

# CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

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COVENANT COMMITMENT

36

SERIES



In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on God's covenant with mankind and the implications it has in our walk with him.

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# City of <sup>the</sup> Living God



*Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive” (Hebrews 9:15-17, ESV).*

The Old and New Testament Scriptures are based on the concept that God has made certain covenants with his people. Oftentimes we miss the whole picture of the Bible when we do not look at it with the understanding that it is all based upon covenants that God has made with man. There are seven covenants found within the Scriptures: a) The Adamic Covenant, b) The Noahic Covenant, c) The Abrahamic Covenant, d) The Palestinian Covenant, e) The Mosaic Covenant, f) The Davidic Covenant, and g) The New Covenant.

If we can read the Bible with this basic knowledge that this is a book about God’s covenants with mankind, then it opens a broad revelation how this impacts our lives. Even the title of the Old Testament and New Testament has the terminology of a covenant. The word “Testament” is derived from the Greek word, “diatheke” which means a covenant or testament.

# WHAT IS A COVENANT?

A covenant is a promise between two or more parties to perform certain actions. In the case of the seven covenants, they are an agreement between God and man. There are promises that God gives to his covenanted people and there are requirements that his people must keep to stay within his covenant. Understanding how they are structured really helps us view it in the proper lens of the Bible. There are five basic elements of the covenant that I want to address:

**Reminder of History** – God reminds his people of their life before his covenant and compares it to the present blessing of being part of the covenant people of God.

**Terms** -These are the terms and conditions, the formal requirements of the covenant. Some refer to this as the stipulations or requirements to keep the covenant.

**Blessings & Cursings** - is a declaration of fortune or consequences for obedience or disobedience to the terms of the covenant.

**Blood Sacrifice** – In every covenant that God made with man, there was a sacrifice that was made to establish the covenant. Usually, it was an animal sacrifice.

We can see how Jesus' crucifixion became our blood sacrifice in bringing us into the covenant people of God. It was the shedding of his blood that gave us the promise of eternal life. The phrase, "purchased with his blood" is covenantal language.

## **Acts 20:28**

*"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church [g]of God which He purchased with His own blood."*

In this study we will focus on the first two elements of the covenant and see its impact on us as New Testament believers that have promises, an inheritance, and requirements to live as God's covenant people.

# A REMINDER OF THEIR PAST

While the Israelites lived in slavery in Egypt, God gave them promises that he would deliver them and make them his people. He was basically telling them that they would be a people of covenant with promises.

## **Exodus 6:6-8**

*“Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the Lord.’”*

After they were a covenant people, God reminds his people of who they were without him. The people were without hope, without promises, under slavery, destitute, and in need of a Savior. He reminds Israel of their past in order for them to understand that they are not the same people they used to be. They are now blessed and have a great hope in God. Before they were hopeless and in despair.

## **Exodus 20:2**

*“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”*

## **Leviticus 26:13**

*“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.”*

The continual reminder of their past was so that they would not forget how he saved them and brought them into a covenant. This was to remind them that they are not to live like they used to. They are now a covenant people with promises.

# A REMINDER OF OUR PAST

The New Testament believer is under a new covenant that also has similar elements as the old covenant. In the New Covenant, God has saved us from a life of hopelessness and without promises. We were not the people of God and had no inheritance under Israel. We had no promises of eternal life. When Jesus came to us, he brought us out of darkness and despair. He gave us promises and an inheritance. The whole idea that he saved us shows us that we are part of a New Covenant.

## **Ephesians 2:11-13**

*“Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you 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. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”*

The Apostle further states that after being brought into the new covenant of God, he has changed us from being foreigners to now citizens of the House of God.

## **Ephesians 2:19**

*“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”*

There is this continual reminder of our past so that we would, not only appreciate what God has done, but recognize that we are a different people. We are now the covenant people of God. Notice the Apostle Paul reminds the New Testament believers of their past.

## 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

*“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you...**”*

He does not only remind them of their past, but he tells them of their present status as New Testament believers.

## 1 Corinthians 6:11

*“And such were some of you. **But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”*

Also, the Apostle Peter uses similar covenantal language when he reminds the believer of their present status in the church. Then he follows that with a reminder of their past. Notice how similar it sounds to the Apostle Paul’s words. It is because they understood the church as the covenant believers of God.

## 1 Peter 2:9-10

*“**But you are** a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **Once you were not a people**, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*

# A COVENANT COMMITMENT

The children of Israel and the New Testament believers both viewed themselves as a privileged people that did not merit God’s favor, but were blessed with great promises. They saw themselves as being set apart and favored among other people.



They understood that since they were the covenant people of God, there were requirements to continue within the covenant that was between them and God. To break the covenant, it meant to not obey the terms that God gave his believers.

However, under the New Covenant, God puts his Spirit within the believer to help him live an overcoming life. Sin no longer takes dominion over his life because the law is written on the inside of his heart. In other words, the Spirit gives him the power and discernment to do that which is right.

### **Hebrews 10:15-16**

*“But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.’”*

Interesting how the Apostle Peter introduces us to this concept that the New Covenant believer should act differently than before he was a believer. After he reminds us that we are a “chosen people,” he says:

### **1 Peter 2:11-12**

*“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”*

As the Covenant People of God, Jesus expects us to act differently. He expects a commitment to the New Testament principles that are found in Scripture. This covenant that we have with God, was enacted by the perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. That is where the New Covenant started. Jesus gave his all for us and requires that we give our all to him. We are bought with a price—with the price of his blood on Calvary. Are you committed to your new life in Jesus? Do you represent the Covenant People of God? Does the Spirit of God dwell in your life?

**For more Information**

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