumcision, it is only right for me to say, that circumcision, although it's mentioned in the Bible, did not start with Abraham. History tells us that the Egyptians practice circumcision as well as the Colchians and the Ethiopians.

This practice of these primitive nations was communicated to other nations such as: the Syrians of Palestine, and the Phoenicians. It isn't really known whether this practice of circumcision was initiated among all the Egyptians. Many religions practice circumcision because they believe it is sacred, and holy.

It's sad to say but true, that some religions practice circumcision on women, because it minimizes their sexual drive. This is nothing more than a cruel act on the part of man to gain control over the opposite sex. God never intended this.

God did not give the covenant of circumcision to Abraham and his wife, although she would also be included in the covenantal blessing; it's absolutely clear that God gave it to Abraham and all his male servants.

I remember reading something about this particular tribe that practice circumcision. They would take the foreskin of their young boys, after performing circumcision, they would throw it into the sea and they did this because they believe that someone could take the foreskin and perform witchcraft on it, bringing sickness or even death to the person connected with it. This is mere superstition, a myth of man.

Although this practice is superstition, the rite of circumcision is a sacred one and an highly respected ritual that these tribes would fear.

It's believed that Abraham had male Egyptian servants that were never circumcised in Egypt. Everyone in the household of Abraham had to be circumcised in order to remain under his covering.

This is a profound act on the part of God simply because these Egyptians, who were not God's chosen people, were able to come into covenant with God through Abraham. So we see that God gave Abraham the rite of performing circumcision. Abraham's son Ishmael, being the son of an Egyptian woman, remained not circumcise until the covenant of circumcision was given to Abraham. Abraham must have known something about circumcision because he was familiar with the practices of the Egyptians.

The pass speaks

Egyptologists have shown proof that circumcision was practiced among the Egyptians. It is asserted that an examination of ancient mummies and sculptures, in which circumcision is a distinctive mark between the Egyptians and their enemies.

Egyptologists say that this ceremony must have been in use not among the priest only, but throughout the nation generally so early as the time of the fourth dynasty, i.e. 2400 B.C., or considerably earlier than the time of Abraham.

This act of circumcision is a divine command given by God to Abraham, as a signed of the covenant that he (God) made with him. If Noah's rainbow serves as a signed of the covenant of salvation and baptism, then Abraham's covenant of circumcision serves as a sign of the believer in death and resurrection. {This to is a divine institution of **Yehovah Elohiym, I am God Almighty.**

ABRAHAM RECEIVES GOD'S COVENANT IN HIS FLESH

When God confirmed his promises to Abraham, God established a legal document, a binding contract, a legal treaty, a covenant between himself and Abraham as an everlasting ordinance for all generations to come.

This covenant involved blood because this is a life-giving covenant, "For the life of the creature is in the blood". God told Abraham to circumcise himself and everyone in his household; in order to meet the requirements or the standard of the agreement that he made with Abraham.

Everyone who was not circumcised in the house of Abraham, would not be considered as one of God's people, they were to be cut off. God said, he would keep his promise to Abraham, but only if Abraham would keep covenant with him.

This covenant was the cutting off of his flesh. Every child born under the household of Abraham was to be circumcised on the 8th day of his birth, by doing so the child would come into the covenant of God and with Abraham. The word, "**Covenant**" in this particular passage means: **monument, sign, miracle, flag, token, mark, evidences.**

Abraham's most sensitive part

God could of chosen any part of the body to use as a sign for the covenant, he could of said, Abraham cut your finger or cut your ear, but his choice was the most sensitive part on Abraham's body, God wanted him to experience this covenant in his flesh. It's the Lord's will that we experience his salvation in us.

The Circumcision of the heart

In the Old Testament the Lord gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. As we already know. This circumcision was physical,. but the Lord was bringing his people into a deeper understanding of what he really wanted to do. This physical circumcision was a type or a shallow of what was really to come.

Col 2:16-17

16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. (NIV).

In the book of Deuteronomy chapter 30:6, we see the Lord bringing into view and defining the real spiritual meaning of circumcision.

The Lord told his people that he was going to *circumcise their hearts*.

God wants a circumcised heart. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul tells the church at Philippi that, we who worship God by the Holy Spirit are the true circumcision. So by this statement we see that physical circumcision has no value. But the true circumcision that counts before God is the circumcision done by the Holy Spirit, not by hands of man. "the reality, however, is found in Christ. " All the covenants of the Old Testament have its fulfillment in Jesus Christ the **last and only covenant**.

An everlasting covenant in the flesh

Gen 17:13 "He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh **for an everlasting covenant.**

The children of Abraham hold this tradition of circumcision in their flesh, because it was a covenant given to the flesh, but they who are adopted through Jesus Christ hold the covenant of circumcision in their hearts, the spiritual man.

Those who keep this tradition in their flesh must obey the Ten Commandments, those who keep the

tradition of spiritual circumcision keep the law of the Spirit which is fulfilled in Christ Jesus. Rom 8:4.

Paul told the Galatian church that if they allow themselves to be circumcised, they were obligated to keep the whole law. [The Ten Commandments]. These Galatians, by hearing the gospel received salvation, they started in the Spirit, but because they were listening to the wrong teaching, namely, [the fleshly teachers of the law], they started regressing back to their old ways, [the law Moses].

Paul made it very clear to them that obeying the law could not save them. Even the physical circumcision of Abraham which was done by the hands of man, was pointing to the Spiritual circumcision of the heart, which is done by the Spirit of God.

Am I saying that the Law of Moses is useless, absolutely not. God gave the Israelites his law so that they could have a holy standard, by which they could live. But the ironic thing is, although they possessed the law of God, they failed to keep it. The reason they were not able to fulfill it is

because there was no power in their flesh to bring about God's righteousness.

Then why did God give them the law; it was to show that his ways is much higher than ours. The Father knew, that the only way we was going to be able to meet his standard of living, is by sending Jesus Christ as our mediator. Jesus would complete and fulfill all the requirements of the law in us, in order for us to be in right standing with God the Father. Jesus became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God. 1 Cor.5:21

Failure to keep the Covenant

Gen 17:14

"And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be **cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.**"

Here we see the covenant of God's grace in action with his servant Abraham.

The counsels of this covenant are from everlasting to everlasting and the consequences of this covenant, also has an eternal effect upon all that enter into it.

Believers are not to take this covenant of grace as a light thing,

The Lord commanded Abraham to circumcise every male in his

household in order that they may receive and abide in the blessings of the Lord. Anyone who was not circumcised would be cut off from Abraham's household and would have no holy covering over their live.

When Jesus said that His blood was the new covenant He proclaimed all blessings to come through Him. Anyone who is not in covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ is cut off and cursed, because apart from the law of the Spirit of life, there is only death. This command of circumcision was not only to Abraham and his future son Isaac, but to his present son Ishmael who was the son of the slave woman Hagar.

Abraham and Ishmael

Although Abraham made a serious mistake by having a child with a slave woman, God's grace extended to Ishmael as well. Here we see the divine love and mercy of God in action toward those who are not saved. The difference between the blessings of Isaac in comparison to Ishmael blessings is, one is life giving through the Holy Spirit to Isaac as an eternal blessing, and the other to Ishmael is a temporal blessing.

When referring to his son Ishmael, Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!" The Lord answered and said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. And as for Ishmael I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation, Gen. 17:18-20. The name Ishmael means, **God will hear**. God heard Abraham's prayer for his son.

We must never give up praying for our love ones, no we should not allow ourselves to become so weary as to stop praying. We have the responsibility to stand in the gap for this world. The prayers of a righteous man prevail much, therefore let us not give up prayer. Abraham's concern for his son was legit although he was not a son of promise. You may have had a child out of wedlock or you may know someone else with a child that was birth out of wedlock, God still has a plan for them. He will not pass them by **without proclaiming a blessing**.

Abraham was concerned for his son Ishmael who was born to him out of a fleshly decision, but God was concerned with Isaac who was to be born out of a promise. It would be unfair to say that God did not love Ishmael, simply because God loves everyone, but God was more concerned about Isaac because Isaac represents the spiritual seed of promise, through whom Jesus would come, and Ishmael represents the fleshly seed of Abraham, through whom troubled would come. God will not make covenant with our flesh because there is nothing good in our flesh.

Rom 7:18

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for the will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

We who are born again are not born by the will of man but by the will of God through Christ. This divine origin of salvation comes only from the sovereign Lord himself, and it is totally dependent upon his will for the purpose of his good pleasure and glory. We are chosen and adopted by the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord and all this came about through the blood of his covenant which he poured out while he was on the cross at Calvary. Therefore we are chosen in the beloved.

John 1:12-13

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Eph 1:5-6

having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

We have received this covenant by faith according to the grace of God given to Abraham and to his descendants forever. We cannot take away or add to it. Through Abraham we have received the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal 3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

All who are under the covenant of God in Christ is protected from the evil one. When the Lord Jesus Christ comes back for his church anyone who has not entered into covenant with him through his blood will be cut off from heaven. Jesus said I am the way, [**the only covenant**] I am the truth, [**the real covenant**] and I am the life, [**the living covenant**].

John Chapter 15 speaks about Jesus being the vine and we are the branches, if anyone does not abide in the vine they would be cut off and thrown into the fire to be consumed. The Word of God tells us that God is a consuming fire. In the end God will burn up all his enemies in the lake of fire. This is a horrible predicament. Accept Jesus and escape his wrath. Jn 3-16.

Gen 17:19

Then God said: "No, **Sarah your wife** shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; **I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant**, and with his descendants after him.

We see in this particular verse Scripture, that God confirmed his covenant to Abraham through his son Isaac. God promised Abraham that he would be the Father of many nations.

It was good for Abraham to be reminded of this covenant through his son Isaac, because later God would ask Abraham to sacrifice his only son. No matter how hard it was for Abraham to give up his son, he was reassured about one thing, and that was the covenant that God made with him.

We must remember, God never breaks a promise, he always keeps His Word because he who promised his faithful, **‘He is not a man that he should lie’**. When we are faced with calamities, tragedies and circumstances that are very difficult, we should always bring back to remembrance the promises of God **in His Word**. We must hold on to those promises with dear life.

The enemy likes to accuse the Word of God to us so that we lose faith and give up. *Remember fleshly fear is the enemy of faith.* When God gives us a promise we must continue to believe that he will bring it to pass no matter how long it takes. We have to stand firm and not be moved by unbelief and doubt. Yes this also means that we may not even see His promises fulfilled in our life time, but regardless we must stand and believe because He who promised is faithful and He will do it.

GOD ESTABLISHED THE COVENANT

Gen 17:21

"But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."

Again we see that God made a covenant with Abraham, but he established his covenant with Isaac his son. God said I will **establish my covenant**. If God promises he must bring it to pass by his power, we cannot do anything to make it happen. We are only to be obedient and have faith in the promise and believe that he who called us will do it.

The hebrew term for: **I will establish** is: 6965 quwm (koom);

The primitive of tHis Word means **to rise**, or **to accomplish** or **to make good, to succeed**, that which has been spoken by God.

When God speaks a promise to his children He attaches HIMSELF AND HIS NAME TO THAT PROMISE because he cannot lie, therefore it is only right for him to fulfill what he has spoken. When King Solomon addressed his prayer to God in the book of 1 kings chapter 8:24, he praised the God of his father David and gave God all the glory for the fulfillment of the promise made to David by God.

"You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day.

This hebrew term **I will establish** also has a strong significance as to be stirred up or to be strengthened.

I know that we all have to be strengthened and stirred up when it comes to the Word of God because the enemy always comes to trifle with our minds when it comes to the truth. But the Lord promise to raise a standard against him if we call on him for protection. Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift of God that was in him. This gift was placed into Timothy by the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands of the presbytery.

Again I will emphasize that God is the one who put this gift into him by the laying on of the apostles hands. If God put it into him, then God can bring it out of him, but we must stir ourselves with prayer and the Word of God by confessing the truth through the Holy Spirit.

God has given us a wonderful implement in our bodies to stir up the gift, and that is our tongues. The Apostle James said that the tongue can either be used for **turning or for burning**, The course is by our own volition. James 3:4-12.

Another hebrew term for **I will establish means**: to succeed.

- God makes sure that his purposes succeed
- That he may bring glory to His Name
- His purposes will be accomplished
- God's kingdom will not be hindered for any one individual.
- We must choose to get inline with His purposes

God told Joshua if you want to be prosperous and successful, you have to keep my word, to hedge himself about with my truth night and day meditating on my precepts, commands, and statutes. And also you have to be careful to obey everything written in my law. Then God said you will make your way prosperous and successful. Josh. 1:8

James 1:22-25

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Notice, that God reminds Abraham that he is the establishmentarian of the covenant, by saying, “**But my covenant I will establish**”. Here God also sets a time for the promised to be fulfilled. This is a divine providence of God because not only does he establish the covenant, but he shows himself as the author and keeper of time. There are countless Scriptures that pertain to God and time, too many to give reference to right now, but here are a few. Take time to look up these scriptures.

1. God set the time for the star of Jacob to appear and be seen:

Matt 2:7

2. God set the time for Jesus to preached His Word:

Matt 4:17

3. God set the time for the disciples to know about the suffering of Christ:

Matt 16:21

4. God set the time for Jesus to be betrayed by Judas Iscariot:

Matt 26:14-16

5. God set the time for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Matt 27:45-50 , 62-63.

6. God waited for the fullness of time to send his son:

Gal 4:4

7. The Antichrist will be revealed in God’s set time:

II Th 2:6-8

8. God has set a time for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ:

1 Tim 6:15

9. Here we see salvation was appointed before time began, thus proving God be author of time. 2 Tim 1:9 Titus 1:2

10. God has set a time for everyone to depart from this earth:
2 Tim 4:6 1 Pet 1:17

11. God has set a time to judge the church:
1 Pet 4:17

This judgment is not for condemnation but for cleaning the house of God.

12. The devil has only but a short time:
Rev 12:12

13. The time of the fulfillment of the book of revelation is still at hand:
Rev 22:10

So it is very easy to see through these few verses of Scripture that God is in control of time and everything within time. One of the reasons I believe God told Abraham that his wife was going to have a son at the appointed time was to not only show Abraham that he was in control of time and the days in which the promise would be fulfilled. But to encourage Abraham's faith to see the promise accomplished. God desires that none of his children give up in this walk of faith. So I say to you who are waiting for his promises to be fulfilled in your life, **ALL THINGS IN HIS TIME.**

Praise God for his tender mercy. God is mindful that we are but dust and he knows all our weaknesses. No matter how strong we may be, there is always the temptation to disbelieve what God has said. That's why it's important that we continue in the Word of God and remind ourselves of his glorious promises which cannot fail. God has set a perfect time to fulfill everything he has promised you and He is watching that His Word is fulfilled. Jeremiah 1:12.

THIS PROMISE OF ASSURANCE was not only encouraging to Abraham's faith, but a name change for Sarah his wife. Just like Abraham had his name change from Abram, meaning exalted Father, to Abraham, meaning Father of a multitude by coming into covenant with God, his wife had her name changed as well. It was changed from Sarai, meaning my Princess, to Sarah, meaning Princess of a multitude.

Behold Gods grace in action in the marriage. He is so wonderfully concerned over both Abraham and [his rib], his wife. Although God chose man to be the head of his household, the wife is equally important in all the decisions that are made in the household.

The saying is true, behind every great man there's a great woman. Peter gives fair warning to the man concerning his wife. Peter says through the Holy Spirit that the wife is an heir with her husband in the grace of life. 1 Pet 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

The Greek word for dwell 4924 sunoikeo (soon-oy-keh'-o); in first Peter 3:7 means: to: reside together as a family. Again I cannot emphasize enough that this covenant which Abraham entered into with God is a family covenant. God had all the families of the earth in mind when he told Abraham, I Will bless you and you will be a blessing to all the families of the earth. Gen. 12:1-3

The Greek word for Heir 4789 sugkleronomos (soong-klay-ron-om'-os); in first Peter 3:7 means: a participant in common or to be a fellow joint. This is exactly what God had in mind when he called Sarah to stand and live in perfect harmony with her husband in the covenant, as one who is a fellow Joint heir and a participant in all that is common in the holy things of the Lord. **Praise the Lord.**

Our three enemies are:

1. The world.

Anything that is physical in nature, which will hinder or quench the Spirit of God, is of the world because it is sin. The world is not getting better it is growing worst from the time that man fell it has been decaying more and more. As time goes by greater opportunities for evil alliances increase and our behavior is proceeding worst. Our technology is getting exceedingly evil and more going faster toward wickedness, temptation is everywhere and crime is on an ever-growing rate. Sin is exploding and Satan is taking many to hell with him.

2. The flesh.

The nature of the human heart has not changed since the creation of human beings. The human heart still has a bent toward darkness, evil, and sin. We have desires, which God intends for us to meet in ways that are in keeping with His commandments. The temptation always exists, however, for us to seek to meet those desires in ways that are ungodly. Since we never lose our human, fleshly desires, we never lose our capacity to yield to temptation. These desires are with us until we die because they reside within us.

3. The devil. Peter describes our enemy this way:

“Your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

Each of us today is confronted with a spiritual battle with the devil whether we realize it or not. The very nature of the enemy of our eternal spirit is to defeat us, destroy us, and to kill everything that is important to us. His pursuit of us is persistent, unrelenting, and always aimed at the most vulnerable area of our lives.

Believers can choose to have nothing to do with Satan. When we understand this truth we will be free to walk and to do the word of God; this is the freedom of the Spirit it is unlimited power. How important is it to hear the Voice of the Lord? How does believer hear the voice of the Spirit of God.

The believer is first impressed through the knowledge of God in his or her spirit and as they continue in the truth and in fellowship with God they grow and become mature attaining to the true faith in the Son of God.

Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. Ps 92:13

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, Eph 3:17

The Believer Rooted In Christ For Fruit

The believer is rooted and grounded in the Love of God. A tree, [THE BELIEVER], that is planted in the House of the Lord will not be uprooted; instead they shall grow in the presence of His Majesty. How can we grow except through the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

The Father is very protective over his branches because he does not want any of them to perish, so he tends to it himself. He watches it to make sure that it is bearing fruit. Here in this particular passage of Scripture we see the blessed Trinity at work. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Father tends to the vine, the Son is the vine and the Holy Spirit is the fruit.

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The commitment of the Christian

Commitment is a vital part of the Christian life. The best example that I can show you what commitment really is; is Jesus Christ giving himself as a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus Christ died upon a cross enduring

the shame and the pain of the cross, so that you and I can have freedom today. That's commitment. If we are ever going to accomplish anything for God's Kingdom, commitment must come first. Today in our society, we see that commitment is not emphasize as much as it used to be.

THE VICTORY IS OURS