

A BETTER COVENANT ESTABLISHED UPON BETTER PROMISES

(Heb 8:6 KJV) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

(Heb 8:7 KJV) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

(Heb 8:8 KJV) For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

(Heb 8:9 KJV) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

(Heb 8:10 KJV) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

(Heb 8:11 KJV) And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

(Heb 8:12 KJV) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

(Heb 8:13 KJV) In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

I. THE GOD OF COVENANT.

- A. *A covenant is a contract or agreement.*
- B. *Two basic covenants--the old and the new.*

II. THE IDEA OF A COVENANT IS ANCIENT.

- A. *The Blood Covenant is the basis of most primitive religions.*
- B. *Covenant means to cut--mingling of blood.*
- C. *Three reasons for covenant.*
 - 1. Protection.
 - a. None of sicknesses and diseases of Egypt to come upon us.
 - b. No evil shall come nigh us.
 - c. David came against uncircumcised Philistine--which meant he had no covenant with God.
 - 2. Fair business deals.
 - 3. Love--David and Jonathan.

III. HOW TO ENTER.

- A. *Exchange of blood.*
- B. *Exchange of coats or garments.*
 - 1. Garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. (Isa 61:3 KJV) To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he

might be glorified.

2. Robe of righteousness. (Isa 61:10 KJV) I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.
3. White robes. (Rev 7:13 KJV) And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? (Rev 7:14 KJV) And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

C. ***Exchange of weapons.***

1. All my strength and war ability is available to you.
2. I will fight on your behalf.

D. ***Exchange of names.***

1. Power of attorney over all belongings.
2. Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name, He will give you.
3. These signs shall follow them that believe.
 - a. In my name...cast out devils.
 - b. In my name...lay hands on the sick.

E. ***Pronouncement of blessings and curses.*** (Deut. 28).

1. Blessings.
 - a. Prosperity.
 - b. Life.
 - c. Health.
2. Curses.
 - a. Sicknesses.
 - b. Diseases.
 - c. Poverty.

IV. GOD'S COVENANT WITH US IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

A. ***Provisions.***

1. Healing.
 - a. (Exo 15:26 KJV) And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.
 - b. I will put none of these diseases upon thee (PREVENTIVE).
 - c. I am the Lord that healeth thee (AFTER THE FACT).
 - d. I will take away sickness from the midst of thee - "*And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfill.*"

2. Jehovah-jireh, our provider. My God shall supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

B. **Protector.** (Psalm 91).

1. Dwelleth - to sit down; remain; to settle in the sense of taking up a homestead or staking out a claim and resisting all claim-jumpers to possess a place and live therein.
2. Secret place - a covering; hiding place (implies *covenant*).
3. He is my refuge and my fortress.
4. He shall deliver thee from snare of the fowler.
5. Thou shalt not be afraid.
 - a. Terror by night (*devious attacks*).
 - b. Arrow that flieth by day (*open attacks*).
 - c. Pestilence that walketh in darkness.
 - d. Destruction that wasteth at noonday.
6. Because thou hast made the Lord thy habitation.
 - a. No evil shall befall thee.
 - b. No plague come nigh thy dwelling.
 - c. Give angels charge over you.
7. Tread upon lion and adder.
8. Because he hath set his love upon Me.
 - a. I will deliver him.
 - b. Set him on high.
 - c. I will answer him.
 - d. I will be with him in trouble.
 - e. I will deliver him.
9. Rewards of the Lord.
 - a. Honor him.
 - b. Satisfy him with long life.
 - c. Shew him my salvation.

V. A BETTER COVENANT ESTABLISHED UPON BETTER PROMISES.

- A. ***Better covenant marked by spirit and life.***
- B. ***The words I speak unto you are spirit and life.***
- C. ***"But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?"***

VI. WHAT BRINGS LIFE?

- A. ***Wisdom and Understanding.***
 1. Pr. 3:16 - *"Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour."*
 2. Pr. 13:14 - *"The law of the wise is a fountain of life."*
- B. ***The Word of God.***
 1. Pr. 3:1-2 - *"My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my*

commandments; for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."

2. Pr. 4:10 - *"Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many."*
3. Pr. 4:20-22 - *"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."*

VII. THE TREE OF LIFE.

- A. ***In the garden of Eden.*** (Gen 2:9 KJV) And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
- B. ***In the book of Revelation.***
 1. (Rev 2:7 KJV) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.
 2. (Rev 22:2 KJV) In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
 3. (Rev 22:14 KJV) Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.
- C. ***What is the tree of life?***
 Pr. 11:30 - *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."*
 A wholesome tongue.
 Pr. 15:4 - *"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life."*
 Pr. 10:11 - *"The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life..."*
 Pr. 18:21 - *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."*
 I Pet. 3:10 - *"He that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile."*

JESUS IS LIFE.

***In him was life, and this life was the light of men.
 He's the way, the truth, and the life.***