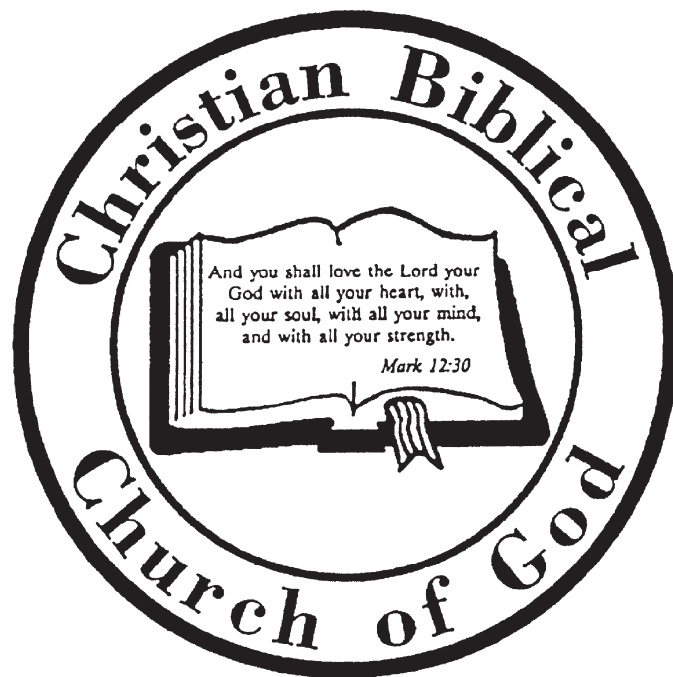


Steps of Covenant Law



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

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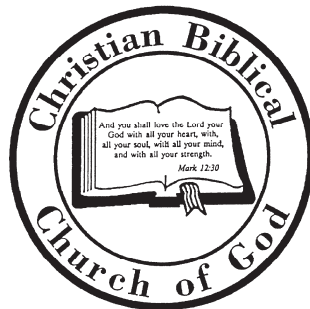
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Steps of Covenant Law

Series of 5 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



Signature

Date

☐ Steps of Covenant Law I

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Steps of Covenant Law

Foreword

This book is a compilation of sermon transcripts that cover covenant law as defined in the Bible. These sermons were given by Mr. Fred R. Coulter, a minister of Jesus Christ for over fifty years. In reading this book the reader will be informed of how important law was in the Old Testament as well as the difference between testaments and covenants. The reader will understand what, Biblically speaking, covenants were composed of.

The first sermon transcript, “Steps of Covenant Law I – Introduction & the Word’s of the Covenant,” speaks of the dividing line between people in covenant with the devil and people in covenant with God. The Bible itself is an absolute miracle created by God. Those who belong to the devil can read and study it and can never come to an understanding of what is written in it. Those who belong to God can read and study it and can come to an understanding of what is written in it. This study remarks that you will find in different Scriptures that there may be one, two, three, four precepts, and in different lines of Scripture you may find many applications depending on the different situations. There is no other book in existence that is like the Bible. In this transcript different covenants in the Bible are explained and how these covenants work with a person’s relationship with God.

The second sermon transcript, “Steps of Covenant Law II – Proposal, Agreement, Cost, Commitment & Belief,” examines quite thoroughly the beginning steps of making a covenant, the making of terms to abide by in a covenant, and the results needed for a covenant to remain. The reader will be informed as to the basics of the first steps of covenant law.

The third sermon transcript, “Steps of Covenant Law III – Sacrifice & Shed Blood, Covenant Meal,” is a continuation of the second sermon transcript as well as introducing other parts of a covenant as found in the Bible. An important correction is made regarding a mistranslation in the King James Bible regarding Hebrews 9:17. This chapter in Hebrews is talking about a covenant and not a testament. Another detail that is expounded upon is that the Old Testament Covenant forgave sins of the Israelites to the physical Temple on earth.

The fourth sermon transcript, “Steps of Covenant Law IV Review,” restates all the components of a legal covenant as set forth by the Bible. Also noted is that a covenant is greater than just an agreement. It is binding until death, unless specifically stated that it is for a shorter period of time. Also noted is that false “religions” lead people to sin in the name of doing good. The worst thing today that is leading people into sin is Evangelical Protestantism. Evangelical Protestantism is absolutely in the grip of the spirit of the antichrist.

The fifth, and last sermon transcript, is “Steps of Covenant Law V – Life for Life, Name, Belts & Weapons, Death Walk and the Eternal Covenant.” This transcript covers the meanings of the exchanging of garments, changing of one’s name, exchange of belts, exchange of weapons, the Death Walk, and the Eternal Covenant.

A special thanks goes to Bonnie Orswell, Laila Patterson and Nancy Spaller for producing the transcripts.

Steps of Covenant Law I

Introduction & the Words of the Covenant

Fred R. Coulter

We're going to begin covering the steps of covenant law. We're going to find that **God has done an absolute miracle with His Bible: the wicked who read it cannot understand it! But the righteous who read it do understand it! This is where we get a dividing line between the covenant with the devil and the covenant with God!**

Isaiah 28:7: "But they also stagger through wine... [the drunkards of Ephraim and so forth] ...and reel through strong drink...."

Where does it talk about wine in the book of Revelation? *The whole world is drunk on the wine of the wrath of her fornication (Rev. 17).*

"...The priest and the prophet stagger through drink... [wrong satanic doctrine] ...they are confused by wine; they reel through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment, for all tables are full of vomit and filthiness; no place is clean" (vs 7-8).

That's how God views all the religious systems of the world, but in particularly those who use the Word of God but don't teach the Word of God, but are rather part of *the mystery of lawlessness*. So, in this environment God asks the question:

Verse 9: "Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? **Those who are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts.**"

When you first start understanding the Word of God, you take the milk of the Word, the simple things. God's way is so great that it can start out very simple, and the deeper and deeper you go into it the greater and greater it becomes. But first you have to be grounded with the milk of the Word. Then you have to be "...drawn from the breasts." In other words, you're not able to take 'strong meat.'

As Paul said in Heb. 5, 'The time that you ought to be able to take strong meat, you have need of milk.' So, you have to have a certain basic understanding of the Scriptures: "**...weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts.**" *Here is how God teaches you:*

Verse 10: "**For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little.**" *That means in two ways:*

1. for those who are drawn from the breast, weaned from the milk, and you're ready for the deeper understanding of God's Word

That's how you're going to understand it. That's how you prove all things. Always remember that ***the Truth of the Scripture can be proved and reproved and reproved, over and over again with the same results!*** Then another phenomena will happen with that:

2. you will find that in different Scriptures there may be one, two, three, four precepts, and in different lines of Scripture you may find many applications depending on the different situations.

So, God's Word—since it is the living Word of God—operates that way. *No other book in the world can do that!* That's because all other books were written by men without the inspiration of God. ***The Bible was written by the inspiration of God; all Scripture was given by the inspiration of God!***

Let's see what happens to those people who do not understand. This is what happens to those who are not willing to obey God or love God:

Verse 11: "For with stammering lips and foreign tongue He will speak to this people. To whom He said, 'This is the rest He gives to the weary,' and 'This is the refreshing'..." (vs 11-12).

This is a prophecy of the Gospel. What did Jesus say? *All you who are heavy laden come unto Me and I will give you rest!*

"...yet, **they were not willing to hear.** So then, the Word of the LORD was to them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little; **that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken and snared and taken**" (vs 12-13).

So, the same Word that brings you salvation with God's Spirit, the love and obedience to God brings them just the opposite.

Verse 14: "Therefore, hear the Word of the LORD, you scornful men who rule this people in Jerusalem." Isn't that what happened when Christ came? They were scornful, weren't they?

Verse 15: "Because you have said, 'We have made a **covenant with death**, and we have made an **agreement with the grave**'" *That's what the religions of this world have!*

Stop and think about that. Because if Christ *the Way* and there is *one way*, and salvation is only through Christ, ***there is no other way!*** Any who claim that they are, *are not!* Those who preach and live the mystery of lawlessness are in a covenant with death, because *the wages of sin is death!*

“...when the overwhelming rod shall pass through, it shall not come to us... [in other words, they’re going to live with their own devices] ...for we have made lies our refuge, and we have hidden ourselves under falsehood” (v 15).

What a perfect description of all the religious leaders of the world who reject the Word of God. Next time you read anything on this ecumenical movement or the one-world religion remember Isa. 28:15^[transcriber’s correction].

They do it very nicely by saying they don’t want to offend. ‘We will agree to disagree and we will agree to get along in spite of our disagreements.’ What happens? ***You have given up any Truth in Christ, because now the knowledge of Christ through that means has been dumbed down to the same knowledge as any other pagan god in the world!***

Verse 16: “Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I place in Zion a Stone for a foundation, a tried Stone, a precious Cornerstone, a sure Foundation; he who believes shall not be ashamed.’” ***Christ is the answer!***

There is the covenant with death!

Now let’s look at ***the covenant with life***. I want you to understand the emphasis that Psa. 25 is bringing:

Psalms 25:1: “To You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I ***trust in You***; do not let me be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me” (vs 1-2) If you’re right with God and trusting in Him, they won’t!

Verse 3: “Yea, let none who wait on You be ashamed; let them be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause. ***Show me Your ways, O LORD; [1]teach me Your paths***” (vs 3-4). *That’s why we say that God’s way is a way and not a religion!*

Verse 5: “***Lead me in Your Truth and [2]teach me***, for You are the God of my salvation; on You do I wait all the day long. Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindness, for they have been of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth... ***[repentance]*** ...nor my transgressions; according to Your loving kindness remember me for Your goodness sake, O LORD. Good and upright is the LORD; therefore,

^[3]***He will teach*** sinners in the way.... [the right way] ...The meek He will guide in judgment; and the meek ^[4]***He will teach His way***” (vs 5-9).

Notice all the things that are involved here in the way that God is teaching you. It’s quite an amazing thing, just right here in this Psalm. Sometimes we read over things so fast that we hurry on to get to something important *and miss what truly important!*

John 6:44—Jesus says: “No one can come to Me unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And ***they shall all be [5]taught by God***.’.... [the Father] ...Therefore, everyone who has heard from the Father, and has learned, comes to Me” (vs 44-45). Here’s how it is:

Psalms 25:10: “All the paths of the LORD are mercy and Truth ***to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies***.”

Keeping the covenant is very important. Sometimes when you’re studying, one of the ways to understand it even more clearly is when you have a statement like this in v 10. Therefore, all the paths of the Lord *are not mercy and not Truth unto those who reject His mercy and reject His covenant and do not keep His testimonies!*

What did the man say who had the one talent and went and hid it? *O Lord, I knew You were a harsh man!*

Verse 11—again, repentance: “For Your name’s sake, O LORD, ***pardon my iniquity***, for it is great. What man is he who fears the LORD? ***He shall [6]teach him*** in the way that He shall choose.” (vs 11-12). Is teaching important? *Yes!*

Verse 13: “His soul shall dwell at ease, and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and... [notice everything leading up to this]: ...***He will show them His covenant***” (vs 13-14).

“...***to those who keep His covenant***...” (v 10).

This is a very important thing, brethren. We all need to realize and keep it in mind—and this will help you overcome vanity and self-serving—***you have nothing that you haven’t received! Everything you have has come from God! Everything physical and spiritual!*** When you understand that, then you’re not going to get all puffed up if you do something. All the glory goes to God, and ***God does not share His glory with any man, idol, thing or movement!***

When you start getting carried away with self-serving or carnality, just get on your knees and

repent and acknowledge to God that there is nothing that you have that you didn't receive. When you do that, then God is going to show you His covenant.

The very name Jehovah means *Covenant God!* God always deals in covenants, and all the way through the Bible we have quite a few covenants. I have a whole sermon series: *Covenants of God*. We're going survey the aspects of *covenant* in the Bible.

WORDS OF THE COVENANT:

Remember that *all the words of the covenant are made known after the preliminary words are agreed to*. We will see this very clearly. God first of all gives a preliminary words, which you agree to, and then He gives all the rest of the words of the covenant, which then you agree to.

Genesis 2:15: "And the LORD God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it." God always gives responsibility. He made you to work, to do, to create and all of that sort of thing.

Verse 16: "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying... [here are the words of the covenant]: ...'You may freely eat of every tree in the garden, but you shall not eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, for in the day that you eat of it in dying you shall surely die'" (vs 16-17).

In every covenant, part of the words in every covenant that there is in the Bible there are blessings and cursings. Human nature desires only the blessings, and they want to get it *their way rather than God's way*. They don't want the cursing.

I read an article from the magazine *The Christian Jew* that is quite interesting. A Jew can say things to a Jew that if you and I said it, it would be anti-Semitism. He said, 'All of you want the promises of God, but I want you to understand that half of the promises *are blessings* and half of the promises *are cursings*, and *because you have rejected Christ you are receiving the promise of the cursings*.' I'm glad he said it! So, here it is:

- blessings/cursings
- commandments/obedience
- disobedience/sin
- sin/judgment

Every covenant has that!

- What happened? *Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the tree and they broke the covenant!*
- Was there punishment? *Yes, you can read Gen. 3!* Were they cutoff and removed from God? *Yes!*

Not entirely, but they were put out of the Garden of Eden and they could come up to the gate where the two cherubim were and they could meet God there. That's why in the temple you have the two cherubim. That reflects back to the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve and Abel could come there and meet with God. I'm sure they met there every Sabbath with God.

Those are the words of the covenant. Now, we've covered Gen. 4 on tithing, so I'm not going to belabor the point. I want you to understand that God added to that original covenant. After they sinned then they had animal sacrifices. That's what happened when:

Genesis 4:4: "And Abel also brought of the firstlings of his flock *and* of the fat of it. And the LORD had regard unto Abel and his offering."

I'm not going into all the rest concerning Cain. We've covered that in the sermon series: *Mystery of Lawlessness*.

Let's notice what happened when the whole earth was going against the covenant of God. You had the line coming down from Abel, Seth and all the way down to Enoch, to Methuselah, Lamech and down to Noah. Those and their families were the only ones who followed God and were righteous.

Let's apply a little New Testament Scripture here. What did Jesus say concerning the way to life? *Straight is the way and narrow is gate that leads to life and few there be who find it. Broad is the gate and wide is the way that leads to destruction and many go therein.*

Covenant with Noah:

Look what happened during the days of Noah. The only few who were saved was Noah, his wife and his sons and their wives, and the broad way of corruption was destroyed. That was the ultimate curse of the covenant that was originally made with Adam and Eve.

Genesis 6:5: "And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great on the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. And the LORD repented that He had made man on the earth, and He *was* grieved in His heart" (vs 5-6).

Can one man make a difference with God? *Yes! Noah did! Abraham did!* If you feel alone, don't worry about it:

- God knows you
- God will bless you
- God will be with you
- God will provide other people later on

As I've said to some people, somebody has to be first.

Here's Noah, *one man!* After God said He was going to destroy everything, v 8: "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." *Salvation by grace!*

- Was Noah sinless? *No!*
- What he walking in the way of the Lord? *Yes!*

Verse 9: "These *are* the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man and perfect in his generations, for Noah walked with God." The way you walk with God is in His grace and He blesses you.

After God said that He was going to destroy all flesh, everything under heaven that is on the earth shall die.

Verse 18: "But **I will establish My covenant with you...**"—Noah! God never deals with anyone *without a covenant*. If He's dealing with someone prior to entering into a covenant relationship, He is calling that individual and will lead them to a covenant relationship.

When we are done with this series, you will understand why all the Protestant calls to the altar are nonsense. I actually have heard a Protestant minister say, who was repenting of altar calls, which spurred me to this study on covenant law. He came to understand six of them and was repenting of all of his altar calls and saying they were worthless and nothing, because they never brought them into a covenant relationship with God. And you'll see why.

God never deals with anyone without a covenant. Then God explained, v 19: "And you shall bring into the ark two of every *kind*, of every living thing of all flesh, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female"—clean and unclean.

They go through the Flood, then they get out. Genesis 8:20: "And Noah built an altar to the LORD, and he took of every clean animal, and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savor; and the LORD said in His heart, 'I will not again curse the ground for man's sake—although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will not again smite every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease'" (vs 20-22). Has that been true? *Yes!*

Genesis 9:1: "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and He said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth'"—the exact same wording as Gen. 1 when God told the man and woman to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the

earth. You can't replenish something unless it has been depleted first. This is what we have with us. This is how we know that there was life on the earth before Gen. 1, otherwise God wouldn't have said to *replenish*.

Here's *the covenant that God gave after the Flood*. This is the general covenant for all nations in the world, having nothing to do with salvation. This is God's covenant *with all physical nations in the world*. Even God does not deal with the nations in the world unless there's a covenant first.

Verse 2: "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every bird of the air, upon all that moves on the earth, and upon all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you, **even as** the green herb I have given you all things" (vs 2-3).

What is the restriction for the green herb? *It has to have the seed in it!* "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you, **even as** the green herb..." means *there's a restriction* to the living things, which is *the law of clean and unclean*.

Verse 4: "But you shall not eat of flesh with the life in it—which is its blood."

Now comes a change in administration in dealing with human beings. Prior to the Flood, God was the One Who executed judgment. After the Flood now it shifts over and now man must be responsible for taking care of his own wickedness; that is in the letter of the Law and the nations of the world.

Verse 5: "And surely the blood of your lives will I require. At the hand of every animal will I require it, and at the hand of man. At the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoever sheds man's blood, his blood shall be shed by man—for He made man in the image of God" (vs 5-6). Now God gave the execution of the death penalty for criminals to other men.

Verse 7: "'And you, be fruitful and multiply. Bring forth abundantly in the earth, and increase in it.' And God spoke to Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, 'Behold I, even I establish My covenant with you, and with your seed after you; and with every living creature that *is* with you—of the birds, of the livestock, and of every animal of the earth with you—from all that go out from the ark, to every animal of the earth. And I will establish My covenant with you. Neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood. Neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.' And God said, 'This *is* the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you and every living creature

with you, for everlasting generations” (vs 7-12).

This means a continuous covenant—a perpetual covenant; Exodus 31:16: “Therefore, the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.”

Sabbath-keeping is a perpetual covenant. If one is a perpetual covenant, the other is a perpetual covenant.

Genesis 9:13: “I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be *the* sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.”

I want you to notice that many times in covenants that we see that God uses heaven and earth as a witness, which means that you don’t have to wonder where the witness is. You’re standing on it, and you’re looking up at it.

Verse 14: “‘And it shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud. And I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the rainbow shall be in the cloud. And I will look upon it that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.’ And God said to Noah, ‘This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between Me and all flesh that is upon the earth’” (vs 14-17). *That’s quite a covenant! All nations are held to this covenant!*

Covenant with Abraham:

We just read the words of the covenant; remember, there are always the words of the covenant. That’s what I’m doing in going through here first. Let’s look at the preliminary words of the covenant that was given to Abraham.

God does not tell us necessarily, or give us complete understanding of all the details of the covenant at first. But He does make it known to us later. Then there comes a point when we know the words of the covenant.

Genesis 12:1: “And the LORD said to Abram, ‘Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father’s house into a land that I will show you.’”

Luke 14:26: “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers and sisters, and, in addition, his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.” We will see that the third step of covenant making is *counting the cost*.

Did Abraham have to forsake everything? *Yes, he did!* This is New Testament doctrine here. Here are the words of the covenant; notice how broad they are, which means that God can fill in the details to flush it out, or to complete it.

Genesis 12:2: “And I will make *of* you a great nation. And I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing. And I will bless those that bless you and curse the one who curses you. And in you shall all families of the earth be blessed” (vs 2-3).

There it is right there! Gen. 12:2-3 are the preliminary words of the covenant.

- Did Abraham obey? *Yes, he did! He departed!*
- Did Abraham believe God? *Yes, he did, otherwise he wouldn’t have left!*
- Did Abraham have his own sins and weaknesses? *Yes, he did!*
- Did Sarah have her own sins and weaknesses? *Yes, she did!*

But they walked in the covenant of God!

God now begins to define the covenant even more, based upon the preliminary words that were given in Gen. 12. We’ve covered this very thoroughly in *The Christian Passover* book, so you can read all the details there. I just want to touch base with it here. We’ll cover other aspects of it as we get to the other steps of covenant law.

Genesis 15:1: “After these things the Word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Fear not, Abram, I *am* your shield and your exceedingly great reward.’ And Abram said, ‘Lord GOD, what will You give me since I go childless, and the heir of my house *is* this Eliezer of Damascus?’” (vs 1-2).

It was legal law to go ahead and have your head steward of your house become your heir, as your son, if you had no children. That’s why Abraham proposed it. After all, at this point—85-years-old—and you have no children, you know that’s not an unreasonable proposition.

So, God to Abraham, v 4: “And behold, the Word of the LORD *came* to him saying, ‘This man shall not be your heir; but he that shall come forth out of your own loins shall be your heir.’”

Then God begins this part of the words of the covenant. *The one who comes from you will be your heir!* So, God expanded on this with more detail from the original words—the preliminary words—of the covenant (Gen. 12).

Verse 5: “And He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward the heavens and number the

stars—if you are able to count them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your seed be.’” We know that’s a promise of *spiritual seed*!

Verse 6: “And he believed in the LORD. And He accounted it to him for righteousness.” That’s part of the agreement; that you believe. We’ll see that that’s very important.

Covenant with Israel:

We go through all the plagues of Egypt, all the exodus coming out of Egypt, and all the children of Israel knew was that God promised to spare their firstborn and take them out of Egypt.

Didn’t they complain several times along the way? ‘Why did you bring us out into this wilderness, God?’ So, when they finally got to Mt. Sinai, God gave them the preliminary words of the overall covenant that He was going to give them. God made it clear to them that He was going to add other words to it.

As we go through these things, I want you to see the consistency in the way that God deals with people. It is always the same way.

Exodus 19:3: “And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel, “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you unto Myself.... [here are the preliminary words of the covenant]: ...Now, therefore, if you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation.” These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel” (vs 3-6).

New Covenant:

Let’s see that Jesus Christ used exactly the same pattern. This shows us that throughout the Bible and the Word of God He always operates the same.

Mark 1:1: “The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, *the* Son of God.”

Verse 14: “Now, after the imprisonment of John, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God... [here are the *preliminary words* of the New Covenant; you always have the preliminary words first]: ...and saying, ‘The time has been fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is near at hand; **repent, and believe in the Gospel**’” (vs 14-15).

The details of this are contained in Matthew,

Mark Luke and John. So, they contain all the words of the New Covenant that Christ gives for us to keep. We’ll see the pattern a little bit later.

We come to the Passover, or the specific covenant that Christ gave to the disciples (John 13-17, plus the bread and wine). Those are the particular details of the New Covenant as specifically applied to all of those who are converted.

Only Jesus and the apostles kept the New Covenant Passover in the year that Jesus died. He did not have all of His disciples with Him keeping the Passover; He only had 12. So, the rest of them did not know about the New Testament/Covenant Passover until the next Passover when they took it. I’m sure that they heard about it, but I’m sure that they did not participate in it until the next Passover.

Again, we are going to see that God is going to make known His covenant. When He deals with us for all eternity, He’s going to bring *an eternal new covenant*.

Rev. 21—here the whole circumstances have changed. Remember how it was changed after the Flood of Noah? Here now we have the whole earth has been burned up with the Lake of Fire, all consumed just like Peter said (2- Pet. 3), all the elements dissolved to prepare for a spiritual civilization.

Revelation 21:1: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea”—which means there are no more fleshly human beings.

How long do you think human beings could live without an ocean? *They couldn’t exist, because the temperature would not be moderated to sustain physical life!* If you’re a spirit being you don’t need an ocean, heat and cold won’t affect you.

Verse 2: “And I, John, saw the Holy City, *the* New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice from heaven say, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men...’” (vs 2-3). That’s the whole purpose! The whole goal of God is to live with His perfected resurrected family. That goes right back to the Garden of Eden when God was living with Adam and Eve.

{Note sermon: *What Would the World Be Like if Adam and Eve Had Not Sinned?*} I felt that the long and short of it was that if they hadn’t had sinned we probably would have entered into a Millennial like civilization.

“...Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with

men... [*men made perfect*] ...and He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His people; and God Himself shall be with them *and be* their God.... [this is the circumstances of the covenant] ...And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and *there* shall not be anymore death... [because you're eternal spirit beings] ...or sorrow, or crying; neither shall *there* be any more pain, because the former things have passed away.' And He Who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, **I make all things new.**'.... [you need a *new* covenant] ...Then He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.' And He said to me, 'It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the one who thirsts, I will give freely of the fountain of the water of life. The one who overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son'" (vs 3-7). That's the blessing! What was the cursing?

Verse 8: "But *the* cowardly, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone; which is *the* second death."

Rev. 22 has more glimpses of the detail and *we will see God face-to-face!*

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 28:7-16
- 2) Psalm 25:1-9
- 3) John 6:44-45
- 4) Psalm 25:10-14, 10
- 5) Genesis 2:15-17
- 6) Genesis 4:4
- 7) Genesis 6:5-6, 8-9, 18-19
- 8) Genesis 8:20-22
- 9) Genesis 9:1-12
- 10) Exodus 31:16
- 11) Genesis 9:13-17
- 12) Genesis 12:1
- 13) Luke 14:26
- 14) Genesis 12:2-3
- 15) Genesis 15:1-2, 4-6
- 16) Genesis 19:3-6
- 17) Mark 1:1, 14-15
- 18) Revelation 21:1-8

Scriptures quoted, not referenced:

- Revelation 17
- Hebrews 5
- Genesis 1
- John 13-17
- 2 Peter 3
- Revelation 22

Also referenced:

Sermon Series:

- *Covenants of God*
- *Mystery of Lawlessness*

Sermon: *What Would the World Be Like if Adam and Eve Had Not Sinned?*

Book: *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter

FRC:bo

Transcribed: 5-29-18

Steps of Covenant Law II Proposal, Agreement, Cost, Commitment & Belief

Fred R. Coulter

THE PROPOSAL

The proposal does not have everything included in it. That's what's important to understand, we will see that in all the covenants. So first of all, we're going to go through the proposal of the different covenants in Genesis.

In Gen. 1 here's the creation of man. Some people think that these were pre-Adamic beings here, and Adam was created later. But this is a summary of the creation of Adam and Eve and their purpose, and Gen. 2 contains the details of how He did it. Why? What does the Bible say about Adam? *The first man Adam!* If he's the first man, then there can't be a prototype pre-man man. Besides, God is not like us that He has to make a prototype first to figure out how things work.

Genesis 1:26: "And God said, 'Let Us... [Christ and the Father (John 17)] ...make man in Our image, after Our likeness; and **let them have dominion**... [here is the proposal] ...over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of heaven and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that crawls upon the earth.'" We know that's true, because we can look back and see in retrospect that's exactly what has happened.

Verse 27: "And God created man in His *own* image, in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female."

This is why when you study the Bible, as we've covered, you have to go Scripture here and Scripture there, and put it all together.

Genesis 5:1. "This *is* the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them, and He called **their** name Adam... [Isn't that interesting?] ...in the day when they were created" (vs 1-2). *That also shows the coming together as one flesh!*

God gives a few more instructions, Genesis 1:29: "And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree upon which *is the* fruit of a tree bearing seed—to you they shall be for food. And to every animal of the earth and to every fowl of heaven and to all the living creatures that crawl upon the earth, every green plant *is given* for food.' And it was so" (vs 29-30).

People say, 'Oh, we were all vegetarians at

first.' Possible, but this does not exclude eating animals. It doesn't say that is the only food you're going to have.

You could say from vs 26-30 that this is the **general proposal**, and there always is a general proposal. Let's see a general proposal here, we'll get into some of the other things a little later, because there has to be agreement, there has to be other things that come along with it. Let's see the general *proposal to Noah*:

Genesis 6:11: "Now the earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt—for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth. And God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them. And, behold, I will destroy them *with* the earth'" (vs 11-13).

I imagine Noah was saying (in his own mind), 'Lord, how are You going to do this?' Noah was also a righteous man and perfect in his generations. That's interesting, because in his generations or genealogy it shows that he didn't have any corrupt genes in him. There's a reason that God had to kill all the animals, birds and things like that—probably all corrupt.

Here's God's proposition to him, Verse 14: "Make an ark of cypress timbers. You shall make rooms in the ark, and you shall pitch it inside and outside with pitch. And this *is* the way you shall make it... [God detailed how Noah was going to make it] ...The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it shall be fifty cubits and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window in the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above... [it goes up above the top of the ark by one cubit] ...and you shall set the door of the ark in the side of it. You shall make it with lower, second and third stories. And behold, I, even I am bringing a flood of waters upon the earth in order to destroy all flesh—in which *is* the breath of life—from under heaven. Everything which *is* upon the earth shall die. But **I will establish My covenant with you**.'...." (vs 14-18).

God still didn't tell him what the covenant was at this point, because He didn't establish the covenant until after the Flood. Then we find here the thing to do when we find out what the proposal is; we'll see this is true.

Verse 22: "Noah did so, according to all that

God commanded him, so he did.”

Here’s the lesson: in the beginning with the covenant, beginning with the *proposal of the covenant*. That’s just like it is when we come in contact with God, and God is calling us and we begin to understand things. *We have to act upon the knowledge that we know!* So, Noah did all according to that God said.

What we are going to do is go through and see the *elements of the proposal* first, and then we’ll come back and fill in the other things later. So, let’s look at Abram and here’s the proposal. God didn’t tell him anything in detail of what He was going to do; He just gave him a proposal. It’d be kind of like coming up to someone and say, ‘How you’d like to make a lot of money?’ (legally). *They say, ‘Yeah.’ ‘Do you agree to do this?’ Yes!* Then we do thus and such and thus and such. Here’s the beginning of God’s dealing with Abraham, which is His proposal.

Genesis 12:1: “And the LORD said to Abram, ‘Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father’s house into a land that I will show you.... [notice that Abraham didn’t say, ‘Lord, where is that?'] ...And I will make *of* you a great nation. And I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing. And I will bless those that bless you and curse the one who curses you. And in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.’.... [Abraham acted upon the proposal just like Noah did] ...Then Abram departed, even as the LORD had spoken to him” (vs 1-4).

Exo. 19—this is *the proposal of the covenant* that God gave to ancient Israel when they got to Mt. Sinai. It’s quite a proposal. It’s very short. In the proposal there are few, if any, details. The details come later, and the reason being is that God wants to know what the person is going to do with whom He’s making the covenant. Because if they’re not willing to accept the proposal and do as God has said, *then everything ceases*.

Exodus 19:3: “And Moses went up to God... [after they got to the wilderness of Sinai] ...and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel, “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you unto Myself”’” (vs 3-4).

Now here’s the proposal—very short, very simple, very straightforward; v 5: “‘Now, therefore, **if you will obey My voice** indeed, and **keep My covenant**, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation.’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel” (vs 5-6).

Moses went down and he did it, he spoke it to them, and they said, ‘Yes, we accept the proposal.’ Then we’ll see what the agreement is a little later.

Now let’s come to the Church in the New Testament. Let’s see what *the proposal of the covenant* is, very simple. And again there are some things in understanding here where now we’re going to see, in this proposal, actually a conditional statement. First of all, I want to read this in the *King James Version*, because the *King James* does not accurately reflect the Greek, so what we have, we end up with an assumed misunderstanding, because of the way that it is translated.

John 3:14 (KJV): “And even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up. That whosoever believes in Him **should** not perish, but have everlasting life” (vs 14-15). What does *should* mean? *It’s definite!* That’s very close to *shall*, not quite as strong as *shall*, but *should*.

Verse 16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, **should not** perish but may have everlasting life.”

Now let’s read it in the *Faithful Version* and see the difference, and as a matter of fact, Gary Staszak has been studying Greek now for a couple of years, and he actually wrote part of his dissertation on John 3:16 as the result of what his professor told him, and the professor instructed him correctly as to what the Greek means.

John 3:14 (FV): “And even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, in the same way it is ordained that the Son of man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him **may not** perish...” (vs 14-15).

Conditional, and that’s the way it is in the Greek. The verb form is called the *subjunctive*. The subjunctive is the same as an **if** clause or a **may** clause. *May* indicates *permission, it’s possible, and it’s not for sure! It leaves open conditions to be attached!* So, the proposal is not the covenant. The proposal is the proposal, but people have to accept the proposal and act upon it.

“...but **may** have everlasting life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him **may not** perish... [subjunctive again] ...but **may have** everlasting [eternal] life” (vs 15-16).

Now we’ll look at some of the conditions a little later on, but if you read it from the *King James*, you believe in Jesus, you’ve got it made, you’ve got eternal life. That is a great problem with

Protestantism. That's how they handle it. 'Do you believe in the Lord Jesus?' Got them all scared to death. *Yes!* 'You're saved.' *Not quite so!*

Let's just take a preview of what the New Covenant for eternity is going to entail. Again, the proposal does not give the details.

Revelation 21:3: "And I heard a great voice from heaven say, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men; and He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His people; and God Himself shall be with them *and be* their God.'" That's the *proposal*! It's going to be different than being in the flesh.

Verse 4: "And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and *there* shall not be any more death, or sorrow, or crying; neither shall *there* be any more pain, because the former things have passed away."

Does this tell us anything of what we're going to do? *No!* As a matter of fact, we don't get very much about what we're going to do for all eternity. We get some information about what we will do when we're resurrected and rule with Christ.

Now let's come back to Genesis and we'll go through this again. That is the first thing that there is with the covenant, *the proposal*!

THE AGREEMENT

Do you agree? And the agreement also has attached to it: *obedience*.

Genesis 2:7: "Then the LORD God formed man *of the* dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The Tree of Life also was in the middle of the garden, and the Tree of *the* Knowledge of Good and Evil" (vs 7-9).

Here's what God did with Adam, v 15: "And the LORD God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'You may freely eat of every tree in the garden, but you shall not eat of the Tree of *the* Knowledge of Good and Evil, for in the day that you eat of it in dying you shall surely die'" (vs 15-17). *There is the agreement*, and there's also *a penalty*.

Now we begin to learn that with the covenant there are penalties. Then we see that He made Eve, brought her to Adam, and so forth. Adam was to dress and keep the garden, he was to guard it, etc. *He agreed!*

We have the same thing here with Abraham. Let's notice in each case there's agreement, there's obedience, those all follow. Here's a little more of the *proposal* that God gave to Abraham. Remember, God said, 'Leave your father's house and leave your country and go into the land that I tell you of, and I will bless you and make a great nation of you,' etc. He hadn't had any children, so God told him—because Abraham wanted to go ahead and say; 'Well, look, I'm getting old here, so Eliezer of Damascus is the one who can be my heir, I can legally do it.'

And God said, Genesis 15:4: "... 'This man shall not be your heir; but he that shall come forth out of your own loins shall be your heir.' And He brought him outside and said, 'Look now toward the heavens and number the stars—if you are able to count them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your seed be.'.... [here's the *agreement with belief*] ... And he believed in the LORD. And He accounted it to him for righteousness" (vs 4-6). We'll cover some of the other aspects of it a little later.

Exodus 19:7—here we have the *proposal*, then we have the agreement: "And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words, which the LORD commanded him.... [which were just a very few] ... And all the people answered together and said, 'All that the LORD has spoken we will do.' And Moses returned the words of the people to the LORD" (vs 7-8).

Remember, this is before the Ten Commandments are given, and when the details came, they had some trouble with it. So, there is the acceptance of the agreement, but that does not seal the covenant, yet; that comes at a later time.

Let's come to the Church. Let's see what the *agreement* is here. Christ comes and He is preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Let's see what everyone has to agree to. It requires something to be done now.

Mark 1:14: "Now, after the imprisonment of John, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time has been fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is near at hand; **repent, and believe** in the Gospel.'" (vs 14-15). People have to agree to that. It has to be something that they have to follow up on, the agreement.

Let's see what God says concerning repentance that is absolutely mandatory. You have to believe the Words of God in the proposal of the covenant; you have to act upon it. How do you start receiving eternal life? *Repentance is the first thing, believe the Gospel and repent!*

Luke 13:1: “Now, at the same time, *there* were present some who were telling Him about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered *and* said to them, ‘Do you suppose that these Galileans were sinners above all Galileans, because they suffered such things? No, I tell you; but **if you do not repent, you shall all likewise perish**’” (vs 1-3).

So, ***repentance then is the next step of the agreement.*** God gives the *proposal*—now what? Just like with Noah. Noah was told to build an ark, he accepted that *proposal*. What did he have to do? *He had to build the ark!* Now we have the *proposal*, If you believe in Jesus, ‘because God so loved the world, *you may have eternal life.*’ Here’s part of the condition, not all of it. These are just the beginning proposal conditions.

Verse 4: “Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell, and killed them, do you suppose that these were debtors above all men who dwelt in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but **if you do not repent, you shall all likewise perish**” (vs 4-5).

Now let’s see the one where it talks about repentance, and then it tells us about something else we need to do.

Acts 2:37^[transcriber’s correction]: “Now, after hearing *this*... [about the death and resurrection of Christ] ... they were cut to the heart; and they said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?’ Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized each one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for *the* remission of sins, and you yourselves shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’” (vs 37-38).

So, there’s something else that comes along the way, too, you see how covenants are structured and built. And it’s interesting that God doesn’t tell us all the details at first, because He wants to know:

- What are we going to do?
- How are we going to accept this?

There has to be *the agreement*.

Now let’s look at another instance of *being agreed*, which also covers some of this. Let’s come to the book of Amos. In a covenant you are in a special relationship between you and God, and if it’s a covenant between other people, between you and the people.

Here’s the principle, Amos 3:1: “Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying.”

God made a covenant with them. We’ll go back and we’ll examine that covenant a little bit more in detail in just a little bit.

Verse 2: “‘You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you *for* all your iniquities’”—because we will see *that was part of the agreement, part of the covenant!*

Here’s the principle, v 3: “**Can two walk together unless they be agreed?**” *NO, you can’t!*

Do you agree with God? *Too many people want God to agree with them*, but God is not a man to agree in that way to a man, because if that were the case, then the person would become God.

Now let’s look at something else that is involved: ***counting the cost***. So here’s:

- the *proposal*
- then the beginning of the *agreement* and what you need to do
- then you have to *count the cost*

COUNTING THE COST

Let’s go back to Adam and Eve and what we are going to find out is that they did not *count the cost*. God gave them the whole earth, He told them He would bless them. Have you counted the cost so that if difficult things happen is your word is going to be true?

That’s why a marriage covenant is the way that it is. How does a marriage covenant start out? *Much the same way as God does!* ‘Will you marry me?’ *Yes!* The marriage ceremony takes place, then you’ve got all the rest of your life to live with everything that comes. There are going to be troubles and difficulties, ups and downs. But a covenant is unto death. That’s what a covenant is. That’s what the agreement is for. So, yes, there are going to be things that are going to be difficult that will come along. That’s why ***you have to count the cost***.

Adam and Eve did not count the cost. Genesis 3:1: “Now, the serpent was more cunning than any creature of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘*Is it* true that God has said, “You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?”’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may freely eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the middle of the garden, **God has indeed said**, “You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.”’” (vs 1-3).

Here’s the point: If someone comes along with a counter argument to what you have agreed to do, there’s going to be a penalty. It’s just like if you buy a car, and you agree to pay so much a month. If you don’t make the payment, they’re going to come and repossess the car, and *they will* come and get it. National Geographic had a series on repo-men. And

they stay up all night looking for these cars, and they make sure that they get them. They will even trap the person defaulting into getting the car and they won't suspect what is happening.

There was this one case where they had a very expensive limo and the guy hadn't made any payments in about six months. They had been looking and looking for this limo. Couldn't find it. Of course, they would get a big fee to find it, because those limos are very expensive. So, what they did, they had a female friend of theirs pretend to be a bride, have all the entourage to go with it, and she called up the limo company to take them down for the wedding. The place where she lived was down a little hill, a cul-de-sac, and the house was right there where she lived.

Everything worked out, all the arrangements were made. The driver came out with the limo, went on down, turned around, and backed up, got out of the limo to get them into the limo, and take them to the wedding party. But in the meantime while his back was turned and he was walking up to the front door, there were two trucks. One was a tow-truck that was coming down the hill. The other one was a truck that they used to block the road at the top.

The fellow was up there talking to the girl, was supposed to be for the wedding, and all the other girls were with him, and all of a sudden the 'repo' man comes up and puts his hand on his shoulder and says, 'We're repossessing the limo.' *You can't do that.* He says, 'Call your boss.' So, he called the boss and the boss got all angry.

They broke the agreement, didn't make the payment. There is always *a penalty!* Here's what we're finding in *counting the cost*: you have to assess the penalty that's going to come if you break it. That's very important to understand.

So, Adam and Eve didn't properly assess it. They did not count the cost, and they ate of the fruit.

Genesis 3:4: "The serpent said to the woman, '**In dying**... [that's interesting, because this is the way it is in the Greek admitting they're going to die] ...you shall not surely die!'" In other words, 'the death is really not something you need to be worried about, because you're still going to live.'

Verse 5: "For God knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be like God, deciding good and evil" (vs 4-5).

They weren't like God in any other way, except they were deciding for themselves what was good and what was evil. You know the rest of the story, they took the fruit and ate it.

Adam and Eve ***did not count the cost***. They could have said, 'No way, we're not going to eat of that tree. Look at what God blessed us with, look at what He's promised us, and He's given us the whole earth to rule over. We're just starting here in the Garden of Eden. We're going to have lots of children, and we're going to fill the earth with people. Get out of here!' ***They didn't do that!***

Noah did according as he was supposed to, he built the ark, and God carried out what He said He would do. They all got in the ark with everything that was there. They entered in (Gen. 6). God shut them in, and then the Flood started, but it didn't start for seven days. ***But it came!*** Noah counted the cost. 'Hey, I don't want to be destroyed. I'm getting in the ark. I built it. God gave me the instructions, He sent the animals, I've counted the cost, I'm going to do it.' *There's agreement and counting the cost together!*

Now let's come to Gen. 15 and see about Abraham. Let's carry this a little bit further. What I want you to do is see all the elements involved in it:

- proposal
- agreement
- counting the cost

Abraham ***believed in*** God. That was counted to him for righteousness. He asked God, after God told him that he would inherit it:

Genesis 15:8: "And he said, 'Lord GOD, by what shall I know that I shall inherit it?'"

God went on and told him about the sacrifice, and we'll talk the sacrifice a little bit later. Abraham had all the things that should be done: *the proposal, the agreement, the counting the cost*, and we'll see a little later there's more to counting the cost as well.

God gave a few more details to it, Genesis 17:1: "And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, '*I am the Almighty God!* Walk before Me **and be perfect**.... [another condition] ...And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.' And Abram fell on his face. And God talked with him, saying, 'As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations'" (vs 1-4).

Then God adds more to it; He tells Abraham some more of the details. Then He has the token of the covenant, which was circumcision, and Abraham followed through and did that. Let's come and see what God told Israel.

(go to the next track)

Now the people are going to be confronted by God when He comes down on Mt. Sinai. He told them, 'Don't come and touch the mountain, don't go near it.' And He gave them plenty of warning, so they heeded the *counting the cost* here. We'll see a little later, ***there's more counting the cost when it comes to the finality of the covenant!*** But we're just going to cover this part here first.

Exodus 19:15: "And he [Moses] said to the people, 'Be ready for the third day. Do not approach a woman.' And it came to pass on the third day in the morning that there *were* thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mountain. And the sound of the trumpet was exceedingly loud so that all the people in the camp trembled.... [this was a good cause to really ***count the cost***] ...And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God. And they stood at the base of the mountain. And Mount Sinai was smoking, all of it because the LORD came down upon it in fire. And the smoke of it went up like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the sound of the trumpet sounded long, and became very strong, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. And the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up" (vs 15-20).

Then God warns them again, because this is going to be a signal event

Verse 21: "And the LORD said to Moses, 'Go down. Command the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish. And let the priests also, who come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.' And Moses said to the LORD, 'The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for You commanded us, saying, "Set bounds... [boundaries] ...around the mountain, and sanctify it.'" And the LORD said to him, 'Away! Get you down, and *only* you shall come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest He break forth upon them.' And Moses went down to the people, and spoke to them" (vs 21-25).

Here they *counted the cost* this time. ***It was convincing!*** Much more convincing than other places!

Luke 14 is the chapter on *counting the cost*. This is quite different than back there to listen to the words of God as He spoke the Ten Commandments. We will see later about the words, commitment, belief and all of that. Many people were following Jesus and many of them really wanted to come along with Him because it was all exciting with all the healing, all the preaching, all the people and everything.

Luke 14:25: "And great multitudes were going with Him; and He turned *and* said to them"—*'Now if you want to follow Me, you gotta count the cost.'* ***He didn't say that***, but we'll see what the cost is. He wants you to know that this is not a circus event, that this is not a publicity stunt, that this is not jumping on the bandwagon type of thing. ***No!*** He said:

Verse 26: "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers and sisters, and, in addition, his own life also, **he cannot be My disciple.**" *That means to love God more than them!* That's a pretty heavy cost. A lot of people when they come to this they turn and go the other way.

Verse 27: "And whoever does not carry his [own] cross and come after Me **cannot be My disciple**"—*you can't be a follower or believer in Jesus!* That's why there's so much 'Christianity' out here, which is just like the world, because it is of the world, with the name 'Christian' attached to it.

Verse 28: "For which one of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down **and count the cost**... [you've got to figure it all out] ...whether he has *sufficient* for its completion."

It's always this way. Whenever you get into some kind of building project, it always costs more. So, you've got to have the money from some place to do it.

Verse 29: "Lest perhaps, after he has laid its foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build, and was not able to finish'?" (vs 29-30).

When we were up in Idaho and we drove around to visit the brethren, Delores would go with me on some of these long trips. I remember one house we came across, and I don't recall if it was someone we were going to visit or not, but he dug the foundation for the basement, cemented it all in for the basement, had that all ready to go, then he wasn't able to finish it. He put a roof on top of the basement and had stairs going down into it. It had been there for years. It's just like here: everyone who went by said, 'I wonder when Zeke is going to finish his house over here.'

Verse 31: "Or what king, when he goes out to engage another king in war, does not first sit down *and* take counsel, **whether he will be able** with ten thousand to meet him who is coming against him with twenty thousand?"

Notice the enemy! You have to count the cost against the enemy. Adam and Eve did not do that. ***They let the enemy in to take advantage!***

Verse 32: "But if not, while his *enemy* is still

far off, he sends ambassadors and desires the *terms* for peace. In the same way also, **each one of you who does not forsake all that he possesses cannot be My disciple**" (vs 31-33).

That doesn't mean you have to give up everything you have, but ***you have to count everything that you have as nothing compared to God!*** There's *counting the cost*.

WORDS/DETAILS. COMMITMENT AND BELIEF

What happened with Adam and Eve?

- the words of the covenant were enacted.
- they were expelled from the garden
- they did not have access to the Tree of Life
- their nature was changed
- the environment was changed

Those are ***the consequences*** of it. Because ***IF*** you don't *believe* God, you don't have the *commitment*; ***you don't believe the Words of God, then the penalty is going to come!*** Noah believed God! God told him what He was going to do; destroy all life. He would begin it again with Noah on the other side.

Genesis 6:22: "Noah did so, according to all that God commanded him, so he did." *He found grace in the sight of God:*

- he believed Him
- he acted upon it
- he made the commitment
- he did it

Then God gave him more instructions. Here's the key: After you have the proposal, the agreement, the counting of the cost, then you have *more words, more details* that come along to tell you more about what is going to happen *and what God expects*. So you've got:

- counting the cost
- commitment and belief
- the words/details

Genesis 7:1: "And the LORD said to Noah, 'You and all your house shall come into the ark; for you, I have seen righteous before Me in this generation.... [here are the ***details***]: ...You shall take with you every clean animal by sevens, the male and female. And take two of the animals that *are* not clean, the male and female'" (vs 1-2).

This tells you about clean and unclean meats, which tells you that they were eating *clean* meats. Noah, being righteous, was only eating clean meats. The sinners were probably eating everything.

I saw on the Travel Channel this fellow that goes around and eats all of these weird, oddball things. He went to Vietnam again and he had iguana. They went out, hunted iguana, a guy climbed up in a tree, shook the tree, the iguana came down, they got it, and they were all happy. 'Oh, this is going to be really good.' The stuff that they had! They also fresh little baby birds that they deep-fried and everything was crunchy when you ate it. Then they had silkworms, all nicely deep-fried and they were really crunchy and delicious. (sarcasm)

That's not as bad as the one when he made his first trip to Vietnam, and he went into a restaurant and what they specialized in was serpents. What they would do is bring out the live snake in a basket and let you look at it. You select the snake that you want. The custom was that when you selected the snake that you want, they killed it right in front of your eyes, and cut out the heart and you ate it while it was still beating. I'm glad I had an empty stomach. Fondue snake, dipped in cheese, that's wonderful. (sarcasm) There was a movie years ago called, *Mondo Coni*.

I think some of these things are even worse. Then it also showed where he went to Africa and he went to a tribe where they drank blood, and he drank blood. They put a stick down in the bottle where they had captured the blood and they were drinking it, and there was some coagulated blood that stuck on the end of the stick. And that was a special treat for the little children. They gobbled it up like children would eat chocolate in a civilized society.

So, in Noah's day they knew the laws of clean and unclean meat; same way with the birds, v 3: "'Also take of the fowls of the air by sevens, the male and the female, to keep *their* kind alive upon the face of all the earth; for in seven more days, I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will destroy from off the face of the earth every living thing that I have made.' And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him" (vs 3-5).

Those are the words, you have to have *belief* and then we can add to that ***obedience***:

- commitment
- belief
- words/details
- obedience

Now let's look at Israel, and here's how God started it out with the children of Israel. It's the same way with a lot of people. The words to have everlasting life *sounds really good*; to have the blessing of God *sounds really good*. So, when God proposed to them that 'you're going to be a Holy

nation to Me above all the people of the earth,' they said, 'Great, okay, we'll do whatever God says.'

Now then when you tell God, 'Yes, I will,' it may not be exactly as you figured. Exo. 20 is very clear. God spoke the Ten Commandments. We all know them; we've memorized them, and if you haven't memorized them, then you ought to. When God was done, all the people clapped hands and said, 'Yes, Lord, what else would you have us do?' **NO! That's not what happened!**

Exodus 20:18: "And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking. And when the people saw, they trembled and stood afar off." *They did not want to make a personal commitment to God!*

This is the beginning of *the hearing* of the words of the covenant. *They didn't want to make the commitment!. They didn't know whether they believed God or not*, because it was not what they expected. Always remember that there are going to be things that'll come up that you do not expect, but ***that doesn't change the covenant!***

So, the people stood far off, v 19: "And they said to Moses, 'You speak with us... [we'll listen to a man] ...and we will hear. But let not God speak with us, lest we die.' And Moses said to the people, 'Do not fear, for God has come to prove you... [Does God test all of us? *Of course!*] ... and so that His fear may be before your faces, so that you may not sin.'.... [that would be a good thing] ...And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God *was*. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, "You have seen that I have talked with you from the heavens"' (vs 19-22).

Then here comes ***more words*** and ***more details*** because they said, 'Yes, all that the Lord has said, we will do.' Just like with us ***when we repent, commit, believe, and are baptized***, then we find out that there is more that we need to do.

Verse 23: "You shall not make with Me gods of silver, nor shall you make gods of gold for yourselves."

What was the first thing they did when Moses didn't come off the mountain? ***Make gods of gold!***

Verse 24: You shall make an altar of earth to Me, and shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In all places where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you. And if you will make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of cut stone; for if you lift up your tool upon it, you have defiled

it" (vs 24-25).

What happens when people start doing that? *They start adding all kinds of things to it! God didn't want it.*

Verse 26: "And you shall not go up by steps to My altar that your nakedness be not exposed upon it."

Then we have Exo 21-23, all the laws that God gave; these are the judgments or the statutes that God gave. Has to do with:

- slaves
- murder
- causing a premature birth because there's fighting
- losing an eye, a tooth or a foot
- being burned or wounded

They would go to the judge and it wasn't if you lose an eye, you come here and we gouge out your eye. No! You go to the judge and the judge makes a decision: What is that eye worth? *Then they are to receive compensation!* That's even the same today. They lay a price for missing limbs and so forth.

We find in Exo. 21:22, that if there's a miscarriage, then according as the woman's husband shall lay upon him, he shall pay as the judges determined. That's what it is. God is not into gouging out eyes and cutting off hands, and so forth. But capital sin of life for life, you give life for life.

Exodus 22:1 talks about stealing: "If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it or sell it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox..." Good deterrent, wouldn't you think? No jails! Don't put them in jail, *you make restitution.*

"...and four sheep for a sheep. If a thief is found breaking in, and is struck so that he dies, no blood *shall be shed* for him" (vs 1-2). Yet, in today's world if you shoot someone coming into your house to steal and rob and plunder, and maybe kill you, you can be arrested.

Verse 3: "If the sun is risen upon him *and he lives*, *there shall be blood shed* for him. He shall make full restitution. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft."

That's what you call *indentured recompense*; you pay them back. God's way is no prisons. You *compensate* them for the injury. If you committed murder, *you give your life*. Anything less than that, you give as the judges determine. If you steal, *you pay back*. Just think how quickly you would stop all car theft if you would say, 'Five for a Cadillac.' You steal a Cadillac, high priced car, or a Lincoln, Lexus, Mercedes Benz, BMW, five for one

or you're sold and you work for whatever you work for, and you pay back.

Just to show us the exact opposite of what's happening America, in California if a woman comes and has a baby here, it becomes an American citizen and she gets welfare \$500 a month for the baby. If she has two, it's around \$900. God's way would be, ship them back. But just like ancient Israel, they didn't want to hear. You can read the rest of it; it also has to do with ox goring, what to do with that. Has to do with a case of a trespass, what if an animal comes in and destroys your crop, whatever that may be. What if your donkey or horse runs away, or your cow runs away. Then if it comes to someone else, his neighbor is to keep it. If it's stolen from him while you're renting an ox:

Let's see how fair God is, v 10: "If a man delivers to his neighbor a donkey, or an ox, or a sheep, or any animal to keep, and it dies, or is hurt, or driven away, no one seeing, an oath of the LORD shall be between them both, that he has not put his hand to his neighbor's goods. And the owner of it shall accept it, and he shall not make *it* good. And if it is stolen from him, he shall make full restitution to the owner of it" (vs 10-12).

In other words, if you're watching someone's property, and it's stolen, and you haven't been watching it, you're going to pay the full amount. That'll solve a lot of problems.

Verse 13: "If it is torn in pieces, let him bring it for witness, *and* he shall not make good that which was torn. And if a man borrows it from his neighbor, and it is hurt, or dies, and the owner of it is not with it, he shall surely make full restitution. If the owner of it *is* with it, he shall not make restitution. If it was hired, it came for its hire. And if a man lures a virgin who is not promised, and lies with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife" (vs 13-16).

They didn't have shotguns there, so this is not a shotgun wedding, but this is *a sword and spear-enforced* wedding, with this exception:

Verse 17: "If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money according to the dowry of virgins.... [and probably child support] ...You shall not allow a sorceress to live. Anyone lying with an animal shall surely be put to death" (vs 17-19).

See how you solve all the perversion problems? *There would be no such thing as a 'gay' community, if they followed God's way.* Just think how few homosexuals there would be around.

Verse 20: "Anyone sacrificing to a god, except it is unto the LORD only, he shall be utterly

destroyed. You shall neither vex a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry. And My wrath shall burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall be widows, and your sons fatherless" (vs 20-24). *Those are righteous laws; this keeps everything in perspective!*

Verse 25: "If you lend money... [this is contrary to the banking system today] ...to one of My people who *is* poor among you, you shall not be to him as a money-lender, neither shall you lay upon him interest. If you at all take your neighbor's clothing as a pledge, you shall deliver it to him by the time the sun goes down; for that *is* his covering only, it is his clothing for his skin. In what shall he sleep? And it will be, when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I *am* gracious. **You shall not revile God's judges...** [you're not to revile God; this is God's judges] **...nor curse the ruler of your people**" (vs 25-28).

Exo 23 doesn't want you gossiping, no false reports. Just think how this would be executed against the government-media today, the Obama media.

Exodus 23:1: "You shall not raise a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness." *Anita Hill against Clarence Thomas!* Prosecutors prosecute and put people away because they need so many convictions a year. A lot of people get put away that shouldn't be there. A lot of people that should be there are not put there.

Verse 2: "You shall not follow a multitude to do evil... [whatever the people want, if it's evil, you don't follow them to do it] ...Neither shall you testify in a cause in order to side with many so as to pervert *judgment*."

If we just had these laws! Read them! they are great laws! If the country had them in the letter of the Law, because all sovereign countries—which Israel was a sovereign country at that time—God gave with the covenant that He established with Noah after the Flood, the death penalty, execution, to men to carry out. And here are the guidelines to do it right here.

Verse 3: "Neither shall you be partial to a poor man in his cause." So, ***you don't distribute the wealth around!*** Here's what God requires: ***to be honest and forthright in everything!***

Verse 4: "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again.... [he'll probably make friends with you] ...If you see the donkey of him who hates

you lying under his burden, and would hold back from helping him, you shall surely help him. You shall not pervert the judgment due to your poor in his cause. Keep far from a false matter..." (vs 4-7). Today's media's out of business already, and Congress is out of business already.

"...and do not kill the innocent and righteous... [Who are the most innocent that they are killing? *Babies in abortion!*] ...for I will not justify the wicked. And you shall take no bribe, for the bribe blinds the wise and perverts the words of the righteous" (vs 7-8).

Just think if they posted that in every office of every senator, every representative, everyone who is running any executive department at all, and put that in the President's office, the Vice-President's office, the Secretary of Treasury, etc.

Let's come to the New Testament and see ***the words, commitment and belief***. This is why we have the Gospels, and this is why we have all of the Epistles that God inspired to be, so we know what we are to do. But here's some of the *words of the covenant* that you are to ***believe***:

John 12:37: "Although He had done so many miracles in their presence, they did not believe in Him... [miracles convince no one] ...So that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled who said, 'Lord, who has believed our report?.... [there you're dealing with ***belief***] ...And to whom has the arm of *the* Lord been revealed?' For this *very* reason they could not believe because again Isaiah said, 'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts so that they would not see with *their* eyes and understand with *their* hearts, and be converted, and I would heal them.'" (vs 37-40).

A lot of people want to have God on their side, but the truth is ***if you're not on God's side, you don't make the commitment***, you don't believe His words, it's not going to happen. The reverse is going to happen.

Verse 41: "Isaiah said these things when he saw His glory and spoke concerning Him. But even so, many among the rulers believed in Him; but because of the Pharisees... [politics] ... they did not confess *Him*, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory of men more than the glory of God" (vs 41-43).

Here's what Jesus said so that we all know. This is part of ***the words***, to which we need to ***believe and commit***.

Verse 44: "Then Jesus called out and said, 'The one who believes in Me does not believe in Me, but in Him Who sent Me. And the one who sees Me sees Him Who sent Me. I have come *as* a light

into the world so that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. But if anyone hears My words and does not believe... [does not make a commitment] ...I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world'" (vs 44-47).

Here's part of the ***words of the covenant*** so that we ***know*** that we must ***make the commitment*** after ***counting the cost***, and we ***must believe***:

Verse 48 "The one who rejects Me and does not receive My words has one who judges him; the word which I have spoken, that shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken from Myself; but the Father, Who sent Me, gave Me commandment Himself, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life. Therefore, whatever I speak, I speak exactly as the Father has told Me" (vs 48-50). That's pretty powerful!

- ***IF*** you don't believe the *words of Christ*
- ***IF*** you don't make a *commitment* to it
- ***IF*** you don't *obey* Him

You're not dealing with another man who is filled with 'the law of sin and death' like all of us, and you're having a bargain or something like that. ***You're dealing with God!*** Who cannot lie! Who is going to give us eternal life! We ***may*** have eternal life.

The *words of the covenant*; just like God gave all the words of the covenant and the laws that we had a summary of in Exo. 21-23. Here you've got the same thing. This is why on the Passover night we cover John 14-17. ***These are the words of the covenant!*** We're not going to go through it. It's not the Passover time, but these are the words. ***God makes the covenant!*** Here's what we are to live by.

God made sure it was written down; we've got it in black and white. This is greater than making a contract. If you go sign a contract to buy something or purchase something, this is it. ***This is for eternal life or eternal death!***

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* (except where noted)

Scriptural References:

- 1) Genesis 1:26-27
- 2) Genesis 5:1-2
- 3) Genesis 1:29-30
- 4) Genesis 6:11-18, 22
- 5) Genesis 12:1-4
- 6) Exodus 19:3-6
- 7) John 3:14-16
- 8) Revelation 21:3-4

- 9) Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17
- 10) Genesis 15:4-6
- 11) Exodus 19:7-8
- 12) Mark 1:14-15
- 13) Luke 13:1-5
- 14) Acts 2:37-38
- 15) Amos 3:1-3
- 16) Genesis 3:1-5
- 17) Genesis 15:8
- 18) Genesis 17:1-4
- 19) Exodus 19:15-25
- 20) Luke 14:25-33
- 21) Genesis 6:22
- 22) Genesis 7:1-5
- 23) Exodus 20:18-26
- 24) Exodus 22:1-3, 10-28
- 25) Exodus 23:1-8
- 26) John 12:37-50

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 17
- Exodus 21:22
- John 14-17

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Steps of Covenant Law III Sacrifice & Shed Blood, Covenant Meal

Fred R. Coulter

continuing with:

COMMITMENT AND BELIEF

At Jesus' last Passover He had two things to accomplish with this Passover, which makes it a little different than the Passover we keep today. And the reason being is that Jesus had to finish and complete the Passover for the covenant with Israel first, before instituting and completing the New Covenant.

Matthew 26:26: "And as they were eating, Jesus took the bread and blessed *it*; *then He* broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'"

Not only do you have *the words of the covenant* you also have *the sacrifice of the covenant*, and the *witnesses* of it.

We'll put all of these together and see how, through the Bible, that that is consistent with Abraham, Isaac and then with Israel, and on into the New Covenant.

Verse 27: "And He took the cup; and after giving thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, 'All of you drink of it; for this is My blood, ***the blood of the New Covenant***, which is poured out for many for *the* remission of sins" (vs 27-28).

We won't get into John 14-17, which really are *the words of the New Covenant*, and that's what we use when we go through the Passover ceremony. The Passover ceremony is the ***renewing of the New Covenant***. Just like everything else there is:

- the proposal
- the agreement
- the counting of the cost
- the words, the commitment, the belief

This is what Jesus is also teaching here in John 6—to show the importance of His sacrifice. You could also consider these expanded words of what we just read in Matt. 26.

John 6:35: "Jesus said to them, 'I AM the Bread of Life... [here's a promise; there are always promises *in the words*]: ...the one who comes to Me shall never hunger; and the one who believes in Me shall never thirst at any time.'"

In other words, once you really know and believe—***are in covenant with God and have counted the cost***—then you know that God's way is

it. You're not out looking for something else. You're not out looking for another way.

Verse 36: "But *as* I said to you, you also have seen Me, yet, you do not believe." If you don't believe Jesus Christ—Who He is, what He said, and what He did—then there's no way you can enter into covenant with Him.

For example, many Protestants—just about universally—say, 'Jesus did away with the Law. It was all abrogated.' What they don't realize in saying that is ***they're not believing Jesus!*** Jesus said, 'Not one jot or tittle of the Law shall pass away until all has been fulfilled.'

First of all, God establishes everything that needs to be. We cannot add to it or take away from it, because in doing that we are trying to impose our will upon God. ***No one can impose his will upon God***, because those who try to are actually saying that they know better than God what is right and what to do. They really don't think of it that way, because they think, 'Well, we're going to improve it, we're going to make it better.' Jesus said: **"...you do not believe."**

Verse 37 shows again some more of the purpose of the New Covenant: "All whom the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will in no wise cast out."

Even though they may have times of trouble and difficulty, or even though they may be like the prodigal son of Luke 15, God will not cast them out. Always remember this: ***Where there's life, there's hope*** and where there is life, there is ***room for repentance***. A lot of people think, 'Oh, have I committed the unpardonable sin?' We have two sermons on the unpardonable sin in the sermon series: *Hebrews. If God forgave Ahab*, and Ahab repented; and *if God forgave Manasseh* and all that he did for 55 years, ***God can forgive you***, and ***God can bring you back*** just like the prodigal son.

Here's another thing that is part of the covenant between God the Father and Jesus Christ: Since God is a *covenant God*, God the Father was also in covenant with Jesus Christ when Jesus was on the earth. And here's part of the covenant that Jesus said:

Verse 38: "For I did not come down from heaven to do My own will, but the will of Him Who sent Me." If Jesus is going to do that, then what do

we need to do in relationship to God the Father and Jesus Christ?

Verse 39: “And this is the will of the Father Who sent Me: that *of* all whom He has given Me, I should not lose any, but should raise them up **in the last day.**”

There are a lot of people who think that this is the Last Great Day of the Feast. However, for those who understand that the resurrection is on Pentecost, what is the last day of the 50-day count? *Pentecost!* So, this would have to refer to that.

Verse 40: “And this is the will of Him Who sent Me: that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in Him... [*words, commitment, belief*] ...may have eternal life...” There again you see how that agrees with John 3:16. ***May have!***

God’s covenant is irrevocable from *His* point of view. The covenant for us is conditional ***if*** we remain faithful unto the end. So, we ***may have eternal life!***

“...and I will raise him up at the last day” (v 40). Then the Jews were complaining and saying, ‘How could He say He came down from heaven,’ and so forth. Always remember this: *If there’s any doubt about where Jesus came from, study through the Gospel of John and count the number of times that He said, ‘I came from heaven. I came from above, you are from beneath,’ etc.*

Verse 48: “‘I AM the Bread of Life. Your fathers ate manna in the desert, but they died. This is the Bread, which comes down from heaven so that anyone ***may*** eat of it and not die” (vs 48-50).

There again notice ***may***, because it is in the Greek subjunctive, meaning that there is a qualifier to finish it.

Verse 51: “I AM the living Bread, which came down from heaven... [He said that this is My body, take eat] ...if anyone eats of this Bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is even My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

That verse it tells us an awful lot. ***If you eat it, you shall live forever!*** It’s His flesh. That covers the *New Covenant*, “...which I will give for the life of the world,” which takes and brings it clear over to the second resurrection also, because they will have to come into the Kingdom of God through that process at the second resurrection.

Verse 52: “Because of this, the Jews were arguing with one another, saying, ‘How is He able to give us *His* flesh to eat?’” You think about problems of clean and unclean meat, this presented a lot of problems to them.

Verse 53: “Therefore, Jesus said to them... [here’s Jesus emphasizing it even more]: ...‘Truly, truly I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves.**’” Showing ***the only way to eternal life is through Jesus Christ!***

- not through any other religion
- not through any other means
- not by any teachings of men

Verse 54: “The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day; for My flesh is truly food, and My blood is truly drink. The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood is dwelling in Me, and I in him” (vs 54-56).

When we get to the rest of the *words* of the New Covenant in John 15, we find this expanded even more. Let’s see how that ***the covenant expands*** with greater understanding as the covenant goes along. We’ll see this in a little bit with Abraham. Let’s compare this with what we just read in v 56.

John 15:4: “Dwell in Me, and I in you....” He also expands that more in John 17. This is something! What we can see is that the covenants have great meaning and it can be layered with more description of what’s going on, which this does.

“...As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, but only if it remains in the vine, neither *can* you bear fruit unless you are dwelling in Me. I am the vine, *and you are* the branches. The one who is dwelling in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit...” (vs 4-5). ***This shows there are things we need to do!***

“...because apart from Me you can do nothing. ***If*** anyone does not dwell in Me, he is cast out as a branch, and is dried up; and men gather them and cast *them* into a fire, and they are burned. ***If*** you dwell in Me, and My words dwell in you...” (vs 5-7).

This also tells us how Christ is going to be *in* us, *not only spiritually* through the Spirit of God, but through the *words* of God.

“...you shall ask whatever you desire, and it shall come to pass for you. In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples. As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; live in My love” (vs 7-9)—***expanding the words of the covenant!***

Verse 11: “These things I have spoken to you, in order that My joy may dwell in you, and *that* your joy may be full. This is My commandment: that you love one another, as I have loved you. No one has

greater love than this: that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends, if you do whatever I command you” (vs 11-14).

What was Abraham called? *The friend of God*, because he did the will of God from the heart, and also kept God’s laws, commandments, statutes, judgments, and His charge.

We see *the words* of the New Covenant and we’ll take another look at *belief*. Here is the whole sum of it, what Jesus is telling us:

John 6:57 “**As the living Father has sent Me, and I live by the Father; so also the one who eats Me shall live by Me.**”

He’s telling them, ‘I am not going to give you My literal flesh.’ He showed His disciples that it is His symbolic flesh represented by the broken bread. That shows that in the covenant of eating the bread and drinking the wine—His flesh and blood—that you’re going to live by Him.

Now let’s see what kind of *faith* that we are to have, what kind of belief that we are to have. Heb. 11 is also called the *faith chapter*. In the Greek the word *to believe* is the verb, and the word for *faith* is the noun of the verb *to believe*.

Hebrews 11:1: “Now, **faith**...”—or belief. Remember you can substitute *faith* or *belief*, either one. Because *to believe* in the Greek means to *faithize*.

Verse 11: “Now, **faith is the substance of things hoped for...**” *Faith*—from the Spirit of God—**is the fruit of the Spirit of God!** It is in our mind, a spiritual substance when our mind is working, our mind is being programmed by our thoughts, and also with the Spirit of God. So, it becomes a substance *within* us, spiritually, of things hoped for.

“...and **the conviction of things not seen**” (v 1). Why? Just like it was with Abraham when God took him outside and told him, ‘Now look at the heavens, and if you can number the stars, that’s how your seed is going to be,’ **he believed!** When there is nothing for us to do—because it’s impossible for us to do, such as counting the stars—**we’re to believe God that it will be so!** Why? *Because:*

- we proved that God exists
- God does not lie
- God has a plan
- God has a purpose
- God has called us

we add all these things up together. So:

- we have the words
- we have commitment

- we have belief
- which results in faith

Verse 6: “Now, **without faith it is impossible to please God.** For it is mandatory *for* the one who comes to God to believe that He exists... [that He is] ...and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” There’s the whole basis and foundation for it. We are to:

- *believe* God
- *believe* His Words
- have *commitment* to it
- have the kind of *faith* that produces action
 - ✓by faith Noah
 - ✓by faith Abraham
 - ✓by faith Abel
 - ✓by faith Enoch

—and so forth. What happened with their faith? *By faith they did the things that God said!* This is to lead to action.

Now let’s look at the difference of this in James 2:14 and see how he defines it: “My brethren, what good *does* it do, if anyone says *that he* has faith, and does not have works? Is faith able to save him? Now then, if there be a brother or sister who is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; be warmed and be filled,’ and does not give to them the things necessary for the body, what good is it?” (vs 14-16).

Verse 18: “But someone is going to say, ‘You have faith, and I have works. *My answer is:* You prove your faith to me through your works, and I will prove my faith to you through my works.’”

Everyone has faith, whether a negative faith to not obey or a positive faith to obey, and that faith produces works. Not giving someone what they need is a work and choice. You decide not to do it. So, this is showing *what kind of faith* that we need to have.

Verse 19: “Do you believe that God is one? You do well *to believe this*. Even the demons believe—and tremble *in fear*. But are you willing to understand, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?” (vs 19-20).

This is where we’re going to then finish up and go back to Abraham and see how things were carried out in that particular case.

Verse 21: “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac, his own son, upon the altar?”

We’ll examine that in detail and see that that was *part of the covenant* that demonstrated to God that Abraham would always obey Him.

Verse 22: “Do you not see that faith was working together with his works, and by works *his* faith was perfected? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘Now, Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him for righteousness’; and he was called a friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only” (vs 22-24). ***Faith is to believe, and to believe brings action!***

Some of these categories will overlap in what we’re going to cover, but we will see all the *elements in the covenant*. They all come together. Here was the test of Abraham. ***We’re all going to have a test like this!***

- Do we really believe?
- Are we going to act upon that belief and faith by doing what God says, even though we may not understand at the time we are asked to do it?

Let’s think about everything here in Genesis 22:1: “And it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am’.... [here’s a real test]: ...And He said, ‘Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac...’” (vs 1-2).

Did he not have another son called Ishmael? *Yes, but Ishmael was not the son of promise!* Isaac was the son of promise that God said, ‘Through your seed...’ *Here he is!* We’ve estimated many times back and forth about how old he was, but I think we can pretty well reckon it at about fifteen.

“...‘Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go into the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell you’” (v 2).

Just like when Abraham was told to leave his country, leave his father, leave his house, and go into the country that God said, ***Abraham obeyed and went!*** So, here he *obeyed*:

Verse 3: “And Abraham rose up early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son. And he split the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, ‘You stay here with the donkey, and I and the boy will go yonder and worship, and come again to you’” (vs 3-5).

Now here’s another type. In this case Abraham is representing a *type of God the Father*, and Isaac is representing a *type of Christ*, Who was

the only begotten of the Father, Whom the Father loved. So what did he do?

Verse 6: “And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it upon Isaac his son... [a type of Jesus carrying His cross] ...And he took the fire *pot* in his hand... [obviously, he couldn’t take fire in his hand, it would burn] ...and a knife. And they both went together.... [Isaac had a question, but he was not rebellious either] ...And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, ‘My father.’ And he said, ‘Here I *am*, my son.’ And he said, ‘Behold the fire and the wood. But where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’ And Abraham said, ‘My son, God will provide a lamb for a burnt offering.’ So they both went on together. And they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. And he bound his son Isaac and laid him on the wood, upon the altar” (vs 6-9).

Now this is getting right down to the last minute, and many times that’s how God deals with us. He’ll rescue us at the last minute, and we really don’t know it until that time comes.

Verse 10: “And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.” Now why would he do that? Well, we’re told in Heb. 11, he did it because he knew that God could raise him from the dead, because he, in a fact, came from his own dead body through Sarah’s dead womb *by promise*. A hundred-year-old man, a 90-year-old woman, very hard to do, but God did it. He knew if God could do that, He would raise him back to life.

God intervened right at the last minute; v 11: “And the angel of the LORD called to him from the heavens and said, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am. And He said, ‘Do not lay your hand upon the lad, nor do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me’” (vs 11-12). Now that goes also back to *counting the cost!* Because we have:

- proposal
- agreement
- counting the cost
- words, commitment, belief

—so you see how all of that goes in. ***He counted the cost!***

God performed a miracle, v 13: “And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked. And, behold, behind him a ram was entangled in a thicket by its horns....” Another type of Christ in the ram. The ram became *the substitutionary sacrifice for Isaac*.

“...And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide... [*that's the result of faith and belief*] ...so that it is said *until* this day, ‘In the mount of the LORD it will be provided’” (vs 13-14).

Now look what happened here because of this. This now becomes **a reaffirmation of the covenant**, which also then includes Isaac. Let's see what God did, because there has to be *witnesses*, so we'll just leave it here with this:

Verse 15: “And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, ‘By Myself have I sworn,’ says the LORD...” (vs 15-16). God does not need to swear. **His word is true!** This is an extra confirmation that God is giving to Abraham for his work of faith.

“...because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son; that in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens, and as the sand, which is upon the seashore. And your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. And in your seed... [Paul wrote in Gal. 3 referring to Christ] ...shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice” (vs 16-18).

So, there are many, many elements all in here; this is really something!

SACRIFICE AND SHED BLOOD

Let's see those all wrapped up here in the confirmation of the covenant with Israel. God wanted to have *witnesses*, so here's what He did.

Exodus 24:1: “And He said to Moses, ‘come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu...’ What do we have? *Three witnesses!* ‘In the mouth of two or three witnesses *every word shall be established*’!

“...and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship afar off” (v 1). So, He had another seventy, which were *secondary witnesses*, but they did not go up as far as Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu; they saw all of this.

Verse 3: “And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments.... [here again we have *agreement*] ...And all the people answered with one voice and said, ‘All the words which the LORD has said, **we will do.**’”

Just like in a marriage covenant; this was a marriage covenant right here. God says, ‘I will provide for you, I will give for you, if you will submit to Me.’ Just like the wife, she will submit to

the husband, the husband will provide, etc. You have the same basis here. “...All the words which the LORD has said, **we will do.**”

Verse 4: “And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and built an altar at the base of the mountain and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel who offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of bullocks to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood, and put *it* in basins, and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar” (vs 4-6).

BLOOD OF THE COVENANT

There has to be the *shedding of blood*. There has to be the ***blood of the covenant***, which then is number seven—sealed with the blood. So we have:

That's what we have here all wrapped up in these verses. Very similar to what we had in Gen. 22. We had a sacrifice, then we had the shedding of the blood, and the burning of the burnt offering of the substitute sacrifice and so forth.

Verse 6: “Moses took half of the blood, and put *it* in basins, and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the Book of the Covenant, and read in the ears of the people...” (vs 6-7)

They heard every word. Remember what the people said to Moses. ‘Moses, you go speak to God, and you come and tell us His words, and we'll obey.’ That's exactly what he did.

“...And they said... [after hearing it] ...‘**All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient**’” (v 7). Just like the husband saying, ‘I will provide,’ and the wife saying, ‘I will submit and I will do.’

Now notice how it's sealed with the blood. Just like Jesus said that the wine was symbolic of His blood in the New Covenant and that He became the literal sacrifice.

Verse 8: “And Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, ‘Behold the ***blood of the covenant***, which the LORD has made with you concerning all these words.’”

There you go: sprinkled on the altar to verify the words of God along with the burnt offerings and then the blood sprinkled upon the people to show that they had made a blood covenant with God.

Now notice what else happened. Here's a continuation of the *witnesses*. You have the witnesses of Moses, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and the 70 elders. You have the witnesses of the people and their agreement all together.

Verse 9: “And Moses went up, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. And **they saw the God of Israel**.... [they would be witnesses to the fact that it was really God that did this] ...And *there was* under His feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the heavens in clearness” (vs 9-10). Here is a *sea of glass* right there.

THE COVENANT MEAL

Verse 11: “And upon the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay his hands. Also they saw God, and ate and drank.”

Now we project this forward to the ultimate in the New Covenant, we’ll see a little later *the marriage supper of the Lamb!* I just want you to see the consistency in every one of these covenants that God has made.

Verse 12: “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to Me in the mountain, and be there. And I will give you tablets of stone, and the law, and commandments which I have written, so that you may teach them.’ And Moses rose up, and his attendant Joshua. And Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, ‘You wait here for us until we come again to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur *are* with you. If any man has a cause, let him come to them.’ And Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. And the glory of the LORD abode upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days....” (vs 12-16).

Remember how this was with Noah. He went into the ark and then it started raining on the seventh day. Here he goes up to God and then:

“...And the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the LORD *was* like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain to the eyes of the children of Israel” (vs 16-17).

Well, that’s where they went wrong, because they got afraid and said, ‘Wonder if he’s still alive?’ Remember, what did they do when he was up there 40 days and 40 nights? *They said, ‘We don’t know what happened to this guy. Aaron, make us golden calves.’*

Verse 18: “And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and went up into the mountain. And Moses was in the mountain forty days and forty nights.”

Now we’ll just summarize this right here: What is the purpose of every covenant of God? Exodus 25:8: **“And let them make Me a sanctuary**

so that I may dwell among them.” *God wants to dwell with His people!*

(go to the next track)

DEATH WALK

We will see how that applied. Let’s see this, and then we will see how it applied to Christ and how it applies to us.

In *The Christian Passover* book and *The Day That Jesus the Christ Died* I showed how that here in Gen. 15 this is really the beginning of the Passover, you might say the ‘proto-Passover.’ That makes sense because Abraham is *the father of the faithful!* We are the children of Abraham, if we are Christ’s. Let’s see what happened when he offered the sacrifice. God told Abraham to offer.

Genesis 15:5: “And He brought him outside and said: ‘And He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward the heavens and number the stars—if you are able to count them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your seed be.’”

Now we can look and see the evidence of that physically, because we’re living at the end of the age. He didn’t even have an inkling that he would have a son, except God told him that he would.

Verse 6: “And he believed in the LORD. And He accounted it to him for righteousness. And He said to him, ‘I *am* the LORD that brought you out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give you this land to inherit it’ And he said, ‘Lord GOD, by what shall I know that I shall inherit it?’” (vs 6-8).

He knew that in a covenant there had to be a guarantee. So, here’s the guarantee, which also then is *the sacrifice* and then *the death walk*.

Verse 9: “And He said to him, ‘Take Me a heifer of three years old, and a she-goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.’ And he took all these to himself, and divided them in the middle, and laid each piece opposite the other...” (vs 9-10).

This was not a sacrifice on an altar. This was a sacrifice on the bare ground. It was an unusual sacrifice, which is the covenant sacrifice to make the sacrifice irrevocable at this point. In other words, once this was completed and done, that was an absolute guarantee by God Himself that He would perform it. Here they are, half on one side, half on the other side with the three animals, and then the young pigeon and turtledove, he didn’t divide those, with all the guts laying out there: the blood, guts, and gore with it.

Verse 11: “And when the birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.”

The buzzards and eagles could look down there and see all of that and they know when there is a carcass on the ground. Here it is open, ready to go. He had to chase them off. Notice the sequence of events here because this leads up to the *death walk* after the sacrifice.

Verse 12: “And it came to pass, as the sun was going down, that a deep sleep fell upon Abram. And, behold, a horror of great darkness fell upon him!”

This is a type of death. How can you come to a point of experiencing death, yet, not die? This is about the closest you can come to.

Verse 13: “And He said to Abram, ‘You must surely know that your seed shall be sojourners in a land *that is* not theirs... [notice the parenthetical statement]: ...(and shall serve them *and they shall* afflict them) four hundred years.’”

But that doesn’t mean they shall serve them and afflict them for 400 years, because the parenthetical statement, if you read past it, it is: “...your seed shall be sojourners in a land *that is* not theirs four-hundred years.”

That’s what happened to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, to Joseph, and so forth. And they were actually afflicted a little over 100-plus years in Egypt.

Now then here’s another promise, v 14: “And also I will judge that nation whom they shall serve. And afterward they shall come out with great substance.” Just like the children of Israel did when they left Egypt.

Verse 15: “And you shall go to your fathers in peace. You shall be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come here again, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full” (vs 15-16).

Notice this is an important part of the sacrifice, because this is the *death walk*! Let’s understand something concerning this also: Abraham *did not walk down between those pieces* of the covenant sacrifice. This special sacrifice was a *death walk*, because it is a maledictory oath. And with a maledictory oath and this kind of sacrifice, what you are saying and confirming is that *‘if I do not fulfill the promises that I gave to you in this covenant, I shall likewise die.’* With God doing this, not only was it applicable in that particular point to fulfill it, but also a prophecy of His coming death and crucifixion.

Verse 17: “And it came to pass—when the sun went down... [that ends the day] ...and it was dark—behold, a smoking furnace and a burning lamp passed between those pieces.”

Abraham was in this horrible dark deep sleep akin to death, and in vision he saw God pictured by the burning lamp, walk between those parts. The burning furnace consumed them completely! Apparently there’s no account of the sacrifice still being there after this event took place; completely consumed those sacrificial animals. God took the death walk down between them. That sealed the promise and guarantee that He would give this land as He said. Remember that there were two promises of seed:

1. the *physical* who would receive the land
2. the *spiritual* who would be as the stars of heaven

We have within this the *promise of the covenant* to Israel to give them the land, and the *promise to the spiritual seed through Christ through His death*. Both of those are there.

In Heb. 9 is how Paul talks about the covenant sacrifice. Unfortunately, this is very mistranslated and misunderstood in the *King James Version*, because they translate the word ‘testament’ from the Greek word ‘*diatheke*’—which should read *covenant*. Almost every other place it is covenant, except here it talks about the *death and covenant law*. Heb. 9:15 in the *King James* will show you the problem with the translation.

- Do you have a last will and testament?
- What is the difference between a testament and a covenant?

If you have a testament, you can change it at any time before you die, and it’s still binding. A covenant is not that way. You have to guarantee the covenant *first* with a covenant sacrifice before it becomes binding, because it cannot become binding until there is the sacrifice. That sacrifice is the evidence of your death, maledictory death (Gen. 15).

Here is the fulfillment of it, Hebrews 9:15 (KJV): “For this cause He is the Mediator of the New Testament, that by the means of death for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they who are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator” (vs 15-16).

That’s the difference. A testament/will does not come into effect until the testator dies and this is what the translators were reading into this, because

they didn't understand the Greek. I'll explain it to you here in just a minute.

Verse 17 (KJV): "For a testament *is* of force after men are dead..." That's the **wrong translation** because this is talking about a covenant, not a testament. This is where the confusion comes.

"...otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator lives" (v 17). Then he talks about dedicated with blood, and so forth.

Now let's read it in the *Faithful Version*. And this one here was a difficult one to translate; Hebrews 9:15: "And for this reason He is *the* Mediator of *the* New Covenant... [because **God deals in covenant law**] ... in order that through *His* death, *which* took place for the release of the transgressions *that were committed* under the first covenant..."

And that took care of them—why? *Because all of the sins of the Israelites were forgiven to the temple!* The slate is completely wiped clean with His death, but His death also gave us something else. Remember He had **the death walk!** When He was being led to be crucified, He had **a second death walk!** What was He doing? *He was carrying the crossbar of the cross that they were going to make on the stake that was in the ground!* The Romans were very efficient in what they did. Rather than have a new cross for every one, they crucified so many, that they left the stake in the ground. Then they had the one to be crucified carry the crossbeam on which then they would nail his hands, and then lift him up and hook him to the stake.

That's why in the New Testament you have 'tree'; you have stake, you have cross, and that's the difference in it there. So, He had His *second death walk* when He walked to the place where He was to be crucified!

"...those who have been called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance" (v 15). Note the footnote in the *Faithful Version Bible* for vs 16 & 17 that explains it:

Verse 16: "Now where *there is* a covenant, *it is* obligatory **to bring forth a symbolic sacrifice to represent the death of the one who personally ratifies the covenant...**" You don't die on the spot; it is a **symbolic death** through sacrifice. We'll see this take place in just a bit in Jer. 34.

Verse 17: "Because a covenant *is* ratified **only over** the dead *sacrificial* animals..." This verse is unusual because the *dead animals* is plural in the Greek. What this is referring to goes clear back to Gen. 15, and also the practice of the covenant sacrifice: splitting them down the middle, walking between the parts. The *dead sacrificial animals*

represent or symbolize your death if you don't fulfill it.

"...since there is no way that it is legally in force until the living ratifier *has symbolically represented his death*" (v 17).

Jesus did it as the Lord God of the Old Testament (Gen. 15). Then when it came time for Him to be crucified He became the sacrifice Himself, but was resurrected from the dead. So we have the 'symbology' (Gen. 15). We have the actual crucifixion and death at the time of the Passover.

Notice what he refers to, v 18: "For this very reason, neither was the first *covenant* inaugurated without blood because after Moses had spoken every commandment of *the* law to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, *and* he sprinkled both the book *of the covenant* itself and all the people, saying, 'This is the blood of the covenant that God has ordained for you'" (vs 18-20).

Christ said concerning the wine, 'Take drink, this is My blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for the remission of the sins of many.'

Now let's see another instance of this in Jer. 34. Let's see where it refers to it, and let's see what God said to those Jews who, when they had given this covenant sacrifice—taking a calf, splitting it down the middle right at the temple, and all of them walking through it to guarantee the covenant—that if they did not do what they said, they would likewise die.

Jeremiah 34:8: "The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people at Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty to them.... [here was the liberty]: ...that each man should let his male slave, and each man his female slave—if a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman—go free, that none should enslave a Jew, his brother among them. And all the rulers obeyed, and all the people who had entered into the covenant allowed them to go free, each man his male slave, and each man his female slave, so that not any should be enslaved among them any more; and they obeyed and let *them* go" (vs 8-10).

When you make a covenant, you cannot break it. If you break it, you will die as did those sacrificial animals, because those sacrificial animals represented your death in case you did not do according to your word.

Verse 11: "But afterward... [after they made the covenant] ...they turned and took back the male slaves and the female slaves whom they had set free and enslaved them *again* as male slaves and female slaves."

Remember, because they made this covenant, what God did was this: there were three invasions of Nebuchadnezzar. This was the second invasion because they made this promise to God to let them go. He caused Nebuchadnezzar to withdraw his forces and retreat from Judah and Jerusalem.

Verse 12: “So, the Word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, “I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, saying”’” (vs 12-13). It was confirmed with blood, and they said, ‘Yes, all that God has spoken, we will do.’

Verse 14: “‘At the end of seven years each man should let go *free* his brother, a Hebrew, who has been sold to him. And when he has served you six years, you shall let him go free from you.’ But your fathers did not hearken to Me, nor incline their ears. And you had turned today, and had done right in My sight to call for liberty, each man to his neighbor. And you had made a covenant before Me in the house which is called by My name” (vs 14-15).

Remember: We can apply that spiritually to us today, because when we pray, *we go directly to God the Father in heaven above!* Here they came to the temple.

Verse 16: “‘But you turned *back* and defiled My name... [when you promise God something, you defile His name] ...and each of you has taken back his male slave and his female slave whom you had set free to do as they pleased. But you forced them *again* to become your male and your female slaves.’ Thus says the LORD, ‘You have not hearkened to Me to proclaim liberty each man to his brother, and each man to his neighbor! Behold, I proclaim freedom for you,’ says the LORD, ‘to the sword, to the plague, and to the famine. And I will cause you to be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. And I will give the men who have sinned against My covenant, who have not done the words of the covenant which **they made before Me when they divided the calf in two and passed between its parts**’” (vs 16-18). There you go!

What did they do? *They made this covenant with God: they pledged their own death by walking between the parts of the covenant sacrifice of the calf; they turned and went back on it!* What did God say? ‘You’re going to have the sword, you’re going to have the plague, you’re going to have famine, and I will cause you to be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth!’

Verse 20: “I will even give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their life. And their dead bodies shall be for food to the birds of heaven and to the beasts of the earth.”

Remember what happened with the maledictory sacrifice of those three animals that Abraham did? *The birds of prey came!*

Verse 21: “And I will give Zedekiah king of Judah, and his rulers, into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their lives, and into the hand of the king of Babylon’s army, who has withdrawn from you. Behold, I will command,” says the LORD, ‘and cause them to return to this city. And they shall fight against it and capture it, and burn it with fire. And I will make the cities of Judah a desert without a soul to live in it’ (vs 21-22). When a covenant is made, it is irrevocable.

Let’s look at *baptism, because baptism is a covenant death*. When we go get baptized, *that’s our death walk!* Here is the covenant; here’s what it symbolizes. That’s why all baptisms have to be by full immersion in water. If I sprinkled water on you, would you be subject to death or drowning? *No*, not unless I had a fire hose at full blast on you! When you bury a corpse, do you lay it on the ground and sprinkle a little dirt on it and say, ‘Oh, I buried it.’ *No!* So, here Paul draws *the symbolism of our covenant death*. Christ gave His covenant death. Now here’s our covenant death. This is why the book of Hebrews talks about the unpardonable sin.

Romans 6:1: “What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound?... [most of the Protestants agree, but Paul wrote]: ...MAY IT NEVER BE!...” (vs 1-2). The Greek here means, ‘Do not even let this thought come into being.’

“...We who died to sin... [How did you die to sin? *Through baptism!* You’re still alive.] ... how shall we live any longer therein? Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?” (vs 2-3).

His was a *covenant death*, now yours is a *covenant death*, and we always bring you up out of the water. But if you were held down under the water, you would die, no question about it.

Verse 4: “Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism...” Very interesting, that’s what it is in the Greek. Through *the* baptism, which then makes it the covenant baptism.

“...into the death... [the death of Christ] ...so that, just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life.... [because here’s

what happens with baptism]: ...For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death... [this is our covenant death with Christ's covenant death, together] ...so also shall we be *in the likeness of His* resurrection. Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin might be destroyed... [showing that it is a process] ...so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin; because the one who has died *to sin*... [How? *Through the operation of baptism!*] ...has been justified from sin" (vs 4-7)—having your sins forgiven and removed.

Verse 8: "Now, if we died together with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has any dominion over Him. For when He died, He died unto sin once for all... [because He's Creator of all human beings] ...but in that He lives, He lives unto God" (vs 8-10).

Here's what the lesson is that we are to learn from it in this covenant law for our lives, v 11: "In the same way also, you should indeed reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin rule in your mortal body by obeying it in the lusts thereof. Likewise, do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin; rather, yield yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God" (11-13). *There's the whole operation of it!*

There are consequences of not carrying out the covenant pledge of your baptism/death is of the same force that God brought against the Jews who went back on the covenant in Jer. 34.

WITNESSES

Since Israel broke the covenant, God modified the punishment. When they originally agreed to the covenant, were there witnesses? *Yes!*

- heaven and earth
- Moses
- the people
- the Book of the Covenant
- the two tables containing the Ten Commandments

Those were all the witnesses!

- Was this done in public? *Yes, it was! All Israel heard!*
- Were there witnesses? *Yes, there were! Every covenant has to have a witness!*

Sometimes it can get down to one person, and then before God and Jesus Christ. That's why it

says that wherever two or three of you are gathered together and you agree on something that God is with you in the midst of it.

Please understand this doesn't mean that you can compel God in any way. But if you agree among yourselves in the name of Christ, and there are two people, Christ is a witness—though He's not seen—because you use His name. You two are witnesses. So, whatever you agree upon with each other, please do, God is going to hold you accountable for that.

What's going to happen is that you'll get along with each other a whole lot better. Some of the worst business transactions and rip-offs have occurred between brethren in the Church. So, if there's anything you enter into business in, remember that Christ is there with you.

We saw where the witness was heaven and earth (Deut. 30). Now let's look at the New Testament for witnesses. A witnesses is going to verify something that they have seen.

I remember when I was Salt Lake City; there's a Mormon display up there. I went through there and let me just say that if you want to know about the Mormon religion read Alan Knight's book *Primitive Christianity in Crisis*. You will see that they are modern-day Gnostics to the letter, and the angel-worship. They believe that Moroni was the angel and that what we're all going to become are angels. All you need to know is Heb. 1; God did not say at any time to any of the angels that 'you are My Son and this day I have begotten you.' That the end of Mormonism; you need to go no further.

After Christ was with the apostles 40 days and 40 nights. Of course, true to us today we all want to know this:

Acts 1:6: "So then, when they were assembled together they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You restore the kingdom to Israel at this time?'" What did He promise them? Remember that just before the Passover He said, 'You're all going to sit on 12 thrones judging the tribes of Israel.' So, it was in their interest to know when it was going to be. They were looking forward to sitting on a throne and judging. Christ had to tell them that they had a few other things to do first.

Verse 7: "And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know *the* times or *the* seasons, which the Father has placed in His own authority; but you yourselves shall receive power... [Greek: 'dunamis'] ...when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you shall be My witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the ends of the earth.**'" (vs 7-8). *They were witnesses, and they did witness!*

All the apostles got arrested for what they believed. They got hauled into jail, and I love the account where they put them in jail and the angel let them out, and they were out early in the morning teaching in the temples while the guards went down to the prison to get them out. I imagine that was the Antonia prison right next to the temple. They were to bring them up before the Sanhedrin.

You can imagine the Sanhedrin. Their minds absolutely locked into what they did in condemning and crucifying Christ. So, the guards go down and they come back and said, 'They're not there! They disappeared!' Someone came up and said, 'Did you know they're over here teaching in the temple?' *You're kidding! Go get them!*

So, they bring them before the Sanhedrin. How many have seen the dark haired rabbi, real fierce-looking person? Just picture a whole assembly of about 150 of them looking like that! With their beards, robes and phylacteries, sitting there as the authorities!

Here these renegades from Galilee, these 'stupid fishermen' down there run around performing miracles, and preaching in the name of Jesus Christ. They shouldn't do that because 'we told the guards to tell everyone that the disciples stole the body away. What are we going to do about this?' So, they brought the apostles in.

Acts 5:24: "And when they heard these words, both the *high* priest and the captain of the temple, and the chief priests also, were utterly perplexed as to what this could lead to." *Are we in trouble?*

Verse 27: "And they brought them in *and* set them before the Sanhedrin. And the high priest asked them, saying, 'Did we not order you by a *direct* command not to teach in this name?....'" (vs 27-28)—because thousands were believing! What would happen to the scribes and Pharisees then?

- losing power
- losing money
- losing prestige

"...And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, with *the* purpose of bringing this man's blood upon us" (v 28) *No! They said*, 'Let His blood be upon us and upon our children.'

It not anti-Semitism to say that God took them up on their judgment. That's what the *Christian Jewish Publication* has said.

Verse 29: "But Peter and the apostles answered *and* said, 'We are obligated to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus Whom you killed *by* hanging *Him* on a tree.

Him has God exalted by His right hand *to be* a Prince and Savior, to give repentance and remission of sins to Israel. And **we are His witnesses of these things, as is also the Holy Spirit**, which God has given to those who obey Him.'" (vs 29-32).

They were ready to kill them! Verse 34: "But a certain man stood up, a Pharisee in the Sanhedrin, Gamaliel by name, a teacher of the law *who was* honored by all the people, *and* commanded *that* the apostles be put out for a short while."

Verse 38: "And now I say to you, withdraw from these men, and let them alone; for **if this counsel or this work be from men, it will be overthrown...** [it will die] **...but if it be from God...** [Do you want to be fighting God?] ...you do not have the power to overthrow it. *Take heed, lest you be found to be fighting even against God*" (vs 38-39). So, they let them go!

This also gives us an example that there comes a time when we have to stand up and say the Truth. *We will!* Let's see what Jesus said:

John 5:30: "I have no power to do anything of Myself..." That doesn't mean He was helpless. That meant that from within His own physical body that He had He would originate nothing except what the Father had commanded Him and taught Him.

Verse 19: "Therefore, Jesus answered and said to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you, the Son has no power to do anything of Himself... [Greek: 'ek'—out from within Himself] ...but only what He sees the Father do. For whatever He does, these things the Son also does in the same manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him everything that He Himself is doing. And He will show Him greater works than these, so that you may be filled with wonder'" (vs 19-20).

Verse 30: "But as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father Who sent Me. If I bear witness of Myself... [alone] ...My testimony is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the testimony that he witnesses concerning Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the Truth. Now, I do not receive witness from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining light, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light" (vs 30-35). *But when you are ready to lose power...*

Verse 36: "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works that the Father gave Me to complete, the *very* works that I am doing, themselves bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me."

The works of the Holy Spirit that is done by anyone who is serving God is also a witness that God is causing it to be, especially for Christ.

With us as human beings our own carnality can get in the way. That may cause problems with people.

Verse 36: “But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works that the Father gave Me to complete, the *very* works that I am doing, themselves bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.”

- every healing
- everything that He said
- everything that He instructed the disciples and the people that followed Him

was a witness!

Verse 37: “And the Father Himself, Who sent Me, has borne witness of Me....” How did He bear witness? *When Christ was baptized of John the Baptist He heard the voice saying, ‘This is My Son, My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased!’* When the three disciples—Peter, James and John—were taken up on the mount of transfiguration they heard the same thing. Seeing that vision burned in their minds; Peter refers to it in both 1st and 2nd Peter.

Knowing that, do you suppose the apostles would even attempt to write anything of their own opinions? Even Paul said when he gave judgment, ‘the Lord didn’t say, but my judgment is...’ Later on he says that ‘everything I wrote to you is a commandment of the Lord.’

That’s why we can trust the words of God! ***God inspired it!*** This is a witness to us, and these are witnesses to the world. Let’s see the witness to the world. Remember, before the end comes, God is going to raise up two witnesses, and they are going to be a terrible ‘thorn in the flesh’ of all the establishment. For three and a half years they are going to want to kill them, but they won’t be able to. They’ll call down a plague here and fire over there, and hail, earthquakes and floods.

They’re going to hate them and try and kill them. Every time they have a party to try and capture them, they turn around and open their mouths and fire comes out their mouths and devours the enemy. After a while the hit squads are going to say, ‘No, I don’t want to go.’

They’re going to be like that sergeant in the account of Elijah who sent out troops. ‘Elijah come on in and see Ahab’ and ZAP! Burned all up! They sent out 50 more saying, ‘Elijah, Ahab says to come and see him.’ ZAP! Burned to a crisp! The third

party came out and said, ‘Now, Elijah, I come in peace! Ahab would like to talk to you, would you come?’ *So, Elijah came!*

I think that’s the way it’s going to be with the two witnesses. It’s going to be something! I mean, we are sitting on the threshold of the greatest, most fantastic events that have prophesied in the Bible. We are going to see perhaps every one of them! So, *we better be spiritually well fortified!*

Mark 13:9: “But keep yourselves on guard... [be prepared, ready] ...for they shall deliver you up to councils and synagogues. You shall be beaten, and you shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake, ***for a witness against them.***”

When you are brought before kings, you are not going to buy your way in. You’re going to come in arrested. That’s how you’re going, not to wine and dine with them and toast good sayings of nothing to each other.

I cannot help but think: What if the Apostle Paul sat down next to the king of Thailand. What the king of Thailand does every year—as the official head of the Buddhist religion—he must change the garments on the idol of Buddha in an official public ceremony. This is the one to whom the so-called apostle of God was best friends.

I thought, would Paul be ‘best friends’ with a man like that and not tell him about Christ? ***No!*** He would say, king, I want to tell you something that’s very important *and I’m here in the name of Jesus Christ to tell you that this idol that you are dressing over here is a false god and Satan the devil is behind it and God commands you to repent!*

When we’re hauled before the councils that’s what we’re going to have to say. You think you’re going to bring world peace and control everyone. I tell you *no!* Christ is coming from heaven and He’s going to take over this world and you are either going to repent or die! That’s what it’s going to have to be. The two witnesses are going to be just like that! They’re not going to be wining and dining with all the world leaders.

Verse 10: “And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.” *That is a witness, and it has been! There are witnesses!*

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* (except where noted)

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 26:26-28
- 2) John 6: 35-40, 48-56
- 3) John 15:4-9, 11-14

- 4) John 6:57
- 5) Hebrews 11: 1, 6
- 6) James 2:14-16, 18-24
- 7) Genesis 22:1-18
- 8) Exodus 24:1, 3-18
- 9) Exodus 25:8
- 10) Genesis 15:5-17
- 11) Hebrews 9:15-20
- 12) Jeremiah 34:8-18, 20-22
- 13) Romans 6:1-13
- 14) Acts 1:6-8
- 15) Acts 5:24, 27-32, 34
- 16) John 5:30, 19-20, 30-37
- 17) Mark 13:9-10

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 17
- Luke 15
- John 3:16
- Galatians 3
- Deuteronomy 30
- Hebrews 1

Also referenced:

Sermon Series: *Hebrews*

Books:

- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Day That Jesus the Christ Died* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight

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Steps of Covenant Law IV Review

Fred R. Coulter

THE PROPOSAL

As we saw, the proposal of the covenant really is very simple. God does not give any details. It's just like when a man and a woman agree to marry, there's a proposal. The man has agreed to ask her and the woman says, 'Yes, I agree to accept it.' Now, that doesn't tell you anything about what the marriage is going to be like. Doesn't tell you what your circumstances in the future are going to be, except that the husband promises to provide and to be the head, and the wife promises to submit, and that they will cling to each other until death do they part.

Really, a marriage covenant is a death covenant, too. That pattern follows with all the covenants: Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Israel, the New Testament and the Gospel. And it all starts out very simple.

THE AGREEMENT

You accept it. God tells you what He's going to do, that's His agreement. You tell God what you're going to do, that's your agreement. Then a covenant is greater than just an agreement. It is binding until death, unless specifically stated for a shorter period of time.

COUNTING THE COST

Entering into this covenant agreement, which is unto death, you have to count the cost, because you don't know the circumstances ahead of time. You know some of them, but you have to operate on faith toward God. Same way in a marriage covenant, you have to operate on faith that the man is going to do what God requires of the man to do, and the woman is going to do what God requires of the woman to do, and you become one flesh. You build your life, you build your family, and all of this. So, there has to be a *counting of the cost*. What happens if it doesn't go the way that you may think? Are you going to have a no-fault divorce? No fault divorce in a covenant?

We will see how that Jesus ended the Old Covenant with His death. Because when we went through Gen. 15, there were two aspects of what God did with the proposal and then the agreement, the belief on Abraham's part, and then the sacrifice with the blood. Then the assurance of the agreement after that; there were two aspects to it:

- 1) That God by walking through the parts of those animals, irrevocably committed Himself to carry out what He proposed *for the physical seed* of Israel through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- 2) *For the spiritual seed*, which would come later through Christ, when God manifested Himself in the flesh for the very purpose of dying to end the Old Covenant, and begin the New Covenant through His death and resurrection.

There's the agreement, the counting of the cost. God also counted the cost—didn't He? *Yes!* God told Israel, *if*.... You go back and do a study through the first five books of the Bible, and look up every place where it is *if* and *then*. The constant in the covenant is *God* and the *agreement*.

Since we are fleshly human beings, prone to mistakes and sins, God gives a qualifier for us, which is *if you*. God doesn't need to qualify it for Himself, because:

- God is true
- God is eternal
- God is righteous
- God cannot lie
- God will not lie
- He will faithfully fulfill what He has promised

And He's also, through that, given a way where we can recover from our sins and our faults, and our mistakes on an ongoing basis, so that we can remain in covenant with God.

COMMITMENT AND BELIEF

You have to commit to it. That's what Israel did. They said, 'Yes, all the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.' *Commitment!* When you make the commitment and you accept the covenant, *it is binding upon you and God*. God is bound, because His Word is true. We will see that for the New Covenant, there was a double operation in the death of Jesus Christ. So, there is the *commitment*.

The problems with the *commitment* is our human nature and our sins. And especially with people like the Israelites that God dealt with, that they were to obey in the letter of the Law. *God knew* what the end result was going to be. You read Deut. 32 where it is 'Jeshurun waxes fat and is like Sodom and Gomorrah.' *God knew* what the children of

Israel were going to do, but because of Abraham and the irrevocable commitment that He made to him, He promised that He would be with Israel. What was the condition? *That 'if you love Me and keep My commandments in the letter of the Law, I will bless you with all the physical blessings. If you don't, you will have the cursings'* (Deut. 28).

God also knew that the covenant with Israel was going to come to an end. Before we get there, let's look at:

WITNESSES

There are always witnesses. That why in a marriage you have what are called the bridesmaid and the best man. (Which really should be the husband, he's really the best man, but that's what they call it.) The Bible calls it the friend of the groom, I think which is better. There is a legal document that is signed. You get a marriage license, if you don't get a marriage license, and none is required, there is still a document that we produce for the Church, which husband and wife sign, the friend of the groom signs, and the bridesmaid signs as *witnesses* that:

- they were there
- they heard the words
- they heard the acceptance
- they heard the commitment
- now it's binding

There it is! So, you have to have the witnesses!

Let's look at some of the witnesses and a principle of God concerning witnesses. Deut. 17—would that they would follow it today; they don't do this today. Let's see how God was going to handle severe problems. A lot of people think, 'Oh, we shouldn't have the death penalty. That's cruel and unusual punishment.'

Let's just take one instance or two: murderers and pedophiles. God said to execute them—administration of death, which Israel as a sovereign nation had. What happens when murderers are let out? How many go and commit murders again? Maybe some few repent, learn their lesson, and don't do it.

Let's look at pedophiles. They just repeat over and over again. Think of all the pain and the agony against the innocent population and children that would be spared all of that had they been executed instead of put in prison for a certain period of time, then they're released; then what do they do? *They put them on a sexual-predator list!* If you want a real shock, go to your local county and look up sexual predator list, and you might find you've got a lot of them living around your neighborhood. This is

why God had certain things that were the death penalty. There were requirements for the death penalty.

One of them was going after other gods. Why is that important? Very simple, how many people have been led astray by false 'religions?' 'Religions' that replace the way of God with their false teachings! What does it lead people to do? *Sin in the name of doing 'good'!*

To show you from where it comes when you have ministers, preachers and teachers that are not committed to the Word of God, but to a foreign ideology, or today *another Jesus!* Just like we saw on television concerning ObamaCare, what did he do? *He ran out and he got different ministers to say, 'Oh, this a moral thing that we need to do'!* If there were no false teachers, you would not have the politics of that. So, we need to understand that God, in dealing with people, looks at it quite differently than human beings with their false sympathies, ideologies, religions and personal opinions.

God says, Deuteronomy 17:1: "You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God *any* bull or sheep in which there is a blemish, *or* any evil thing for that is an abomination to the LORD your God. If there is found among you, inside any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you, a man or woman who does what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, in breaking His covenant" (vs 1-2).

What does it mean to *break* the covenant? There are other laws concerning thievery, we read some of those concerning adultery, we read some of those concerning the last six commandments, recompense, and so forth.

Here's how you break the covenant, v 3: "And has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the forces of heaven, which I have forbidden."

Why? *Because all of these things represent Satan the devil!* That's why we have the book *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* because this helps define—in a world that is filled with false gods, philosophies, religions, and so forth—that take people away from God.

What is the worst one today? *Evangelical Protestantism; absolutely in the grips of the spirit of the antichrist!* That's another whole topic. We do not carry out the death penalty today because the Church was not given the 'administration of death.'

Verse 4: "And if it is told you, and you have heard and inquired diligently, and, behold, it is true and the thing is certain, that such abomination is done in Israel; then you shall bring forth that man or

that woman who has committed that evil thing to your gates, even that man or that woman, and shall stone them with stones until they die.... [here is the qualification of it; you don't lightly do it]: ...At the mouth of two witnesses or three witnesses shall he that is worthy of death be put to death. At the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death" (vs 4-6).

Today we have how many, if one man or one woman brings an accusation what they need to do today, with all the television and everything, is have an absolute law: no one can know anything about this crime or anything that has gone on, except that it occurred, and So and So may be arrested. That's it! Nothing is established until after there is a trial, and there have been two or three witnesses. Now, it may be a person who saw it, and many witnesses are unreliable. You've got to have right prosecutors, correct judges, too. So, there are many qualifications in this, and today what has happened because they don't that? *There are a lot of people in prison who shouldn't be in prison!*

How many people have been put in prison for rape or something like that, at the mouth of one witness? *A lot!* If they had the second witness, which is not a person? Can you have a second witness that is not a person? *Yes, you can!* If they had DNA confirmation, that would be the second witness. How many have been released out of prison because they have this program of DNA re-evaluation of a crime? *A lot of them have*, because they violated the principle of not having just judges, not having just prosecutors, looking for the truth, looking for righteousness, rather than political gain and advantage. So, here it is; ***God's way is the right way!***

"...At the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death" (v 6). We can also add in there, if that can't be done by one witness, then you cannot convict someone of a lesser crime with only one witness. If someone stole something, someone can accuse him, but unless you can find the second witness of goods, you cannot convict him. A lot of our laws were originally based on this, but it's not today.

Verse 7: "The hands of the witnesses shall be *the* first on him to put him to death, and afterwards the hands of all the people. So you shall put the evil away from among you. If a matter ..." (vs 7-8).

Here's where we have the appellate court and going to a higher jurisdiction, right here in the Bible, and all based upon witnesses. This is part of the covenant that God made with Israel based upon the principle of two or three witnesses.

Verse 8: "If a matter *is* too hard for you in

judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, *being* matters of strife within your gates, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the LORD your God shall choose. And you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge that shall be in those days, and ask. And they shall declare to you the sentence of judgment." (vs 8-9).

Remember what Solomon did when there was a dispute over whose child died. No one could agree and it was done at night in secret so there was no way you could know. What did he say? '*All right, bring me a sword, and I'll cut the child in half and you can each have half the body!*' The one that was the mother said, 'Oh, no, *no, no*, don't do that.' Then he said, 'You're the mother. Take your child and go.' You also have to have wisdom, and God gave Solomon wisdom.

Verse 10: "And you shall do according to the sentence, which they declare to you from that place which the LORD shall choose. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they tell you. According to the sentence of the law, which they shall teach you and according to the judgment which they shall tell you, you shall do. You shall not turn aside from the sentence which they shall show you, to the right hand or the left.... [if they won't do it]: ...And the man that acts presumptuously and will not hearken to the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or to the judge, even that man shall die. And you shall put away the evil from Israel" (vs 10-12).

God did all of this to keep rampant crime from just filling the land. A lot of people say that's harsh.

- Are the things that they have committed against God harsh? *Yes!*
- Are they an abomination? *Yes!*

So here we see not only with the covenant, but witnesses. God gave many, many witnesses. Let's see the proliferation of witnesses that took place.

When all the children of Israel were gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai and the covenant was established (Exo. 24), what did Moses say? '*Behold, the blood of the covenant.*' They all agreed and then afterward Moses, Joshua, Aaron, Adab, and Abihu and 70 of the elders of Israel went up and saw God through the Sea of Glass. They had a meal there with God, so another part of it is that there's a *covenant meal*. They were all *witnesses*.

When we come to Deut. 30 we find something really very profound. Here's a promise of God.

Deuteronomy 30:10: “**If** you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, *and* if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” Notice the conditions:

- God is always there
- God is never far off
- God is ready to forgive
- God is anxious to have a relationship with His people

—so the *if* depends on us.

Verse 11: “For this commandment which I command you today *is* not hidden from you, neither is it far off.” Remember, this is the next generation getting ready to go into the ‘promised land.’

Verse 12: “It *is* not in heaven *that you should* say, ‘Who shall go up to heaven for us, and bring it to us, so that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither *is* it beyond the sea *that you should* say, ‘Who shall go over the sea for us to bring it to us, so that we may hear it and do it?’” (vs 12-13).

If you don’t have it right here, you’re going to say, ‘Oh, well, we don’t know.’ Take today’s age. What if we had to hire NASA and say, ‘Go to Pluto. God put the table of stones of whatever He wrote up there, and we don’t know what’s on it unless you can go there.’ We’d spend trillions to get there, and finally when they get up there, they would say, ‘This is really not a planet, this is just a big hunk of ice.’ Not in heaven that you have to go there, nor beyond the sea.

Here is a promise that God gave to the children of Israel, v 14: “But the Word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may do it.”

- How can that be if they’re carnal minded?
- How can it be in their heart and in their mind?

What He’s saying is, ‘***I will always provide the Word for you in a language that you can understand.***’

- Did God do that?
- Has God done that for the world today with the translations of the Bible? *Yes, indeed!*

Very near you; you may do it!

Verse 15: “Behold, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil.” We’re going to see that whenever God gives a proposition:

- there’s *agreement*

- there’s *commitment*
- there’s *counting the cost*
- there are *witnesses*

We’ll see it right here:

Verse 16: “In that I command you this day to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments so that you may live and multiply. And the LORD your God shall bless you in the land where you go to possess it.”

Everyone wants the blessings of God. I have yet to meet anyone who says, ‘O God, please pour Your curses out on me.’ But there are requirements for blessings, and the carnal mind does not like the requirement for blessings, which is ***hear and obey***. What people like to do is claim the blessings while they still live in sin. That can’t happen.

Verse 17: “But if your heart turn away so that you ***will not hear***... [that’s a first step] ...but shall be drawn away and worship other gods and serve them.” That’s been the story of Israel all the way down through its history; still the story of it today.

Here’s the witness, v 18: “I denounce to you this day that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong *your* days on the land where you pass over Jordan to go to possess it. I call heaven and earth to record this day against you...” (vs 18-19).

There is the ***multitude of witnesses*** and that is something you can always see. *The heavens are there!* You can look up and see the sky. God created it and made it. *The earth is here!* He created it, and everything that is in it you can see it. A perpetual ***living witness that God’s Word is true*** and also, ***if*** you obey Him and love Him you’ll be blessed. Also ***if you don’t***, you will be cursed. ***A witness!***

You can’t say, ‘God never told me.’ Not only did He tell you, but He’s got the heavens, how many stars are out there? He told Abraham, ‘Can you number them?’ *No!* And the earth with everything that’s on it and in it. ***You can’t have greater witness than that!***

There will be one greater witness, that is God manifested in the flesh, ***Jesus Christ***.

Verse 19: “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, choose life, so that both you and your seed may live.”

God wants to bless you, but there are conditions for blessings. ***God’s love is always there***; don’t forget that! But also God’s love to you—though He loves you because He created you—is God’s love for eternal life and to be blessed of God

even carnally, is conditional, because He gives conditions. His love is always constant, but you don't receive it unless you meet the conditions.

Same way in a family. If you have rebellious kids, and they get up and go out and cause all kinds of trouble, and even though you still love them, you can say, 'No, you can't live here anymore. No, we will not support you anymore. No, all the things you've been into: drugs, illegal sex, etc. No, you can't receive any of those things.'

You still love them, but your deeper love and commitment back to them, because they have rebelled against you as parents, now is conditioned on *change of heart, change of mind and repentance!* So, even in the family it's the same thing.

One of the biggest lies is that God loves all sinners. Yes, to the point He's going to correct them that they may repent, but they're not going to receive the blessings of God because they're not willing to obey, they're not willing to hear the voice of God.

Here's why God has done it here; He makes it very clear, v 20: "That you may love the LORD your God, *and* may obey His voice, and may cleave to Him..."

Those are the conditions. If you want God's love, you must love Him back. Jesus said, 'If you love Me, keep My commandments.' Protestantism says, 'We love You, God. Thank You for doing away with Your Law.' That is like saying, 'Sit me down in this electric chair, and turn on the juice so that I may live.' That's what I call a 'mori-oxon.' Won't happen! Here's why: you are not unto yourself. *God created all human beings to need God.* You cannot function without God, whether in the *letter* of the Law or the *spirit* of the Law.

- the *letter of the Law* is to live in the land or country that you live in with blessings and prosperity
- the *spirit of the Law* is to love God and keep His commandments so you can receive eternal life

Same principle! Remember, the two covenants come down from Abraham, *physical* and *spiritual*. Here's why:

"...for He is your life..." (v 20). What did Paul say to the Greeks? '*For God has made all men of one blood, so that they might seek after God, for He is their life*' (Acts 17). Think about it!

- Who are you?
- What are you?
- Who has given you life?
- Why are you able to think?

- Why are you able to choose?
- Why are you able to do the things that you do?

If you want the blessings of God, then you do what He says. A lot of people think, 'Well, I'll do just so much.' There are too many people that have just enough religion so they can run to God in case of trouble, and they have just enough of the world in them so they can go out and be like the world. So, be accepted on both sides, that's what the Apostle James wrote is double minded.

"...for He is your life and the length of your days..." (v 20). Gives you air, gives you food, gives you life, gives you breath. Everything about you physically comes from God.

"...so that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob—to give it to them" (v 20). There it is in the land. That's the *witness*.

Let's see *by the two immutable witnesses!* This covers the covenant with Abraham, to Israel, which was the same covenant with the physical and spiritual combined (Gen. 15 & 22).

Hebrews 6:13: "For God, after promising Abraham..." That covers a lot! That started in Gen. 12 with the promises and went down through Gen. 15, 17 and 22. Now he's referring to the finality of the promises here, referring back to Gen. 22 after he had offered Isaac as God had commanded him, but God sent a substitutionary sacrifice instead.

Verse 13: "For God, after promising Abraham, swore by Himself... [God didn't need to swear, because His word is true; if He speaks, it will be or is] ...since He could swear by none greater, saying, 'Surely in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply you'" (vs 13-14). God has done it, and Abraham has yet to see it—is that not true? *Yes, indeed!* I think one of the most grateful and humble men at the resurrection is going to be Abraham.

Verse 15: "Now after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.... [the seed being Isaac, who was a type of Christ] (Paul explains it): ...For indeed, men swear by the greater, and confirmation by an oath *puts* an end to all disputes between them. In this *way* God, desiring more abundantly to show the heirs of the promise the unchangeable nature of His own purpose..." (vs 15-17).

Let's understand that *God does not change!* We will see later in the covenant, that whenever there is a change, it is a change from the physical to the spiritual, but all the elements of covenants always, all the way through. God wants us to know

the unchangeable nature of His own purpose. This also tells us within the Bible, the Word of God, He explains His purpose. That's why we have the book *God Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days*. The things that men in modern Christianity hate, reject and despise actually shows them what God is doing. Isn't that something?

"...confirmed *it* by an oath" (v 17). So, we have the two immutable things:

- 1) the ***promises of God***, because God cannot lie
- 2) the ***oath***, which He did not need to give, but He did for the sake of human beings

Verse 18: "So that by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have **strong encouragement to lay hold on the hope that has been set before us**"—*so that we can be encouraged and inspired!*

This is what we need to focus on when we're coming into the disastrous and troubling days that are ahead of us.

- keep your mind on God
- keep focus on the purpose
- don't look at the circumstances around you

I've got a book *A Thousand Shall Fall* written by Susi Hasel Mundy, the German who was a Seventh Day Adventist. He went to the Nazi Army hierarchy and said, 'You've drafted me, but I'm a Seventh Day Adventist and I live by the Bible.' He had his Bible and kept it, and said, 'I cannot work in anything where I kill men.' You would think that the Nazis would take him out and shoot him right away, but because he had faith in God and trusted in God, they gave him the Sabbath off all during WWII, and put him as a mechanic in the transportation division. He had the Sabbath off. *A Thousand Shall Fall* based on Psalms 91.

We've all have had difficult circumstances! But have we ever been confronted with something like that? Can you think of the faith in God! This also shows us that faith in God, and God reacting for you, and to you to bless you is not totally dependent upon doctrine or teaching. That's important. He was willing to honor the Sabbath of God in spite of everything that Nazi Germany was doing, and God blessed him and he lived through the whole thing. And even though he went to the eastern front, he was not captured, nor did he go to a Soviet Gulag like so many of the other German soldiers. Amazing story!

That's why God wants us to have "...strong encouragement to lay hold on the hope *that has*

been set before us" (v 18). Whenever you start getting discouraged, keep your mind on that, because *that's part of the covenant!* God says, 'Regardless, I'm for you, I'm with you, I'm going to help you, I'm going to give you eternal life.' ***Do you believe that to the core of your being?*** *So that regardless of the physical circumstances you may be surrounded with, or find yourself in, that is your hope!* Let me just add one thing here that's important. Also, ***that is our sanity in living in the days in which we are living!*** That's part of it.

Verse 19: "Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul.... [that makes you unmovable] ...both secure and steadfast, and which enters into the *sanctuary* within the veil; where Jesus has entered for us *as* a forerunner, having become a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchisedec" (vs 19-20).

What he's saying is, Jesus went first, so that you can pray to God and have entrance into the Holy of Holies through prayer. That also answers: How far away is God? *He is as far away as your knees on the floor!* That's part of the *witness*, the *commitment*, the *covenant*, the *shed blood*, all of these things combined together. Here are the greatest witnesses.

(go to the next track)

Concerning the *witnesses*, those are the witnesses that God gave to Israel and to Abraham. What other witnesses has God used down through time? *Sent special witnesses!* Angels? *No! Prophets!* God has determined that in dealing with men, He will work through men. This is what a lot of people don't understand. 'Well, who are you to tell me this? You're just a man.' If you're preaching the Word of God, that's what's important. 'Oh, you're just a sinner like me.' *I know it; I'm still working on it, just like you.*

All the prophets were witnesses! Then you stack up everything that all the prophets have given concerning the coming of Christ, His ministry, His death and resurrection. *All of those are witnesses* up to that point. Before we get into the other witnesses, let's see ***how God terminated the covenant with Israel***. Unfortunately, we are stuck with the custom words, Old Testament/New Testament. It should really be the *Covenants of God* for the Old Testament, because there were quite a few different covenants there; and then for the New Testament, should be called the *New Covenant*, because there haven't been additional covenants made after the institution of the New Covenant.

The Protestants universally misunderstand it because they have a 'spiritual lesion' on their brain concerning the laws and commandments of God, which they reject. They can never be spiritually

sound to fully understand. If they were, they'd repent and keep the Sabbath; they would repent and keep the Holy Days, etc. As we read this, let's understand this first: ***The covenant between the Lord God of Old Testament, who became Jesus Christ was a marriage covenant!*** When they said, 'All that the Lord has said, we will do,' that was their yes. When the sacrifices that Moses made, shed the blood—sprinkled it on the people, sprinkled it on the Book of Law and sprinkled it on the sacrifices—that finalized it.

Physical marriage, since this was a physical covenant, we'll draw the parallel, *binding until death!* This is why God prophesied His death in Gen. 15, because He knew He was going to terminate the covenant with Israel, and He had to do it legally and properly, and by covenant law. You just do not vacate a covenant unless you:

- 1) fulfill the terms of the covenant, which He did
- 2) that you take the penalty for going against the maledictory oath that you took by walking between the parts of the animals, which God did

If you fulfill the maledictory oath, then you die. That releases the other person from the covenant. So, this is what we're talking about here with the marriage covenant in Rom. 7. Once you understand that, then it becomes very easy to understand this part of Rom. 7. Plus I've translated it in such a way that it makes it understandable. Whereas when you read it in the *King James* it gets muddled. When you read Rom. 7 without the understanding of God, or God opening your mind to understand it, either one, you're bound not to understand it.

Romans 7:1: "Are you ignorant, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know law)..." The *King James* says, ***the*** law. This is ***law***, because we are not dealing with ***the*** laws and commandments of God, we are dealing with ***law—the marriage law—*** which was given in Gen. 2.

"...that ***the*** Law rules over a man for as long a time as he may live?" (v 1). Here's where it shows it is a marriage law. In general, all laws have rule over you as long as you live.

Verse 2: "For the woman who is married is bound by law to the husband as long as he is living... [Was that true? *God was the Husband, Israel was the wife!*] ...but if the husband should die, ***she is released from the law that bound her to the husband.***" *Not all the commandments of God, because we're talking about ***marriage law***.*

Verse 3: "So then, if she should marry another man as long as the husband is living, she shall be called an adulteress..." Isn't this what God said of Israel? *Yes!* What is going after another husband? *Other gods:* Baal, all of the forms of the male deities and female deities, etc.

"...but if the husband should die..." (v 3). Since God is eternal, how's He going to die? *Yet, He pledged His death (Gen. 15)!* Don't we have prophecies of it in Isa. 52-54? *Yes!* How's God going to die? *That's why He was God manifested in the flesh!*

"...but if the husband should die she is free from the law *that bound her to the husband*, so that she is no longer an adulteress if she is married to another man" (v 3).

Why does He say this? *God had a choice!* He could loose the covenant that He bound Himself to with Israel, one of two ways:

- 1) The wife dies, meaning all the descendants of Israel alive at that time would all have to die at once. *This would defeat the purpose of God!*

or

- 2) He took it upon Himself to die!

As He said, 'I lay down My life, no one takes it from Me. I have commandment from the Father that if I lay it down, I will receive it back again.' But if He dies, which is the whole other story of the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh, that when He died, what happened when He died at the temple? ***The veil ripped to show the covenant was severed, and to show that the covenant with Israel was spiritually over!***

It continued another forty years, God giving them a space of time for repentance; the temple system did that is, *not the covenant*.

"...but if the husband should die, ***she is free from the law that bound her to the husband***, so that she is no longer an adulteress if she is married to another man" (v 3).

The marriage has not yet taken place. But what do we have? What takes place before the marriage? ***The proposal and also the engagement! All those who are in the New Covenant are now engaged to Christ!***

Israel could not follow after any other god, unless God released them from the covenant. The only way to release them from the covenant was for ***God to be manifested in the flesh and die!*** Then He had to be resurrected, so He could *complete the terms of the New Covenant*, which then is an engagement from the time of the acceptance of the covenant until the wedding takes place.

2-Corinthians 11:1, Paul writes: “I would *that* you might bear with me in a little nonsense; but indeed, do bear with me. For I am jealous over you with *the* jealousy of God because I have espoused you to one husband... [which you can now be espoused to. When you are engaged, that is a commitment to marry, which cannot be broken.] ...so that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ” (vs 1-2).

Let’s finish the rest of Rom. 7 to show that God not only originated covenant law, He Himself lives by covenant law, obeys His own covenant law, and by the grace of God died to release Israel and Himself from the covenant to Israel, but notice, ***not the covenant to Abraham!***

Romans 7:3: “...but if the husband should die, she is free from the law *that bound her to the husband*, so that she is no longer an adulteress if she is married to another man.”

The Jews who do not accept Jesus Christ, is that not what they say? You can’t enter into another covenant because this is a strange religion. So, they even understand that part of it, but they don’t understand Christ.

Here’s the conclusion, v 4: “In the same way, my brethren, you also were made dead to the...law...” Protestants read that, ‘You don’t have to keep the Law anymore.’ It’s not talking about all the laws and commandments of God.

“...you also were made dead **to the marriage law...**” (v 4). Is that not what we’re talking about? Are we talking about the commandments and laws given at Mt. Sinai? *No!* We’re talking about the ***marriage covenant law!***

“...made dead **to the marriage law...** [Which one?] ...*of the Old Covenant...*” (v 4). That’s why I’ve inserted those words in italics to clarify it, to give it understanding as to what it really is saying.

“...by the body of Christ in order for you to be married to another, Who was raised from *the* dead, that we should bring forth fruit to God” (v 4). This is the conclusion of Rom. 6 about being conjoined into His death. Now we have a living covenant.

Let’s see that there are witnesses for the New Covenant. Let’s see what Jesus said here. He chose the apostles and disciples as *witnesses!* We will see what He did.

Luke 24:44: “And He said to them, ‘These *are* the words that I spoke to you when I was yet with you, that all *the* things which were written

concerning Me **in the Law of Moses** and **in the Prophets** and **in the Psalms** must be fulfilled.”

All of those *are witnesses*. How many are there? *Three!* Everything *shall be established* by two or three witnesses. We’ll see there are other witnesses. You break down those three—the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms—and you have a *multitude of witnesses*.

Verse 45: “Then **He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.**” That’s what was mentioned earlier, ***God has to open your mind to understand it!*** What will cause God to open someone’s mind to understand the Word of God? *That they want to love God and obey Him!* God will open your mind to understand it. But once He opens your mind to understand, then you have to follow through, because you can’t play hide-and-go-seek with God.

Verse 46: “And He said to them, ‘According as it is written, it was necessary for the Christ to suffer....’”

- for the sins of the world
- for healing
- for everything concerning the suffering of Christ
- for the release of the covenant to Israel

“...and to rise from *the* dead the third day” (v 46). That’s what Rom. 7 says that now you are free to marry Him Who has been raised from the dead.

Verse 47: “And in His name, repentance and remission of sins should be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. For you are witnesses of these things” (vs 47-48).

How many were the whole number of original witnesses? *Acts 1—120*—were gathered there; the primary ones were the twelve apostles.

Let’s just see something else, which will add to the witness, Acts 1:1 “The first account I indeed have written, O Theophilus, concerning all things that Jesus began both to do and to teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after giving command by *the* Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen; To whom also, by many infallible proofs...” (vs 1-3).

Every proof is ***a witness!*** The very fact that they saw Him raised from the dead showed that they were witnesses of His ministry, His life, His death, and His resurrection

“...He presented Himself alive after He had suffered, being seen by them for forty days...” (v 3). The forty days was not a trial for Jesus because He didn’t need to be tried any more, ***this was a trial for the apostles***, and remember it says there in the last

part of Matt. 28, that even when they met Him on the mountain, some did not believe.

“...and speaking the things concerning the Kingdom of God. And while *they* were assembled with *Him*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem but to ‘await the promise of the Father, which,’ He said, ‘you have heard of Me. For John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with *the* Holy Spirit after not many days.’ So then, when they were assembled together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord, will You restore the kingdom to Israel at this time?’” (vs 3-6).

What did He do? *He talked to them about the Kingdom of God, and the coming glories and everything during the forty days!* They wanted to know, ‘Hey, is it going to happen?’ So, here’s the first, you might say, big disappointment:

Verse 7: “And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know *the* times or *the* seasons, which the Father has placed in His own authority; But you yourselves shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you shall be My witnesses**... [this becomes an important fulfillment of the Word of God, and you have it in your hands] **...you shall be My witnesses**, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and **unto the ends of the earth**” (vs 76-8).

How is that done? *Through the printed Word of God today!* You have the written verification by the *witnesses*:

- who were chosen apostles
- who were with Jesus when He was in the flesh preaching the Gospel
- who saw Him crucified
- who saw Him after He was raised from the dead

Remember, when you come to the New Testament, ***only eight men wrote the New Testament!*** That was to ensure that there would be continuity in preaching and teaching, so it still is to the end of the earth today.

Let’s see something more about the *witness* that He gave them after He was resurrected. We have the original 120 who were in Solomon’s porch there at the temple on the Day of Pentecost. Then we have a greater number who saw Him after He was raised from the dead; quite different from the prophet Joseph Smith of the LDS. The only witness that was given were the gold plates. Remember that, if you’ve studied anything about the Mormons. But they can’t find them.

1-Corinthians 15:1: “Now I am declaring to you, brethren, the *same* gospel that I proclaimed to

you, which you also received, *and* in which you are now standing.”

Let’s understand that in other places Paul said that he taught the same thing in all the churches, so anyone who takes an Epistle of Paul and fights against another Epistle of Paul to say, ‘Well, he said it here, but he didn’t say it there,’ you’re barking up the wrong tree. You take both of them and you add them together, and combine it. That’s called the principle of addition.

That’s how you understand the Bible, ‘a little here, a little there.’ You put it together! The way the world wants to do it is the principle of subtraction. If, in their own mind, they don’t understand it they subtract it. That’s why they do away with the laws of God.

Verse 2: “By which you are also being saved, if you are holding fast *the* words that I proclaimed to you; otherwise you have believed in vain. For in the first place...” (vs 2-3). He says, ‘All right, now let’s go back to the beginning here and understand this.

“...I delivered to you what I also had received... [Who did he receive it from?, *from Christ* (Gal. 1)!]

“...that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures.... [that has to be Old and New Testament combined] ...And that He was buried; and that He was raised the third day, according to the Scriptures; and that He appeared to Cephas, *and* then to the twelve. Then He appeared to over five hundred brethren at one time...” (vs 3-6)—which was probably the assembly on the mount in Galilee where He told them to go. Five hundred *witnesses*, plus the twelve, plus Cephas, plus Paul, all saw it.

Now, if you add that all up together, which I’ve never done, divided by three, I wonder how many witnesses you come up with, based on the principle of two or three witnesses, many times over.

“...five hundred brethren at one time, of whom the greater part are alive until now, but some have fallen sleep” (v 6).

So, he’s saying, ‘Look, if you want to prove these things’—not actually saying—here’s the implication of it: ‘If you don’t believe me, I received it from Christ, and you don’t believe what some of the other apostles were teaching, why don’t you go down to Jerusalem and the area there, and why don’t you find some of these 500 brethren and ask them.’ That’s what Luke did when he wrote his Gospel.

Verse 7: “Next He appeared to James; then to all the apostles... [He appeared to them again]

...And last of all He appeared to me also, as one who was born of a miscarriage. For I am the least of the apostles, *and* am not fit *even* to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God” (vs 7-9). Here’s a good example. He always learned the lesson of what he did that was wrong against the Church, but he did not let that rule his life. Good example of what to do when you suffer some traumatic sin. Learn the lesson, but don’t let it rule your life.

Now let’s finish this section up with v 10: “But by *the* grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me has not been in vain; rather, I have labored more abundantly than all of them; however, *it was* not I, but the grace of God with me. Now then, whether I or they, so we preach, and so you have believed” (vs 10-11).

These are the ***chosen witnesses of God*** to bring the Gospel and preach the Gospel. So, having the witnesses is absolutely an imperative thing and ***God gave the witnesses!*** It’s recorded here for us. That’s why we have to understand originally written in the Greek and handed down, and they now know that the Greek text that we have today, the Byzantine text form is 99.8% the original—copies of the original.

That’s why the whole goal of translating the Old and New Testament for *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* was to present the Truth of God. Not political, not for a religion, not for a sect or denomination, but ***for giving the Truth of God*** so that people can have confidence in it that it is correct. Everyone is told, ‘As long as it’s accurately translated.’ Let me tell you this: ***all the essentials for salvation have always been accurately translated!*** Some of the things we are covering here, some of the deeper things of God, right now.

Let’s see one more *witness* that is absolutely vital. I think it’s essential now that we’ve gone through it. In the *Faithful Version* Bible, please read the footnote concerning the additional verse that has been added.

Remember Jesus said, ‘My testimony is true, because the Father also is witness.’ So, that’s *two witnesses, the Father and the Son*.

1-John 5:6: “This is He Who came by water and blood...” Was Jesus baptized? *Yes!* This could also refer to the water that came out when the spear was thrust into His side, but He shed His blood way before that beginning with when they started beating upon Him, so this has to refer to His baptism from this point of view: What did Jesus tell John the Baptist why He needed to be baptized? *To fulfill all righteousness!* And this was also part of the witness.

“...by water and blood—Jesus the Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that bears witness because **the Spirit is the Truth**” (vs 6-7).

Now, v 8 is key because we’re ***bearing witness***. That’s why when God sends His Spirit to you to begin to call you—and later you repent, are baptized, and received the Holy Spirit of God—the Holy Spirit is ***in*** you *to witness to you*, to give you conscience toward God. When you’re going astray, you will be convicted and repent and come back to God.

Verse 8: “For there are three that ***bear witness*** on the earth...” The verse that says, ‘bear witness in heaven’ is nonsense because there doesn’t need to be any witness in heaven, because God is true and the angels that are with Him are Holy angels and are true. There doesn’t have to be any witness up there. That’s one of the main reasons why that’s an insertion, so please read the footnote concerning it.

Verse 8: “For there are ***three that bear witness on the earth: the Spirit...*** [it comes from God] ...and ***the water...*** [referring to Jesus’ baptism, but that could also refer to our baptism] ...and ***the blood...***”—the shed blood of Christ, which is applied to us. So, the Spirit is given to us, and the water and the blood.

“...and ***these three witness unto the one Truth....*** [concerning Christ the Son of God] ...If we accept the witness of men, the witness of God is superior. For this is the witness of God, which He has witnessed concerning His Son” (vs 8-9). Those three:

- the Spirit
- the water
- the blood

All come from God! So this is an additional witness!

What is the sum of the witness concerning the covenant that God has given to us? ***The whole Bible!*** That’s the *complete witness!* Everything else are also witnesses that all fits into that. All of these are designed so that we can have faith, and confidence, and know that God is true and right, and cannot lie. His Word is true, and there is no lie in it. His calling is true, and He’s going to resurrect us from the dead.

So, we need to be faithful and serve God and do our part of the covenant that we may receive eternal life.

Let’s see here just a little bit more concerning witnesses. Isa. 44 is a prophecy

concerning us as the Church, and we ourselves are to be *witnesses*:

- in our life
- in our word
- in our conduct
- the way we think

—and all of that is part of *witnessing for Christ*. We live *in* the world, but we're not *of* the world, and therefore, we need to yield to God.

Israel was to be God's witness to the world. God's Word was to be given to Israel then to be given to the world.

Isaiah 44:6: "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer... [concerning Israel] ...even the LORD of hosts, 'I AM THE FIRST, AND I AM THE LAST...'"

That also refers to Rev. 1:8, 17 and Rev. 22:13. 'I AM the First, the Last, the Beginning, the Ending.' This is also a proof that the Lord God of the Old Testament was the One Who became Jesus Christ of the New Testament.

"...I AM THE FIRST, AND I AM THE LAST; and besides Me *there is* no God" (v 6). A lot of people say that there's only one God, but the Hebrew word for God is 'Elohim.'

Let's see what Jesus said concerning the Father, because a lot of people that it was the Father Who was the God of the Old Testament. We see another reason why Jesus came. So, if the Father was known—you also have the other Scripture in John 3 that says no one has seen God at any time, only the begotten Son. Well then, who did Moses see? There are a lot of Scriptures like that which back it up, which we have in the sermon series:

- *Who Was Jesus?*
- *Who is Jesus?*
- *Prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament*

Matthew 11:25: "At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to babes. Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing in Your sight *to do* this. All things were delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son personally chooses to reveal *Him*'" (vs 25-27).

Some people may have heard of the Father. There are some prophecies in the Old Testament that show that there is the Father, but the Father never dealt with the prophets, it was always Christ. That's why He says, 'I am the only God'—that is to

Israel—"you have known," Israel did not know the Father.

Isaiah 44:7: "And who, as I, shall call and shall declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people?...?" *Tell Me now!* He's speaking of idols and dumb gods and things like this. *Let's see what you can do!* That's a challenge!

"...And the things that are coming, and shall come, let them declare it to us" (v 7) He's talking to Israel, which is also a prophecy of us as spiritual Israel.

Verse 8: "Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time; and have declared *it*? So, you *are* My witnesses...." ***Anyone who knows and understands the Word of God is a form of witness of God and for God,*** though you're not a preacher. You don't have to be a teacher, but if someone asks you a question, then you can what is called 'witness to them.'

Some people misuse this and say, 'Well, we've got to witness to you.' No, you don't have to go force it down their throat, but if they ask a question, we're told to *always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is within us*. That's what it's talking about here.

"...Is there a God besides Me? Yea, *there is* no other Rock... [Christ is the Rock] ...I know not *one*.'.... [here's the whole point of it compared to God] ...Those who make a graven image *are* all of them vanity; and the things in which they delight shall not help..." (vs 8-9).

I saw a car pull up and here's this rosary hanging from the rear view mirror. They've got a little cross on it and there's a little Christ on it, and this is supposed to help them. But God says we're not to be superstitious like the heathen. If you trust God and believe in God, what do you need in the way of some kind of image to remind you of God? *You don't need anything!* So, this is what he's saying. They are their own witnesses. Compare the two: the true witnesses of God vs the witnesses of the idols and false gods.

"...and they *are* their own witnesses.... [What do they testify to?] ...They do not see nor know, that they... [the makers] ...may be ashamed. Who has formed a god, or melted a graven image that is profitable for anything?" (vs 9-10). *None of it!* What has it ever done?

Verse 11: "Behold, all his companions shall be ashamed; and the craftsmen... [the one who made it] ...they *are* of men. Let them all come together, let them stand up, they shall dread; they shall be ashamed together." Here's how they do it

and they don't even understand what they are doing, because:

- they reject the witness of God, *of His Word*
- they reject the witness of God, *of His creation, the heaven and the earth*
- they reject the witness of God, *that He gives them everything that they have*

There's nothing that we didn't receive from God and everything that He's created is what keeps us sustained physically:

- we have to breathe
- we have to eat
- we have water
- we have weather
- we sleep

Just like kids growing up. God has got it all pre-programmed in the infant at conception. When it comes time for the baby teeth to start coming through, they come through. When it comes time for the baby teeth to come out and permanent ones to come in, they come in. When it's time for them to begin developing as adults, and puberty, it happens automatically. ***It all comes from God!*** He gives you a mind to think and a mind that can also change and be reprogrammed. That's why there's repentance.

Now, speaking of the mind, just a little aside here to show you how great God has made it. We have two hemispheres in our mind, right and left hemisphere. There have been people who, because of tumors, have had to have half their brain taken out. They are not half-wits, as some people may suppose. But they can take, and with therapy and thought, they can train the left side of the brain, which normally controls the right side of the body and they can take that and train it to also control the left side of the body, because the brain is made to change continually regardless of age. We won't get into Alzheimer's disease or things like that. However, those are entirely man-made things.

Verse 12: "The black smith fashions an axe. He works in the coals, and forms it with hammers, and works it with the strength of his arms. Then, he is hungry, and his strength fails; he drinks no water, and is weak. The carpenter fashions wood, and stretches a line; he marks it out with a pencil; he shapes it with carving tools, and he marks it out with the compass..." (vs 12-13). *In other words, he does everything to design it!*

"...and makes it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man, to sit *in the house*. He cuts down cedars, and takes cypress and oak, which he makes of the trees of the forest strong for himself; he plants a tree, and the rain makes *it* grow.

Then it shall be for a man to burn; for he will take some of it and warm himself. Yea, he kindles *it* and bakes bread; yea, he makes a god and worships *it*; he makes it a graven image and falls down to *worship* it. He burns part of it in the fire; with part of it he eats flesh; he roasts a roast and is satisfied; yea, he warms *himself*, and says, 'Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire.' And *with* the rest of it he makes into a god, his graven image; he falls down to it and worships, and prays to it, and says, 'Deliver me! For you *are* my god!'" (vs 12-17).

So, this is *the witness against them*. What happens when that takes place?

Verse 18: "They know not nor understand; for **He has shut their eyes so that they cannot see; and their hearts so that they cannot understand.** And none thinks within his heart, nor *is there* knowledge nor understanding to say, 'I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals of it; I have roasted flesh and eaten; and shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?' He feeds on ashes; a deceived heart has turned him aside, so that he cannot deliver his soul. Neither does he say, '*Is this* not a falsehood in my right hand?'" (vs 18-20).

No, don't do it. So God says that He's the Witness, He made human beings, and God is the One Who has declared it! Let's come to the book of Acts. We already covered how the apostles were to be the *witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ*, His crucifixion, His death, and His resurrection. They healed a man; they raised him up and then we come to:

Acts 4:1 "Now as they were speaking to the people..." Calling them to repentance and showing him this man who had been lame all of his life, laying there at the Gate Beautiful. He was healed and was up dancing, and running, and shouting, and praising God and so forth.

"...the priests and *the* captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, being dismayed because they were teaching the people, and preaching through Jesus the resurrection from *the* dead" (vs 1-2)—which they're supposed to do, because *they are the witnesses!*

Verse 3: "And they arrested them and put *them* in the hold until the morning; for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the message believed, and the number of men was about five thousand. Now, it came to pass in the morning *that* their rulers and elders and scribes were assembled together in Jerusalem, and Annas, the high priest, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and as many as were of *the* high priest's lineage. And after placing them in the midst, they inquired,

‘By what power or in what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with *the* Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, if we are examined this day as to a good work *done to the* infirm man, by what *power* he has been cured, be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean, Whom you crucified...” (vs 3-10). *This is a pretty stinging witness to them!*

“...but Whom God has raised from the dead, by Him this *man* stands before you whole” (v 10). *Then he really witnessed to them the same words that Jesus gave to them:*

Verse 11: “This is the Stone that was set at naught by you, the builders, which has become the Head of *the* corner. And there is no salvation in any other, for neither is there another name under heaven which has been given among men, by which we must be saved.’ Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlettered and uninstructed men...” (vs 11-13).

Not the elite of their age. That’s what they would say of us. Where did you go to school? *Self-educated!* You went to this college, where is it now? *Well, it doesn’t exist!*

“...they were amazed; and they took note of them, that they had been with Jesus. Yet, seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they said nothing to oppose *them*.” (vs 13-14).

So, they decided what they were going to do, v 15: “But after commanding them to go outside the Sanhedrin, they conferred with one another, saying...” (vs 15-16). Here’s the politics; once a politician, always a politician, things never change:

“...‘What shall we do to these men? For a remarkable miracle has indeed come to pass through them *and is* manifest to all those living in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny *it*.... [What are you going to do?] ...But that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them with a *severe* threat not to speak any more to anyone in this name” (vs 15-17).

Now that’s pretty arrogant on their part, too, thinking that they had all the authority to do this.

Verse 18: “And after summoning them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered *and* said to them, ‘Whether it is right before God to listen to you rather than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak what we have seen and heard.’ And after further threatening them, they let them go, finding no means by which they might punish them, because of the people... [they were checking their polls] ...for all were glorifying God on account of what had been done” (vs 18-21). *They were out there*

preaching!

Acts 5:14: “And believers were added all the more to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women), insomuch *that the people were* bringing out the sick into the streets and putting *them* on beds and stretchers...” (vs 14-15).

When God decides He’s going to do something and be a witness; the apostles were to be a witness, but God was also being a witness to them because they claimed they knew the true God. Yet, they rejected Christ, they went against all of the witnesses of the prophets about the coming of Christ. So, now he’s putting them into a situation that is going to be even more untenable than the first episode.

So, they were “...bringing sick ones and those beset by unclean spirits; *and* they were all healed” (v 16).

You know what’s going to happen. People are going to come and all the Sadducees, the Pharisees and all of the religious leaders are going to be standing there with no one to teach.

Verse 17: “Then the high priest rose up, and all those with him, being of *the* sect of the Sadducees; *and* they were filled with anger. And they laid their hands on the apostles and put them in *the* public hold” (vs 17-18).

This time God had another miracle up His sleeve, v 19: “But during the night an angel of *the* Lord *came and* opened the doors of the prison; and after bringing them out, he said, ‘Go and stand in the temple, *and* speak to the people all the words of this life.’ And after hearing *that*, they entered into the temple at dawn and taught. Now, when the high priest and those with him came, they called together the Sanhedrin and all the elderhood of the sons of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison; and when they returned, they reported, saying, ‘We indeed found the prison locked with all security, and the keepers standing outside in front of the doors; but after opening *them*, we did not find anyone inside” (vs 19-23). *Surprise!*

Verse 24: “And when they heard these words, both the *high* priest and the captain of the temple, and the chief priests also, were utterly perplexed as to what this could lead to.”

They didn’t get the point, this was *a witness and warning from God* to them that He was going to change the system and destroy the temple because of their sins. But they wouldn’t give up; they wouldn’t listen.

Verse 25: “But a certain one came *and*

reported to them, saying, 'Behold, the men whom you put in the prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.' Then the captain went with the officers *and* brought them without violence, so that they might not be stoned; for they feared the people. And they brought them in *and* set *them* before the Sanhedrin. And the high priest asked them, saying, 'Did we not order you by a *direct* command not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, with *the* purpose of bringing this man's blood upon us.' But Peter and the apostles answered *and* said, 'We are obligated to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus Whom you killed *by* hanging *Him* on a tree. Him has God exalted by His right hand *to be* a Prince and Savior, to give repentance and remission of sins to Israel. And **we are His witnesses of these things...**' (vs 24-32).

So, we go back to where we were in Isaiah, that's a prophecy of this. 'You are my witnesses.'

"...as *is* also the Holy Spirit, which God has given to those who obey Him.' Now, when they heard *this*, they were cut *to the heart* and took counsel to put them to death" (vs 32-33).

But then the rest of the story, Gamaliel stood up and said, '***Now be careful what you're doing, because if this is of God you're not going to stop it. If it's not of God, it's not going to succeed, so back off.***' That was, I would have to say, inspired of God, so they backed off and let them alone. They had to release them, but they beat them before they released them. They had to have their last little thing to do.

- Acts 17
- Genesis 17, 22
- Psalm 91
- Genesis 2
- Isaiah 52, 54
- Romans 6
- Matthew 28
- Galatians 1
- Revelation 1:8, 17; 22:13
- John 3

Also referenced:

Books:

- *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* by Fred R. Coulter
- *God's Plan for Mankind Revealed in His Sabbath and Holy Days* by Fred R. Coulter
- *A Thousand Shall Fall* by Susi Hasel Mundy

Sermon Series:

- *Who Was Jesus?*
- *Who is Jesus?*
- *Prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament*

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Scriptural References:

- 1) Deuteronomy 17:1-12
- 2) Deuteronomy 30:10-20
- 3) Hebrews 6:13-20
- 4) Romans 7:1-3
- 5) 2-Corinthians 11:1-2
- 6) Romans 7:3-4
- 7) Luke 24:44-48
- 8) Acts 1:1-8
- 9) 1-Corinthians 15:1-11
- 10) 1-John 5:6-9
- 11) Isaiah 44:6
- 12) Matthew 11:25-27
- 13) Isaiah 44:7-20
- 14) Acts 4:1-21
- 15) Acts 5:14-33

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 15
- Deuteronomy 32, 28
- Exodus 24

Steps of Covenant Law V Life for Life, Name, Belts & Weapons, Death Walk and the Eternal Covenant

Fred R. Coulter

EXCHANGING OF GARMENTS

Spiritually speaking we will see that these things apply to us.

1-Samuel 18:1: “And it came to pass when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was joined with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as he did his own soul. And Saul took him that day and would not let him go home to his father’s house any more. And Jonathan and David made a covenant because he loved him as his own soul” (vs 1-3).

This is an example of how we are to love each other. The Church is called *The Tabernacle of David*, so we can get a good lesson out of this. Here’s what he did:

Verse 4: “And Jonathan stripped off the robe that *was* upon him and gave it to David, and his apparel, even to his sword and to his bow and to his girdle.”

- Why did they do that?
- What is the significance of that?

They exchanged it!

The exchanging of clothes means ***the exchanging of life!*** Has there been *spiritually* an exchanging of life? We can go back to Israel and see that there was an exchange of life.

In the first Passover, what did they do? *They sacrificed the Passover lamb and that was an exchange for the life of the firstborn! Life for life!*

When we come to the New Testament there is an *exchange of life*, ***Christ’s life***—which is Holy and righteous—***for our life!*** Also, there is an exchange of garments. Let’s look at *our* garments.

Isaiah 65:1: “‘I revealed Myself to those who asked not for Me... [a prophecy of the calling of the Gentiles] ...I am found by those who did not seek Me. I said, ‘Behold Me, behold Me,’ to a nation not called by My name.... [the Gentiles] ...I have spread out My hands all the day to a rebellious people who walk in the way that is not good, *even* after their own thoughts; a people who without ceasing provoke Me to My face; who sacrifice in gardens, and burn incense upon the bricks; *a people* who sit among the graves, and spend the night in the

tombs, who eat swine’s flesh, and broth of vile *things* in their vessels; who say, ‘Keep to yourself, do not come near me; for I am holier than you.’ These *are* a smoke in My nostrils, a fire that burns all the day. Behold, *it is* written before Me; I will not be silent, except I will repay; yea, I will repay into their bosom; your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together,’ says the LORD, ‘*they* that burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed Me upon the hills. And I will measure their former work into their bosom’” (vs 1-7). *Those are pretty awful clothes!*

Isaiah 64:6: “But we are all as the unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags. And we all fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And *there is* no one who calls upon Your name, who stirs up himself to take hold of You, for You have hidden Your face from us, and have consumed us away because of our iniquities” (vs 6-7).

Those are the garments that we have when God calls us. The way it is put in the New Testament:

Romans 3:23: “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Here is how Christ is exchanging the garments; Romans 5:8: “But God commends His own love to us because, when we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more, therefore, having been justified now by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (vs 8-9).

That’s how He does it, through the blood of Christ. Let’s see how that is true.

Revelation 7:14^[transcriber’s correction]—this applies to all of us: “Then I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘They are the ones who have come out of the Great Tribulation; and they have washed their robes, and have made **their robes white in the blood of the Lamb.**’”

Revelation 19:7: “‘Let us be glad and shout with joy; and let us give glory to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ And it was granted to her that she should be **clothed in fine linen, pure and bright; for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints**” (vs 7-8).

Exchange of garments! We have to make sure that once there is *the exchange of garments*—Christ’s righteousness for our righteousness; Christ’s clothing for our filthy rags—and make sure that we keep them that way.

Revelation 3:4: “You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, and they shall walk with Me in white because they are worthy.”

This tells us that since there are only a few names in Sardis that have not defiled their garments. There are many who did. Let’s see that there are some who take them off altogether. They are the Laodiceans; what does God say to them?

Verse 17: “For you say, ‘I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’; and you do not understand that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire so that you may be rich; and white garments so that **you may be clothed, and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed**; and to anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see” (vs 17-18).

That’s quite a thing and ***the exchange of garments means exchange of life!*** This is a complete exchange of life.

2-Corinthians 5:21: “For He made Him Who knew no sin *to be* sin for us...”

- He becomes the sin offering
- His death takes away the penalty of the second death for us

Exchange of life “...so that we might become *the* righteousness of God in Him” (v 21).

So great is this exchange that God actually imputes the righteousness of Christ to you. This becomes a very hard thing for some people to understand. Some misunderstand it and say that ‘if God imputes me the righteousness of Christ, then it doesn’t matter what I do. I can go sin and do anything because I’m counted righteous before God.’ ***NO! That is licentious grace! A false grace! Not true!***

The imputation of the righteousness of Christ to you is to inspire you that God loves you so much that ***He views you as you will be when you are resurrected!*** He is going to cover your life with His grace ***so that you will be able to attain to the righteousness of Christ that He is imputing to you.***

Romans 5:17: “For if by the offense of the one man death reigned... [Adam] ...by the one, how much more shall those who receive the abundance of grace and **the gift of righteousness** reign in life by

the One Jesus Christ.”

- yes, we are not to go sin, *absolutely correct*
- yes, we are not to take advantage of the grace of God, *absolutely true*
- yes, we have the law of sin and death in us, and we are going to sin, *absolutely true*

Upon repentance, God re-establishes us in His grace! That’s how God deals with us. Therefore, let’s learn something very, very important: ***If you forsake that, yes, you will go into the Lake of Fire!*** But if you do love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being, to have this gift of righteousness imputed to you, will inspire you to constantly desire:

- ***to obey God*** from your heart
- ***to love God*** from your heart

That’s what God wants! He knows you’re weak and have sin. He put the law of sin and death in you, it’s no mystery to Him.

When ministers come along and threaten you every Sabbath with loss of salvation, that’s not right either. That’s why Christ died, so that you don’t have to die. That’s why He imputes the righteousness to you.

Here is the ultimate concerning the exchange of life, meaning the garments. Let’s see how Christ did this.

Note sermon series:

- *Prophecies of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament*
- *Covenants of God*

Here is the whole goal in everything in exchanging life. We will see how God did it. When you read the Old Testament it talks about Elohim, meaning there were two: one Who became the Father and one Who became the Son. The One Who became the Son had to do this; let’s see how this exchange took place and what it is to do for us.

Philippians 2:1: “Now then, if *there be* any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of *the* Spirit, if any *deep* inner affections and compassions, fulfill my joy that you be of the same mind, having the same love, being joined together in soul, minding the one thing” (vs 1-2).

What did Jesus say that we are to seek first? ***The Kingdom of God!*** That’s what we are to be minding continuously.

Verse 3: “*Let nothing be* done through contention or vainglory...” I’m happy to see that we haven’t seen any of that. Isn’t it great when brethren can get together, love God and love each other. We

won't have any great displays of vanity and all this carnal stupidity going on in the name of God.

"...but in humility, each esteeming the others above himself" (v 3). How do you do that? *By saying that God called this person, God forgave this person and God gave the Holy Spirit to this person!* Then all the little carnal things will fall by the wayside. Sometimes a few carnal things have to be mentioned. Here we're talking about the spiritual things.

Verse 4: "Let each one look not *only* after his own things, but *let* each one also *consider* the things of others. Let this mind be in you..." (vs 4-5)—*which is the ultimate of the exchange!*

- What is He saying here? *Learn how to think as God thinks!*
- How do you do that? *With the Word of God!*

Everything in the Bible is what God thought of, and had inspired to be written down!

"...which was also in Christ Jesus" (v 5). There's a greater lesson here, which will help inspire us that we're going to keep our garments white, washed in the blood of Christ.

- we are not going to defile them
- we are not going to take them off as the Laodiceans
- we are not going to come to the wedding as guest dressed in bib-overalls

That's not to put down bib-overalls. If you run a dairy and milk cows you'd better wear them. But you're not going come to a wedding with your manure, rubber boots and bib-overalls with sour milk stained all over it with all the flies buzzing around your straw hat.

Notice what Christ did, which was absolutely the greatest thing that God can do for us. The one of Elohim who became the Son and was impregnated in the womb of the virgin Mary had to become a small pinprick of life, about the size of the end of your ballpoint pen.

What have you been asked of God to do that is so humbling that you refuse to do it? *Nothing!* If Christ did this—and *He did it*—because the children of Israel said when they heard the Ten Commandments, 'Don't let God speak with us.' *It's okay, I'm going to raise up a Prophet among your brethren like unto you, Moses!* It would be god manifested in the flesh; that's what He did.

Verse 6: "Who, although He existed in *the* form of God... [Greek means *existing as God*] ...did

not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself..." (vs 6-7). I tell you what, the God Who:

- made and created all the universe, everything that there is
- created mankind and everything that he is
- made after the image of God for Him to humble Himself and become the size of the point of ballpoint pen to become a human being

That's the greatest humility that there possibly can be. ***He divested Himself!***

"...and was made in *the* likeness of men, and took the form of a servant; and being found in *the* manner of man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even *the* death of *the* cross" (vs 7-8).

- Why did Christ do that?
- Could God have saved human beings some other way? *I suppose He could have, I don't know!*
- Why did God do that? *Because the same judgment that He gave to human beings for sinning, because 'the wages of sin is death'*

He took upon Himself in the exchange of His life so that His death would pay for yours! That's truly, truly awesome! Now you know why God hates religion! We're talking about eternal life!

Verse 9: "Therefore, God has also highly exalted Him and bestowed upon Him a name, which *is* above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *beings* in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord to *the* glory of God *the* Father" (vs 9-11).

They're all going to confess it whether they enter the Kingdom of God or they're burned in the Lake of Fire. The truth is that no human being on earth is going to escape the name of Jesus Christ. No human being on earth is going to escape their Creator, Redeemer and Savior! That's what the exchange of life means.

This gives us inspiration to go forward, v 12: "So then, my beloved, even **as you have always obeyed...**" That's why you're here; there are many not here because they no longer obey.

"...not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God Who works in you... [in this exchange of life] ...both to will... [He gives you the desire] ...and to do according to *His* good pleasure" (vs 12-13).

Not just keep His commandments, but keep them and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. The way that is done is that you love God the Father and Jesus Christ and each other. You live your life the way that God wants you to. God will be there with you through every trial, every difficulty, through everything. He promises in this exchange of life that **He will 'never, never leave you nor forsake you.'** *That's how faithful Christ is!*

The exchange of Garments means exchanging life for life! As we saw it was Christ's life for your life! Our life is buried in baptism with Christ and has to be a covenant death as well. This also means change of name.

All of us as human beings, because of our nature with 'the law of sin and death' and being sinful and all this sort of thing, the only salvation there is, **is through Christ!**

This is probably a repeat, but I want to cover it again, Romans 5:6: "For even when we were without strength, at the appointed time Christ died for *the* ungodly.... [then Paul makes a very important point]: ...For rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, although perhaps someone might have the courage even to die for a good man" (vs 6-7). *We can look down through history and see that that is true!*

Verse 8: "But God commends His own love to us because, when we were still sinners, **Christ died for us.**" *So, His life is given in exchange for our lives!*

He did so because He's the Creator. He gave into every one of us the human nature with 'the law of sin and death.' Therefore, only He can take that away. Only He can bring us the things that we need.

Let's see that in exchange of life for life, it is also an exchange so that we can change our human nature through the power of the Holy Spirit. God's work and action goes way beyond just dying for us as sinners. He gives something back for us in return.

2-Peter 1:1: Simon Peter a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained the same precious faith as ours by *the* righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ."

This righteousness means *to be put in right standing with God in heaven above!* It's the righteousness that comes from the Father and from Christ. As we have covered in Rom. 5, this is *a gift of righteousness!* You can't earn this. This is in addition to the righteousness of keeping the commandments of God.

This is the righteousness whereby God looks upon us in the same way that He looks upon Christ. You talk about an exchange! That's a total exchange!

Verse 2: "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in *the* knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, according as His Divine power has given to us all things **that pertain to life and Godliness**, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by *His own* glory and virtue" (vs 2-3).

Notice what our calling really is. It's so easy to get stuck down in the mundane things that happen day-by-day and the problems of living and overcoming and facing our own human nature. As Paul says that he 'does things that he doesn't want to do.' We have to face that reality that we need to look upon the fact that **He's called us to glory and virtue!** That's why you always need to focus on Christ.

Whenever a problem comes, handle the problem the best way you can. Don't get bogged down in the problem, and don't get so involved in the problem that you get your mind off of the fact that God has called us to glory and to virtue.

What happens in that is that in some ways, some people may view that as hypocrisy, but it's not. That's the way that God has given us to overcome human nature. That's why lots of times when we pray about these things, the first thing we're confronted with is a trial. That is going to give us the exercise to see where we have done wrong, and to give us the resolve to really repent and go forward and to claim these promises that we are given.

Verse 4: "Through which He has given to us the greatest and *most* precious promises, **that through these you may become partakers of the Divine nature...** [that is a complete exchange of life] ...having escaped the corruption *that is in the* world through lust." Then Peter gives the steps on how to overcome. {note sermon series: *Epistles of 1st & 2nd Peter*}

Let's understand that this has been done because *we've been purchased with a price.* Christ was purchased with 30 pieces of silver, which is the price of a dead slave. So, even in the flesh Christ did not exalt Himself.

1-Corinthians 6:19: "WHAT! Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit..." I believe the difference in Holy Ghost (KJV) and Holy Spirit in translations that it was *the opinion* of the committees that had certain books in formulating the *King James Bible* that those who

believed that ‘pnuma’—meaning spirit meant ghost, and they didn’t look upon it as we do today as an evil thing. But it should be *Holy Spirit!* The same way with love (‘agape’) in 1-Cor. 13 being translated as *charity*. Everywhere else it is translated *love* and even William Tyndale translated it *love*. It was that committee that had charge of 1-Cor. that decided to change it to *charity*, which is a Latin word and I’m sure that there were those on the committee that preferred the Latin over the Greek, even though it was translated from the Greek.

“...a temple of the Holy Spirit which you have *within you* from God, and you are not your own?.... [your life has been exchanged] ...**For you were bought with a price....**” (vs 19-20).

You were bought with a greater price than Christ was bought with; He was bought for 30 pieces of silver, which is the price of a dead slave, who would have been accidentally killed in doing work or whatever. ***You were bought with the price of the death of God Who came in the flesh!***

“...Therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (v 20).

1-Corinthians 7:23: “**For you were bought with a price.** Do not become slaves of man.” In other words, don’t be selling yourself out as an indentured servant or whatever. You have to serve God.

If you’re called in a situation where you are a slave, and if you can be freed, go ahead and do that. But if you’re freed don’t become a slave again. There is a parallel in that *we have been slaves to sin*, and since we’re bought with a price, *we are not become slaves to sin again!*

Here is the ultimate of our standing before God and having had our lives put under the blood of Christ, and our lives exchanged.

Galatians 2:17[transcriber’s correction]: “Now then, if we are seeking to be justified in Christ, *and* we ourselves are found to be sinners, *is* Christ then the minister of sin? MAY IT NEVER BE!”

That’s what Rom. 7 explains. Christ does not endorse any sin. This is what Paul is saying in response to Peter separating himself and following Judaism. Paul is telling him that Christ is not behind this move to Judaism. ***It is sin and Christ is not the minister of sin!***

Verse 18: “For if I build again those things that I destroyed...” What did Paul destroy? *He talks about his gain in Judaism* (Gal. 1). Or we could whatever in our lives.

“...I am making myself a transgressor. For I, through law, died to *works of law*...” (vs 18-19). This has to do with the laws of Judaism and that through the Laws of God you are dead to sin, because ‘the wages of sin is death.’

“...in order that I may live to God.... [that’s where our whole focus is now] ...I have been crucified with Christ, yet, I live. *Indeed*, it is no longer I... [Greek: ‘ego’—he’s not living for himself] ...but Christ lives in me. For *the life* that I am now living in *the flesh*, I live by faith—that *very faith* of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me” (vs 19-20).

There’s the exchange of life! We need to have Christ living in us, and that’s the whole purpose of growing in grace and knowledge and increasing in God’s Spirit to have Christ live in us.

Galatians 4:19: “My little children, for whom I am again laboring in pain until Christ has been formed in you... [which shows that it’s a process, and a process that must continue to do] ...I desire to be with you now, and to change my voice, because I am at a loss concerning you” (vs 19-20)—because they were going back and following Judaism.

Colossians 1:26: “*Even* the mystery that has been hidden from ages and from generations, but has now been revealed to His saints; to whom **God did will to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**” (vs 26-27).

We know that’s an earnest of the Holy Spirit that is in us. ***This is how Christ exchanges life for life!***

CHANGE OF NAME

Did not Christ give change of name to some of the apostles? *Yes, He did!* There’s also going to be a *spiritual* change of name.

Revelation 2:17: “The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes I will give *the right* to eat of the hidden manna; and I will give him a white stone, and on the stone **a new name written**, which no one knows except the one who receives it.”

With the exchange of life there comes the change of name! You can look at everyone that God has dealt with.

- Abram to Abraham
- Sari to Sarah
- God named Isaac
- Jacob to Israel—prevailer with God

Revelation 3:12: “The one who overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall not go out anymore; and **I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem**, which will come down out of heaven from My God... [a new address] ...and **I will write upon him My new name**.”

There we go, we’re going to have three parts to our name. Most of us have three parts to our name today, although in some societies they have many names showing some of the genealogies going way back.

This shows that if you’re going to be a pillar, that means someone who is strong spiritually in the Lord ‘in the temple of My God.’ The only way you’re going to dwell in the temple of God is if you are a spirit being. There isn’t going to be any other way.

EXCHANGE OF BELTS

Sometimes they’re called girdles because they’re thick. You’ve seen wrestlers or boxers and they get a championship belt, which is a big belt. I don’t know if it was necessarily that big, but it wasn’t the little one-inch belt that many are accustomed to today. It had to be big enough and strong enough to hold the weapon that you had on your side. So, it had to be quite a substantial belt.

1-Samuel 18:1: “And it came to pass when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was joined with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as he did his own soul. And Saul took him that day and would not let him [David] go home to his father’s house any more. And Jonathan and David made a covenant because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped off the robe that was upon him and gave it to David, and his apparel, even to his sword and to his bow and to his **girdle**” (vs 1-4)—*his belt!*

The weapon is also an exchange which signifies something very important. Exchanging the belts means that ***you are giving your strength to that individual; you’re going to help him!*** You will do all that in your strength and power to serve him and help him. Likewise back to us! We see a lot of this in the Psalms.

The exchange of belts is that you exchange strength! You give your strength to the other person, and he give his strength to you so that together you form a real bond.

Psalms 21:7: “For the king trusts in the LORD and in the mercy of the Most High; he shall not be moved. Your hand shall find all Your

enemies; Your right hand shall find those who hate You. You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; the LORD will swallow them up in His wrath, and the fire shall devour them” (vs 7-8).

That’s talking about the Lake of Fire ultimately, but what happened to the enemies of Christ in the Holocaust? *Right there!*

Verse 10: “Their offspring shall You destroy from the earth, and their descendants from among the sons of men; for they intended evil against You; they imagined a wicked thing which they are not able to perform, for You shall make them turn their back...” (vs 10-12).

This is talking about the crucifixion of Christ. They did it, but they were not able to perform. Why? *Because He was resurrected!* If you do something and it’s nullified, then it’s as if you never did it if He’s raised from the dead.

“...You shall aim Your arrows upon Your strings against their faces. Be exalted, O LORD, **in Your strength**; so we will sing and praise Your power” (vs 12-13).

That’s what we need to do because we are weak, everyone of us! ***We need the strength of God!*** How many battles have we tried to fight and overcome on our own only to fail?

Psalms 18:1: “I love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my Rock, and my Fortress, and my Deliverer; my God, my Rock in Whom I take refuge; He is my shield... [‘buckler’ (KJV) referring to belt] and the horn of my salvation, my high tower” (vs 1-2). ***The Lord is the One Who gives us strength!***

Psalms 19:14: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, **my Rock and my Redeemer**.”

This also tells us about the heart of David and how he had his faith and love to God in the way that he always looked to God for his strength.

Psalms 144:1: “Blessed is the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.”

We’re going to see that there’s a spiritual battle that we are in, and our weapons are a little different than David had when they had battles with swords, spears for the literal battles that they were in. But his spiritual battle was exactly the same as ours.

Verse 2: “He is my loving kindness and **my**

fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and He in Whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me.” David continually looked to God.

Psalm 118:5: “I called upon the LORD in distress... [that’s where your strength is] ...the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (vs 5-6).

It says in Rev. 21 that the ‘fearful and unbelieving have their part in the Lake of Fire. These are those who are afraid to stand up for God, who are afraid of the things that they will go through. This means they will shrink back and not do what they need to do.

Verse 7: “The LORD is for me as my Helper; therefore, I will look in triumph upon those who hate me.” *We pray for God’s will to be upon them!*

Verse 8: “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.... [because God’s strength is more] ...It is better to trust in the LORD than to trust in princes” (vs 8-9). We can look at the political scene and understand why that is so.

Verse 10: “All the nations surround Me... [talking about Christ] ...but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them. They surround Me; yea, they surround me, but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them. They surround Me like bees; they are extinguished like the fire of thorns, for in the name of the LORD I will cut them off” (vs 10-12).

{note Rev. 19 where Christ comes in judgment and in righteousness He makes war}

Verse 13: “You... [the enemy] ...have thrust hard at me so that I might fall, but the LORD helped me. **The LORD is my strength** and song, and **He has become my salvation**. The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous; the right hand of the LORD does mighty things. The right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly. I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the LORD. The LORD has sorely chastened me, but He has not given me over to death (vs 13-18).

I think that’s exactly what we’re dealing with in our lives. I don’t know what’s going to come down the road in the future. When we read some of these prophecies, some people get very afraid. There are awesome things that are going to happen, and it’s going to be a difficult thing to live through these things. We’ve never lived in a time where someone marches up to the door and says that you’re under

arrest. But that day may very well come!

If we shrink back and are afraid and deny Christ in those things, then we’re going to be in great trouble. You may be like Peter who denied Christ three times, but ultimately you’re not going to be able to avoid God. It just isn’t going to happen! ***That’s why it’s important that we understand that Christ is our strength!***

Psa. 22 is a whole prophecy of the thoughts and words of Christ while He was on the cross when He had no more physical strength left, and He knew that He was going to die.

Psalm 22:19: “But You, O LORD, be not far from Me; O My strength, hasten to help Me! Deliver My soul from the sword... [which He did] ...My precious *life* from the power of the dog” (vs 19-20).

So, He did! Right there at that particular time, we have it very, very clear how Christ thought. He gave up all of His strength. What did He tell Pilate when Pilate said, ‘Now tell me, are you a king?’ *He said, ‘You have said it! If My kingdom were of this world then would My servants fight! Don’t you think that upon My word that I could call upon God and He would send 12 legions of angels!’*

In order to strengthen us, He gave up all of His strength. Carry that back further and what does He have to give up when Christ humbled Himself to become a human being to give up all the strength of being the strength of God? *It’s an amazing thing!*

Psalm 27:1: “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Christ is there! Remember that He said that when the difficult times come God would help us with strength (Dan. 11). He helps us with a ‘little help’ meaning that that little bit of help is an awful lot for us.

Verse 2: “When the wicked, my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid; though war should rise against me, even then I will be confident. One thing I have desired from the LORD, that I will seek after...” (vs 2-4).

Notice how He ***kept His mind on the goal always!*** Not on the problem! Notice how He looked on the problems. You would have to say that these are problems! “When the wicked, my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh...” that’s a problem!

Rev. 19—what’s going to happen to all of those gathered at the Battle of Armageddon against

Christ? What's going to happen to their flesh? *It's going to fall right off their bones!*

Verse 3: "Though an army should encamp against me... [that's a lot] ...my heart shall not be afraid; though war should rise against me, even then I will be confident."

If God is for you, nothing can be against you! Not even our own sins and weaknesses; of course, that's based upon our need to repent.

Verse 4: "One thing I have desired from the LORD, that I will seek after... [He kept His mind on the goal] ...**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.**" *That's our goal!*

Verse 5: "For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion, in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies round about me; therefore, I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy in His tabernacle. I will sing; yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD. Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice; and be gracious unto me and answer me. When You said, '**Seek My face,**' my heart said to You, '**Your face, O LORD, will I seek**.'" (vs 5-8)—whenever you have any of these things that take place.

When it's God's desire to protect you, will He protect you? When it comes time that you be a witness in whatever form, howbeit that you be martyred, then God is not going to protect you. If and when that day ever comes, and we don't know when it's going to come, then ***we have to have the strength now and continue relying on the strength of God!***

Notice what He will do if He protects us, and I think we will have many situations—not quite as bad as this—but you talk some of those who have survived different wars and some of the miraculous things that happened to them.

It could only be that God protected them, that only God sent His angels to watch over them, whether they're converted or not. Does God watch over people in the world who are not converted? *Yes!* The world itself is run and governed by angels, both righteous angels and evil angels (demons).

Note sermon series: *Hebrews*. What the book of Hebrews points out is that none of the angels are equivalent to Christ the Son of God.

So, yes, there are battles going on, just like when Daniel was praying, when Gabriel was sent. Gabriel said, 'I was delayed 21 days because I was

fighting the prince of Persia.' There are battles going on, because the forces of evil want to accomplish their goals. In the meantime here's what God will do for us:

Psalm 91:1: "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." ***Right now we're protected and hidden!***

Verse 2: "I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Whom I will trust.' Surely He will deliver you from the fowler's trap and from the destroying pestilence" (vs 2-3).

Stop and think about all the ravaging diseases that have been going on in the world. I don't know any of the people of God that have been affected by them. I'm not just talking about those whom I personally know. What about some of these viruses that will just eat off the flesh? Or the Ebola bacteria that they have in Africa? ***God has protected us as a nation!*** I think the only reason is because from America is the only place in the world that the Gospel is really being preached in whatever form: *in sincerity or in contention!* You might find a few in Europe, but you'll find out that the vast majority of preaching is here in the United States! *That's why God has protected us from the evil!*

Verse 4: "He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge. His Truth shall be your shield and buckler." Those are the weapons that we have! We have weapons to fight with.

Verse 5: "You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flies by day, nor for the plague that walks in darkness, nor for the destruction laying waste at noonday" (vs 5-6). *These things can happen all around you!*

Verse 7: "A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand; it *shall not come near you.*" *Those are pretty strong words!*

God only knows how much He has spared us from things. Every one of us could probably tell a story or two of what happened when we avoided certain disasters and didn't know it until later on.

Verse 8: "Only with your eyes you shall behold and see the recompense of the wicked.... [God is going to take care of it] Because you have made the LORD, Who is my refuge, even the Most High, your habitation, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling, for He shall give His angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways" (vs 8-11).

Remember that Satan quoted that to Christ

to see if He could trap Christ into sinning against God. The angels' job for us—who are heirs of salvation—is to watch over and protect us. We are not under their administration. The world is! It is under the administration of angels.

We are under the direct administration of God the Father and Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. That is the highest, truest form of government. If Christ be in you and lead you, and you follow the laws and commandments of God and love God, then that is the highest and truest form of government.

Hebrews 1:13: But unto which of the angels did He ever say, **'Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet'**?.... [never said it to any angel anywhere] ...Are they not all ministering spirits, being sent forth to minister to those... [by watching over and protecting them] ...who are about to inherit salvation?" (vs 13-14).

Hebrews 2:1: "For this reason, it is imperative that we give much greater attention to the things, *which* we have heard, lest at any time we should slip away... [not the things that you've heard] ...For if the word spoken by angels was *enforced* without fail, and every transgression and disobedience received just recompense, how shall we escape, *if we* have neglected so great a salvation; which was first received when it was spoken by the Lord, *and* was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*" (vs 1-3). *This means guaranteed by their very lives!*

Verse 4: "God also bearing witness with *them* by both signs and wonders, and various miracles and gifts of *the* Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"

(go to the next track)

Verse 5: "For *it is* not to *the* angels *that* He has placed in subjection the world that is to come, of which we are speaking" (vs 4-5).

We're in an entirely different category than in the world! The angels of God watch over and protect us! ***But our contact with God is direct with His Spirit through:***

- prayer
- His Word
- meditation
- living our lives

The world is not! They do not have that! It's an entirely different situation for them.

This is a very interesting situation here with Paul, he says; 2-Corinthians 12:7: "But in order that

I might not be exalted by the abundance of the revelations... [the third heaven that he saw in vision] ...*there* was given to me a thorn in the flesh an angel... [Greek: 'angelos'] ...of Satan to buffet me, so that I might not be exalted." *Sometimes that will happen, too.*

Verse 8: "I besought the Lord three times for this, that it might depart from me; but He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you...'" (vs 8-9).

The reason this happened was so that Paul would always look to God. That's why when he comes to the end of his ministry, when he's writing the book of Ephesians in prison, he says that he's 'less than the least of all the saints.' He understood, and this is a hard lesson for us to learn, and we don't want to have to go through this kind of experience that Paul went through to learn it. I don't and know that none of us do.

Verse 9: "But He said to me, **'My grace is sufficient for you for My power is made perfect in weakness.'**...." that's why God has called us the way that He has. He's called the weak of the world (1-Cor. 1).

"...Therefore, most gladly will I boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ may dwell in me" (v 9). Some people might be angry if they would go through these things. Some people might say, 'Lord, why do you do this to me?' But notice what Paul said:

Verse 10: "For this reason, **I take pleasure in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ;** for when I am weak, **then I am strong**"—*in the Lord!* He gives us His strength!

Matthew 14:23: "And after dismissing the multitude, He went up into the mountain apart to pray; and when evening came, He was there alone. But the ship was now in *the* middle of the sea, being tossed by the waves, because the wind was contrary. Now in *the* fourth watch of the night... [approximately 3-6 a.m.] ...Jesus went to them walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled and said 'It is an **apparition!**' [spirit] ...And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Be of good courage; *it is I. Do not be afraid.*' Then Peter answered Him *and* said, 'Lord, if it is You, bid me to come to You upon the waters.'" (vs 23-28).

Remember, this is the one who denied Christ, showing the extremes in his personality. Peter was very strong on the one hand, and very weak on the other hand. I think this also epitomizes it here.

Verse 29: “And He said, ‘Come.’ And after climbing down from the ship, Peter walked upon the waters to go to Jesus.” I’ve often wondered what Peter thought at that moment. What was it like actually walking on the water? Don’t think about it, just do it!

Verse 30: “But when he saw *how* strong the wind *was*, he became afraid; and *as he* was beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, ‘Lord, save me!’”

This shows us that ***our only strength, faith and hope is in Christ!*** Why? *Because life is just like a bunch of water!*

Verse 31: “And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, ‘O you of little faith, ***why did you doubt?***’”

Stop and think about that! I tell you, that makes our faith so lacking when you really comprehend it. That’s why we need to grow in grace and knowledge. That’s why I think the way we grow in strength is to acknowledge our weaknesses and to admit them, confess them, and repent of them. ***To look to God for His strength!***

Verse 32: “Now, when they went into the ship, the wind ceased. And those in the ship came and worshiped Him, saying...” (vs 32-33).

You can only worship God! Was Christ not manifest in the flesh? *Yes!* In a storm you can’t see anything! It talks in the Bible about shipwrecks. When a ship is wrecked, it’s shipwrecked, it’s lost!

I crossed the Pacific Ocean coming back from Korea in a ship and there was one of the Gulf of Alaska storms, and the ship was over just about 30-degrees, not 45 because that would be halfway down, but it was between 20 and 30 degrees and everything was all at an angle. We would go out and stand in the doorways (we could not go on the deck) and look out and you would see those waves and wind, I don’t think really down deep inside that there’s ever a seaman who does not believe in God.

Then there’s a move called *The Perfect Storm*. The moral of the story with the perfect storm is that ***you can’t fight against the forces of God!*** I haven’t seen it, but from what I understand they came up against this one wave that was so incredible that it turned everything upside down and they lost their lives. The whole thing that we’re taught here is that ***we need to trust in God in everything and have the faith that we need to have!***

EXCHANGE OF WEAPONS

This means that *spiritually* we cannot use

carnal weapons to fight wars. That’s basically the sum of it. It is Christ who will fight our battles and our enemies. This is what it has to be in our lives in everything that we come across. Here’s the lesson: the Egyptians were coming after them, they were afraid, they complained to Moses and God spoke to Moses and the Moses spoke to the people:

Exodus 14:13: “And Moses said to the people, ‘Fear not! Stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today, for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you shall never see them again! The LORD shall fight for you, **and you shall be still**’” (vs 13-14).

We will see that many of the battles we have to overcome, even our own spiritual battles are battles in the world with other people. We have to look to Christ to do the changing and do the fighting, and to cause things to work out ***His way!*** Sometimes you just can’t fight them, so we just have to wait for God to intervene for us. Sometimes God will help us in the battle, and we use what we have. What we have compared to the world is puny. That’s the whole story of David and Goliath

1-Sam. 16 is the anointing of David, 1-Sam. 17 is the fighting against Philistines and Goliath. Now you know why David said that ‘the Lord will fight for me, He is on my side.’

1-Samuel 17:4: “And a champion named Goliath came out of the Philistine’s camp; he was from Gath. His height *was* six cubits and a span.”

If a cubic is 1.5 feet that means that it would make him almost 11 feet tall. That’s taller than any man we know of that’s alive today on the earth.

Verse 5: “And a bronze helmet was upon his head, and he *was* armed with scaled armor. And the weight of the coat *was* five thousand shekels of bronze.... [180 lbs] ...And greaves of bronze *were* upon his legs, and a bronze javelin *slung* from his shoulders. And the staff of his spear *was* like a weaver’s beam. And his spear’s head *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron. And the shield bearer went in front of him” (vs 5-7). So, he had a little help there.

Verse 8: “And he stood and cried to the armies of Israel, and said to them, ‘Why have you come out to set *your* battle in order? *Am* I not a Philistine, and are you not servants to Saul? Choose a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your slaves. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our slaves and serve us.’ And the Philistine said, ‘I defy the armies of Israel this day. Give me a man, and we will fight together.’ And

Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, and they were dismayed and greatly afraid” (vs 8-11).

Verse 16: “And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.”

When it was time for David to take care of this, here is what David said:

Verse 26: “And David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, ‘What shall be done to the man who kills this Philistine and takes away this shame from Israel, for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?’ And the people answered him in this way, saying, ‘So shall it be done to the man who kills him.’” (vs 26-27).

When Eliab, David’s elder brother, heard this, he said, ‘You’re just a young whippersnapper out there in your own self-righteousness, your pride and haughtiness of heart.’ That’s how a carnal person will view the faith of God.

David explained to Saul what he would do, v 32: “And David said to Saul, ‘Let no man’s heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.’ And Saul said to David, ‘You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you *are but* a youth, and he is a man of war from his youth.’ And David said to Saul, ‘Your servant kept his father’s sheep, and there came a lion and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock. And I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* out of its mouth. And when it rose against me, I caught *it* by the beard, and struck it and killed it. Your servant killed both the lion and the bear. And this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God’” (vs 32-36).

Verse 37: “And David said, ‘The LORD who has delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.’ And Saul said to David, ‘Go, and may the LORD be with you.’”

Saul said that David needed protection so he had all this armor put on him. It didn’t fit and David said that he couldn’t do it that way.

Verse 40: “And he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones out of the brook for himself, and put them in a shepherd’s vessel, which he had, even in a bag. And his sling *was* in his hand. And he drew near the Philistine. And the Philistine came on and drew near David. And the man who bore the shield *was* before him. And the Philistine

looked and saw David, and disdained him, for he was *only* a youth, and ruddy with a handsome appearance” (vs 40-42).

We don’t know how tall David was, but from this account that we could say that he was probably not much more than 5.5-6-feet tall. So, he was half the size of this giant. When you look down on that...

Verse 43: “And the Philistine said to David, ‘Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks?’ And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, ‘Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.’ And David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied’” (vs 43-45).

That’s how we need to realize *that these are the weapons and the attitudes!*

Verse 46: “**The LORD will deliver you into my hand today, and I will strike you and take your head from you** and give the bodies of the army of the Philistines to the birds of the air today, and to the wild beasts of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.”

You know what happened; it was exactly as he said. David took his sling and slung the stone like a bullet into the forehead of the Philistine and killed him and took his own sword and cut off his head.

That’s the way we need to view the enemy. Who is our enemy? *Satan the devil!* What does it say in Gen. 1 that God/Christ is going to do to the head of the serpent? *He’s going to crush his head!* In other words, take it off. That’s how God is going to fight our battles for us.

Now, here is the fight that we are to fight; 1-Timothy 6:11: “But you, O man of God... [this is to us, put our name there] ...flee these things, and pursue righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, endurance *and* meekness. Fight the good fight of the faith! Take hold of eternal life to which you were also called, and did profess a good profession in the presence of many witnesses” (vs 11-12).

Let’s see what the battle is. Here’s how we are to do it personally. All the carnal weapons and all the means of this world—even all the psychological means of the world—by which they are able to be successful, does not give us *spiritual success!*

2-Corinthians 10:3: “For although we walk in *the flesh*, we do not war according to *the flesh*.

For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to *the* overthrowing of strongholds, casting down *vain* imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ” (vs 3-5).

That is the personal battle that goes on. There are the exterior battles that go on, which we find in Eph. 6, and this shows the weapons that we are to use, which are not the weapons and means of this world.

Ephesians 6:10: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in *the* Lord, and in the might of His strength.” ***This is the external spiritual battle that we are fighting!*** We have to fight the enemies of God. One of the things that we have to fight, one of the weapons that the enemy uses against us, one of the most clever and insidious weapons, which is not a frontal assault is *false doctrine! false teaching!*

That’s why we do so much to fight against false doctrine and teachings and explain the Truth vs false doctrine.

Verse 11: “Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities *and* against powers, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age, against **the spiritual power of wickedness in high places.**”

We see that taking place in our elections. You talk about the forces of good and evil in the world.

Verse 13: “Therefore, take up the whole armor of God so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having worked out all things, to stand. Stand, therefore, having your loins girded about with Truth... [our shield, breastplate, our belt] ...and wearing the breastplate of righteousness, and having your feet shod with *the* preparation of the Gospel of Peace. Besides all *these*, take up the shield of the faith, with which you will have the power to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one; and put on the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (vs 13-17).

- those are our weapons
- they’re all spiritual
- they all come from having the mind of Christ

This is how we are to fight!

THE DEATH WALK

We’ve all had the death walk. Gen. 15—

Who walked through the animals for the covenant sacrifice? *God did!* He walked that guaranteeing His death to fulfill the promises to Abraham. Likewise, Isaac also had a death journey.

Gen. 22—Isaac was taken by his father and God said to Abraham to offer his son. Then there was the substitute sacrifice of the ram that was caught in the thicket. But Isaac had to walk that death walk first.

Did not Christ have to walk *a death walk*? *Yes, He did! From His judgment to carry His cross, and walk out to Golgotha to be crucified!* That was His death walk.

We have a death walk, which is a little more mild than that. ***Our death walk is baptism!*** Just as Christ pledged His life through His death, ***you pledge your life through your death in the watery grave!*** That is your *death walk*.

Roman 6:3: “...as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism into the death... [conjoined with His death] ...so that just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be *in the likeness* of His resurrection.... [here is our death]: ...Knowing this that our old man was co-crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin might be destroyed, so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin... [that doesn’t mean we’re totally free of sin; Paul makes that clear in Rom. 7] ...because the one who has died *to sin* has been justified from sin” (vs 3-7).

That doesn’t mean you’re without sin. The translation ‘freed from sin’ (*KJV*) gives the indication that you are now without any sin. That is not true! You are justified from sin.

Verse 8: “Now, if we died together with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.” Then it goes on showing that we should yield ourselves unto righteousness and not unto sin. That is the *death walk!*

Our death walk occurs daily, where Christ said that ‘he who does not take up his cross and follow Me and crucify the flesh daily, cannot be My disciple.’ This is an ongoing thing, part of the covenant battle that we are in.

THE ETERNAL COVENANT

When all of this is fulfilled and done, then there is going to be another eternal covenant that

will be made. Every time that God does something new, there is a covenant.

Note sermon series: *Covenants of God*—going through all the covenants that God has made in the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. There are other covenant. For example: we are all living under the covenant that God made with Noah after the Flood. Everything that is in there follows along with this.

- Were there not sacrifices? *Yes!*
- Were there not words of the covenant? *Yes!*
- Was it not written down for us? *Yes!*
- Is it still in effect today for all living flesh on the earth—converted or not? *Yes!*

Here's what God is going to do when the new heavens and new earth take place. These things are part of that eternal covenant.

Revelation 21:1: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea."

Why? All will be resurrected and in the Kingdom of God, so therefore, being spirit beings they won't need anymore sea to modulate the temperature on earth.

Verse 2: "And I, John, saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice from heaven say, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men...'" (vs 2-3).

The beginning of *the eternal covenant* when it's put into effect with *men made perfect*. The Greek there is 'anthropos' that means human beings—applies to men and women.

"...and He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His people; and God Himself shall be with them *and be* their God. And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and *there* shall not be anymore death... [all of these are parts of the word of that covenant that will be made] ...or sorrow, or crying; neither shall *there* be any more pain, because the former things have passed away.' And He Who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' Then He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.' And He said to me, 'It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the one who thirsts, I will give freely of the fountain of the water of life. The one who overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son'" (vs 3-7).

That is the covenant that we are in, brethren. When God fulfills it in the Kingdom of God, after all His plan has been fulfilled, for what we know up to

that point in Scripture, *it is going to be an amazing thing, indeed!*

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

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- 1) Romans 5:6-8
- 2) 2 Peter 1:1-4
- 3) 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- 4) 1 Corinthians 7:23
- 5) Galatians 2:17-20
- 6) Galatians 4:19-20
- 7) Colossians 1:26
- 8) Revelation 2:17
- 9) Revelation 3:12
- 10) 1 Samuel 18:1-4
- 11) Psalm 21:7-13
- 12) Psalm 18:1-2
- 13) Psalm 19:14
- 14) Psalm 144:1-2
- 15) Psalm 118:5-18
- 16) Psalm 22:19-20
- 17) Psalm 27:1-8
- 18) Psalm 91:1-11
- 19) Hebrews 1:13-14
- 20) Hebrews 2:1-5
- 21) 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- 22) Matthew 14:23-33
- 23) Exodus 14:13-14
- 24) 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 16, 26-27, 32-37, 40-46
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- 26) 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- 27) Ephesians 6:10-17
- 28) Romans 6:3-8

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- 1 Corinthians 13
- Romans 7
- Galatians 1
- Revelation 19
- Daniel 11
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- 1-Samuel 16
- Genesis 1
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- *Epistles of 1st & 2nd Peter*
- *Hebrews*
- *Covenants of God*

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