

Covenant

We have been saying that the Covenant for the Forgiveness of Sins is established between God the Father and His Son. But we need to know where it is written that the Father entered into a covenant with His Son, and the terms and purpose of that covenant. Because if someone asks you, "If the New Covenant is established between the Father and Jesus, why did the Lord say in Jeremiah 31.31 that a time is coming when He will make a New Covenant with the houses of Israel and Judah, and it will not be like the covenant He made with Israel when He led them out of Egypt because they broke His covenant, though He was a Husband to them?"

How are you going to defend our knowledge by bringing it in line with the word of God? Because Jeremiah 31.31 clearly says that the Lord will make a New Covenant with Israel. This is when we really need to get into the details of the word of God by the understanding given by the Holy Spirit. Just as it is important to know that when Jesus taught His disciples to eat His flesh and drink His blood, He did not only apply the law in Leviticus 17.10-12, but He also applied God's command to Noah in Genesis 9.4-5 to fulfil God the Forgiver's purpose that the Lamb of God would be held responsible for the accounting of lifeblood shed by all men when they have and will eat His flesh and drink His blood, for lifeblood is shed by all since all men have sinned and fallen short of His glory, evident by our death.

So what is a covenant? A covenant is an agreement where one person, who has the power and authority, agrees to do something (a promise of blessing in God's case), if the other person abides by H/his ways. In commerce, they call this "bargaining power" because one side holds all the chips. A covenant is different from a treaty. A treaty is a negotiated agreement where the parties have a common goal, and they all do the same things to reach that goal. A treaty has a more level playing field.

What does it mean that the New Covenant was established between the Father and Jesus? It is very simple. It means that under this covenant, the Father said to Jesus, "If You will be sent to be the sin offering for all men, I will forgive the sins of all those who believe in Your Name, and they will not perish but have eternal life." What it does NOT mean is God saying to men **directly**, "I will forgive your sins if you believe in My Son." Although they appear to be the same, they are not because the relationship within the agreement is different. The Father's promise is bound to Jesus alone – to His Son and His actions. We are the third party in this covenant.

For example, if I said to you, "Go visit my friend today, and I will bring him a cake if he calls me after that." If you go in accordance with my wish, I am bound to bring a cake to my friend if he calls me because you have fulfilled your part. If you do not go, I am not bound by my word and your actions to bring a cake because you did not do what I asked. And if my friend does not call me after you went, you have done your part but my friend will not get the cake. So then, while my friend is involved and may receive the benefit of a cake if he calls, the agreement binds you and I, not my friend and I.

Note that this is different from the covenants God made with Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the nation of Israel, Phinehas, David and Solomon. These are covenants that are established directly between God and man; no middle man was involved. So where is it written that the Father established a covenant with Jesus?

- The Father said to Jesus, "You are My Son, today I have become Your Father. Ask of Me I will make the nations Your inheritance, the ends of the Earth Your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; You will dash them to pieces like pottery¹ ... He will call out to Me, 'You are My Father, My God, the Rock My Saviour'. I will also appoint Him My Firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the Earth. I will maintain My love to Him forever, and **My covenant with Him** will never fail. I will establish His line forever, His throne as long as the Heavens endure² ... I the Lord have called You in righteousness, I will take hold of Your hand and I will keep You, I will make you to **be a Covenant** for the people and to be a light for the Gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeons those who sit in darkness³ ... It is too small a thing for You to be My Servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make You a Light for the Gentiles that You may bring My salvation to the ends of the Earth⁴ ... The time is coming when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah ... This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time. I will put **My law** in their minds and write in on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be My people.

¹ Psalm 2.7-9

² Psalm 89.26-29

³ Isaiah 42.6-7

⁴ Isaiah 49.6

No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more.⁵"

- Jesus replied, "Here I am, I have come. It is written about Me in the scroll. I desire to do Your will O My God; **Your law** is within My heart⁶ ... Because of the covenant I made with You, sealed with blood, I will free Your prisoners from death in a waterless dungeon⁷ ... The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins.⁸"
- The Father confirmed with Jesus, "As for Me, this is **My covenant with them**. My Spirit, who is on You, and My words that I have put in Your mouth will not depart from Your mouth, or from the mouths of Your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever⁹ ... I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put My sanctuary among them **forever**. My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be My people. Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy, when My sanctuary is among them forever.¹⁰"
- And so to bring men into the New Covenant that the Father has established with His Son concerning the house of Israel and Judah, and to bring His salvation to the ends of the Earth, Jesus said to His disciples, "This is **My blood of the New Covenant** which is poured out for many¹¹ ... Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the New Covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins¹² ... Go into the world and preach the Good News to all Creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned¹³ ... Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them into the **Name** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you¹⁴ ... And you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth.¹⁵"

So whenever we preach the Gospel, and we say that the New Covenant is established between the Father and His Son, and we are beneficiaries of the covenant, understand that the Father did not establish the New Covenant directly with men. The Father entered into the Covenant for the Forgiveness of Sins with Jesus, and then established it with man through Jesus because and only because Jesus kept Their covenant and finished the work the Father sent Him to do. Our salvation through faith and repentance is a gift, and a flow-on effect from the Son's faithfulness to His Father. This is why we have no righteousness of our own.

And what does it mean for the Father to say in Isaiah 49.8 that He will make Jesus to **be a Covenant** for the people? What does it mean to be covenant? It means that in Jesus is held all the blessings of God for His people. And this is why it is imperative to remain in Jesus by eating His flesh and drinking His blood, and by having His words remain in us, and remaining in His love by obeying His commands. The Father established a New Covenant with His Son to give to Him the nations as His inheritance and the ends of the Earth as His possession. He made Jesus to be a Covenant for all men so that all the blessings of salvation promised by God are held in Jesus, since Jesus was the One who finished the Father's work in keeping faith with the covenant. So all those who believe, repent and drink His blood and eat His flesh are beneficiaries of the covenant by grace because they remain in Jesus who is blessed and rewarded by God.

For Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd. I know My sheep and My sheep know Me – just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father¹⁶ ... No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you really knew Me, you would know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him¹⁷ ... Remain in Me and I will remain in you ... neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me¹⁸ ... As the Father has loved Me so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in My

⁵ Jeremiah 31.31, 33-34

⁶ Psalm 40.7 - Note John 4.34 when Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of He who sent Me and to finish His work."

⁷ Zechariah 9.11 NLT

⁸ Isaiah 59.20

⁹ Isaiah 59.21

¹⁰ Ezekiel 37.26-28 - Note this ties in with Revelation 21.4

¹¹ Mark 14.24 and footnote a

¹² Matthew 26.27-28 and footnote b

¹³ Mark 16.15-16

¹⁴ Matthew 28.19-20

¹⁵ Acts 1.8

¹⁶ John 10.14-15

¹⁷ John 14.6-7

¹⁸ John 15.4

love just as I obeyed My Father's commands and remained in His love¹⁹ ... Behold I am coming soon! My reward is with Me and I will give to everyone according to what He has done.²⁰

But does it sound like the Father does not want to directly "deal with" men anymore? That He will only deal with us through Jesus? No, because Jesus said, "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about My Father. **In that day**, you will ask in My Name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God."²¹

Therefore, the Father has established a New Covenant with His Son, Jesus, and He made Jesus to be a Covenant for all men so that all blessings promised by God for men is held in Jesus alone, since Jesus was the only One who was sent and He finished the Father's work in keeping faith with the covenant. So all those who believe and repent, and eat His flesh and drink His blood are beneficiaries of the covenant by grace because they remain in Jesus who is blessed and rewarded by God, and Jesus is the only One through whom God's blessings flow because of Jesus' righteousness, not ours.

¹⁹ John 15.9-10

²⁰ Revelation 22.12

²¹ John 16.25-27