



The Permanence of Passion the commitment and consecration of covenant

ICBM - Intentionally Covenantal Brief Message

THE PERMANENCE OF PASSION – Irrevocable, Irrepressible, and Inescapable Love

The meaning of a covenant relationship and its assurances and aspirations

As we grow in our congregation life, we sometimes hear the word covenant. We are given to understand it as a promise of sorts between God and His people whether individually or corporately. Even after years of exposure, we continue to think of it merely as a promise, be it even from He Who is Faithful and True beyond measure, thereby offering its meaning or potency so much more room for interest and substance. God is all about covenant.

Understanding covenant is key to our promised inheritance. We must understand covenant as God intended, to the fullest extent we are able, if we are to experience life as God's people - to feel the Power of His Pervasive Presence and the full Potency of His Persistent Passion, Protection and Provision!

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a renewed covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah..." Jeremiah 31:31

"This cup which is poured out for you is the renewed covenant in My blood." Luke 22:20

The word translated as "new" in reference to the covenant of God from the original Hebrew text is actually "renewed." Between the ninth and tenth century AD, the Scriptures were affected with the introduction of vowel points, a demarcation addressing pronunciation and/or insertion of vowel sounds where none appears in the original text. This is a matter of significant interpretation and serves to alter the original text in many instances to a point of completely different meanings as is the case with the word "renewed" and "new." It would seem that the rabbinical system of religious belief found it easier to explain a "new" covenant than a "renewed" covenant. This seemed to resolve to some extent the difficulty their theological concepts created in explaining the mystery of the gospel revealed to Abraham and his descendants. For those who have come to recognize the Messiah as such, this difficulty is clearly resolved in the person of Yahusha (Jesus in Hebrew) and only proves to be in perfect harmony with the wonder of God's passion for His people and the limitless length and breadth to which He will operate to express His love to all who seek Him.

God is a covenant God and we are a covenant people. Hebrews are more commonly regarded as Jews however limiting that may be to the reality of God's true people, Israel, which includes both the Jews and the Gentiles, those Hebrews cast to all nations and those foreigners attaching themselves thereto, through grafting in. These are the only people on earth that are in covenant agreement with The King of the Universe, Creator of Heaven and Earth, and the only people He calls His own in the Scriptures.

"But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you." Romans 11:17-18

"As for the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the alien who sojourns with you, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the alien be before the Lord." Numbers 15:15

"Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Yahusha Ha Mashiach you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah" Ephesians 2:11-13

Covenant is commitment. We cannot walk with God without truly understanding the level of commitment He has toward us! And that is one huge point to understand. Our relationship to God is not based on our commitment to Him but rather on His commitment to us. Now before you get your hair in a knot or your feathers all ruffled, let us consider the wonder, amazement and glorious benevolence of our Heavenly Father who always takes the initiative where our relationship to Him is concerned. He is the King over all and Supreme Authority. He welcomes whom He welcomes. He invites whom He invites. And He opens the door to whoever is willing to knock and enter in, across His threshold, into His home.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"We love, because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Historically, we can visit Genesis chapter eight verse fifteen through chapter nine and verse seventeen with specific attention to chapter nine, verses nine and fifteen through sixteen.

Then God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you, birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by their families from the ark. Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done. "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

*And God blessed No ah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given. Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant. Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed," for in the image of God He made man. "As for you, be fruitful and multiply; populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it." Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, **"Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth."** God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will 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 never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."** And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth." Genesis 8:15-9:17*

God establishes a covenant with Noah and all living things on the earth. In verse 9 He states that He Himself will establish the covenant. He uses the personal pronoun to emphatically state that He initiates the covenant and redundantly points to Himself. Noah does not make the covenant. God does. In verse 15 God states that the rainbow is there to "remind" Himself of the covenant He has made. It is not there to remind Noah or the inhabitants of the earth to all future generations of His promise. It is there to remind God of His promise and He says it three consecutive times just in case we don't get it the first two times (Genesis 9:15,16,17). God carries the weight of the commitment!

Can we understand the magnitude of His passion for us; His love and devotion to His people? Let us examine another covenant activity of God as found in Genesis 15:9-21 when He makes a covenant with Abram (Abraham).

So He (God) said to him (Abram), "Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds. The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.

As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete." It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch, which passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite." Genesis 15:9-21

There is a sacrifice of blood and rather than have both parties walk through in covenant swearing the promise to be kept to each other or suffer the same consequence as the animal, God causes a sleep to overcome Abraham and then walks among the pieces of flesh with Himself, with Himself! (Genesis 15:17) What a perfect picture of substitutionary sacrifice.

Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. 1 John 2:2

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10

God makes the promise to keep the covenant with Himself in place of Abraham knowing we have not the power to do anything apart from Him.

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. John 15:5

God steps up to the plate, offers us, His people, a life of power, promise and provision and swears by Himself to do so in the event we should blow it along the way somehow. There is nothing I can do to earn it. God does it all. In understanding this we come to realize that our circumstances, however difficult, are not cast upon us by our Heavenly Father. Nor are crushing blows we experience in life necessarily a result of some inadequacy on our part to please God. God is absolutely whacko crazy out of His mind in love with us and that love is not based on what we do or fail to do. His covenant actions prove this.

Yahusha (Jesus in Hebrew) said, *"The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy. I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10) God is a giver. If it smells like stealing, killing and destroying, it is not God but the enemy of our souls who is at work in the free realm in which we presently live.

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

"Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Messiah and gave us the ministry of reconciliation" II Corinthians 5:18

"He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name." Psalm 111:9

Now be it understood that there is a response on our part to enflame our love and appreciation, praise and adoration, respect and reverence, which are engaged as a result. In knowing His initiation and passion for us, can there not be a similar reply in response? Do we not easily love those who love and care for us? Is there anything we would not do for those who sacrifice openly in our defense or for our benefit? I remember a dear brother driving me to a gravel parking lot after midnight in a torrential rainstorm to seek a lost lens to my eyeglasses that I considered I had dropped there earlier that day. This brother not only got out of bed, dressed and borrowed a car to do so, but also upon arrival instructed me to stay in the car while he knelt (on gravel) in four inches of water under a downpour to feel around in the dark until he found my lens. That, my friends is Yahusha-like love: sacrificial, unmerited and totally engaging. I became his best friend and who would not respond in like manner to such a display of selflessness and sacrifice in one's favor? Let's raise the roof with shouts of praise and thanksgiving for the power of covenant and the charge to share this wonder of God with all men and specifically each other! HalleluYah!

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself." II Timothy 2:13

BENEDICTION

We hope this teaching was a great blessing to you in better aligning your beliefs with that of the Scriptures. Our earnest prayer is that the Spirit of God will woo your heart even further into greater intimacy with Him, that you might come to know the fullness of faith as He desires for you to know and experience with great joy. Blessings & Shalom (Peace)!

