



SERMON NOTES

GLOBAL OUTREACH CHURCH

THE POWER OF COVENANTS OVERVIEW

The theology of covenant is one of the most important and powerful practices in both the Old and New Testaments. It's so important that both Testaments are named after the concept hence they are also called the Old Covenant and New Covenant respectively.

Ephesians 2:12: "that at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

In the text above, we are reminded that without covenant (New Covenant), all gentiles will not be a people and hopelessly alienated from the commonwealth of Israel.

DEFINITION:

Covenants are basically agreements between two or more entities or people. It can be between God and man/people or between two or more human beings.

TYPES OF COVENANT:

SUZERAIN COVENANT

The covenant between God and man or a sovereign and subjects.

An example is the covenant between God and Abraham or between God and Noah etc.

PARITY COVENANT

The covenant between two or more human beings.

An example is the covenant between David and Jonathan or the covenant between Joshua and the Gibeonites.

THREE COVENANTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF REDEMPTION

- I. Covenant of redemption
- II. Covenant of works
- III. Covenant of grace

Genesis 3:21 KJV: "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

John 1:29 KJV: "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Throughout redemptive history, God has demonstrated his love for man through blood covenants. The scripture above describes for us the first blood covenant that God made with man as HE slew an animal to cover the nakedness of man; this act points us to the concept of substitutionary atonement which is a major theme throughout sacred scripture culminating in CHRIST becoming "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the SIN of the world."

MAJOR COVENANTS IN THE BIBLE:

I. God's covenant with Noah (NOAHIC COVENANT)- RESTRAINT

Genesis 8:20-22

"And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

II. God's covenant with Abraham (ABRAHAMIC COVENANT)- RESTORE

Genesis 12:1-3 KJV

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

III. God's covenant with Moses/Israel (MOSAIC COVENANT)- REVEAL

Exodus 24 & Leviticus 26

IV. God's covenant with David (DAVIDIC COVENANT)- REIGN

2 Samuel 7:12-16 KJV

"And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: but my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever."

V. New Covenant (MESSIANIC COVENANT)- REGENERATE

Matthew 26:26-28 KJV

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

ALTARS AND COVENANTS:

Genesis 12:7

“And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.”

Exodus 24:4-8

“And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.”

An ALTAR is generally defined as a place of sacrifice or a meeting place with a deity or a place of prayer. Altars however, are also a place where covenants are cut or consummated with God as illustrated by the texts above.

In most pagan societies, the concept of Altars and Covenants is a pedestrian practice as covenants are made with the devil through animal sacrifices and covenant meals... See scripture below:

“They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, And ate the sacrifices of the dead.” Psalm 106:28 KJV

HOW GOD BRINGS A COVENANT ABOUT:

- I. Through a sacrifice
- II. He swears an oath
- III. He gives a statute or decree
- IV. He issues a command

The covenant promises of God are immutable, irrevocable and irreversible.