

ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org

Covenant of God and Jesus

Throughout history, we've learned the meaning of the word covenant. In today's world of high paced living, we think of the word contract, but that word pales in comparison with the potency of a covenant. A contract is a signed agreement between two people, in fact, to buy a house or work a job you most likely signed your name to a piece of paper. Yet a covenant is what a couple makes before God when they marry each other. Even though it is similar, a covenant is much more powerful and life-altering than a contract. Can you imagine me looking into my bride's eyes swearing an oath "until death do us part" and later saying I have a signed contract of marriage, no, we have a covenant with each other before God!

The word covenant itself means "cut of blood" and implies that blood is shed for the sealing of the agreement. In history, you can find how the leader of one tribe of people would meet with the leader of an opposing tribe. They would make a covenant together between the two groups. They are saying that everything I have belongs to you and everything you have belongs to me! Your friends will become my friends, as will your enemies become my enemies! If you go to war, you will have all of my warriors by your side! Then they would each make a cut on their hands and hold those cuts together mingling their blood, and in such, they would have sealed their covenant. This was a Bi-lateral agreement and stood secure and unbroken as long as both sides kept up their end of the deal. Though, if one side failed, then the covenant was broken and no longer stood.

Understanding this will help us to understand God's relationship with men in the Old Testament. God made a covenant with many men throughout history, with Noah, Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and more. The problem was that even though God was always unfailing on His side, each and every man failed on their side of the agreement. That meant that the covenant was continually being broken, bringing separation again and again. This also helps us understand the reasoning behind why the bringing of an innocent lamb's blood to the altar of God throughout the Bible was important.

The first covenant was made with Adam and Eve immediately after their fall into sin. It says in Genesis 3:15 "*Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*" I've heard it said that for the skins to be made for their covering that God had to kill an animal which would cause blood to be shed and would have been the sealing of their covenant and I agree with that opinion. This was the relationship that was forced upon God because of man's sin nature. However, God had a much better plan which He placed in motion by prophesying to the enemy. "*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*" Genesis 3:20

The plan of God was much richer and more permanent than even a covenant could provide for His relationship with men. He desired to become the Father of spiritual sons and daughters connected by birth, which is why we see the term "born again" used by Jesus to

describe this new connection to God! We are born the first time of our earthly family, but at salvation, we are born the second time of our Heavenly Father. We see a more in-depth description in Hebrews 8:6-13.

“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. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: ‘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-- ‘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 did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. ‘For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ‘None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. ‘For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.’ In that He says, ‘A new covenant,’ He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.”

See, God could not trust a man to be faithful to a covenant until Jesus came and fulfilled every requirement of the law. Finally, a covenant was made between God the Father, and Jesus the man, that would never and could never be broken. It was sealed once and for all by the blood of Jesus, our lamb of sacrifice. The covenant between God and Jesus is now sealed and never able to be broken.

Jesus made a way for His Father to become your Father, and you are now born of Him the same way Jesus was. You also have the nature of God in you, allowing the impossible to be part of your everyday life. You and I can overcome anything that is against the Will of God. What we have is much more than a covenant, it is family. You have a Father who loves you and believes in you; He will never give up on you. Don't give up on Him. Let's change the world.

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