

Yahweh, the Almighty God of Israel, is with us
"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet,
and shew my people their transgression,
and the house of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1

Yahweh's Law

Study Prayerfully & Study Carefully

Sacred Covenants

Reading:
Genesis 15 & Hebrews 8

1. Introduction

Covenant: The dictionary defines the word '**covenant**' as a formal agreement or contract drawn up under seal between two or more parties.

Covenanters: Adherents of the National Covenant of the Solemn League & Covenant in the 17th century in **Scotland** in support of Presbyterianism.

The Old Testament tells of several covenants the Holy One of Israel made with man. This Sabbath we will examine a few which are **everlasting**.

2. Between God and all Flesh

The first **everlasting covenant** recorded in Scripture tells of how the Almighty saved Noah and his family after destroying the earth by water.

Genesis 9: 8: *"And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,*
9: *And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;*
10: *And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.*
11: *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.***
12: *And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:*
13: *I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.*
14: *And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:*
15: *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.*
16: *And the bow 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.*
17: *And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth."*

This covenant means that no matter how devastating future floods may be, they will never again be world-wide. In addition to this fact we are introduced to the Almighty's '**grace**' in the saving of those who believe and trust in Him.

Genesis 6: 8: "***But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.***"

Grace is, in fact, the basis of all covenants between Yahweh and the believer. Grace is not a New Testament phenomena as so many Christians think. The Almighty's grace has existed as long as He has. **It is one of His characteristics.**

3. With Abraham & His Seed

The next **everlasting covenant** Yahweh made was with Abraham and his descendants, to give them the land of Canaan. This covenant was **confirmed with an oath!** That is why the land of Israel is called the **Promised Land.**

Genesis 15: 18: "*In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed, have I given this land, **from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.***"

Genesis 17: 7: "*And I will establish my covenant between me and thee (Abraham) and thy seed after thee in their generations for an **everlasting covenant**, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.*
8: *And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, **the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.***"

Genesis 26: 3: "*Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, (Isaac) and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the **oath** which I sware unto Abraham thy father.*"

This promise doesn't only include the physical descendants of Abraham, but also those who place their faith in **Abraham's Seed**, that is - **Yeshua the Messiah. (Jesus Christ)**

Galatians 3: 16: "*Now to Abraham and his **seed** were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to **thy seed, which is Christ.***"

Galatians 3: 29: "***And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***"

Shortly before Israel entered the Promised Land, Moses the servant of God reiterated this divine promise:

Deuteronomy 1: 6: "*The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount:*

7: Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and unto all the places nigh thereunto, in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south, and by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, unto the great river, the river Euphrates.

*8: Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and **possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.***"

The promise was repeated to Joshua and recorded again in the Psalms.

Joshua 1: 1: "*Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,*

2: Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

3: Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

*4: **From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.***"

Psalms 105: 7: "*He is the LORD our God: his judgments are in all the earth.*

*8: He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to **a thousand generations.***

9: Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his **oath** unto Isaac;
10: And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to **Israel for an everlasting covenant:**
11: Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance.”
For more information see **The Everlasting Covenant**.

4. Heir of the World

Incredible as it may seem the **Promised Land** of Canaan was simply a **small token**, of what the Almighty had in store for **Abraham** and his **Seed (Yeshua)**. The LORD'S promise went much further than the land stretching between the Mediterranean and the river Euphrates. The **'real promise'** encompassed the **whole world** and finally the **entire new universe!**

Here is proof of this astonishing fact!

Romans 4: 3: *“For what saith the Scripture? Abraham **believed** God, and **it** was counted unto him for righteousness...”*

13: *For the promise, that he should be the **HEIR OF THE WORLD**, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.”*

Notice that this promise is to those with **faith**. Indeed the true children of Abraham are the **children of faith**. This number will include all who put their faith in the **promised seed, Yeshua the Messiah**. The physical descendants of Abraham who do not have faith in Yahweh are, reckoned as the **'children of the devil.'** (John 8: 33-44) Whereas the true children of Abraham are those with faith in the Saviour.

Galatians 3: 29: *“**And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**”*

5. Everlasting Priesthood

Yahweh, the Almighty God of Israel also made an **everlasting covenant** concerning the Priesthood. It is a covenant which will find fulfilment in the millennia to come. It is made with a **special brand** of true believer; one who displays the kind of dedication and zeal for Yahweh's law which was exhibited by **Phinehas** the grandson of Aaron. The story tells of blatant, illicit sex - **open fornication and whoredom** - being committed in absolute defiance of divine law and before Moses, Aaron and the whole congregation of Israel! Here are the astonishing details.

Numbers 25: 1: *“And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to **commit whoredom** with the daughters of Moab.*

2: *And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.*

3: *And Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.*

4: *And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.*

5: *And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baal-peor.*

6: *And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and **in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel**, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.*

7: *And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;*

8: *And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.*

9: *And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.*

10: *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

11: *Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.*

12: *Wherefore say, **Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:***

13: *And he shall have it, and his seed after him, **even the covenant of an everlasting***

priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.”

Blatant, illicit sex is being committed in the same way in this generation. Sin is rampant - even in the churches! Who will speak out? Who dare speak out? **Homosexuality**, **Fornication** and **Adultery** are now commonplace and increasingly applauded. God is looking for warriors of Truth like Phinehas. **Do you have the courage to boldly speak out against sin?**

6. The Highway of Blessing

Ponder this question: What prompted the Most High to make these covenants? Why did He select Noah, Abraham, Moses and Phinehas for preferential treatment? The answer is: these great men demonstrated their faith in the Most High by **obeying His commandments**. They wanted to be like the Most High and to do His will. That's why the Almighty God made agreements with them.

Noah

2 Peter 2: 5: “And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a **preacher of righteousness**, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;”

Abraham

Genesis 26: 1: “And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.
2: And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:
3: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father;
4: And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;
5: **Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.**
6: And Isaac dwelt in Gerar:”

In these days **obedience** is frowned upon by millions of Christians, who incorrectly suppose that obedience is an obsolete requirement which is replaced by faith. Or that obedience displays a **lack of faith!** The very opposite is the case. Obedience is the outcome of living faith. **Obedience is faith in action.** Indeed, **without obedience faith is dead**; and **without faith, obedience is impossible.** (James Chapter 2) makes these points clear. Written out in full.

James 2:
1: “My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.
2: For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;
3: And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:
4: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?
5: Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?
6: But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?
7: Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?
8: If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:
9: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.
10: For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.
11: For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery,

yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.
 12: So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.
 13: For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.
 14: What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?
 15: If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,
 16: And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?
 17: Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
 18: Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.
 19: Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.
 20: But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?
 21: Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?
 22: Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?
 23: And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.
 24: Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.
 25: Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?
 26: For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is dead also.**”
 For further information see **Lesson 4 & Faith.**

7. The New Covenant

We hear a lot these days about the ‘**new covenant**’; about how the Most High, supposedly, found fault with His laws and instructed His Son to nail them to the cross! Have you ever wondered what the ‘**new covenant**’ is; and what its requirements are? Why is it called the ‘**new covenant**’? Who are the parties concerned? What’s new about it? Let us now find out. To begin with I will read the passages which tell of the ‘**new covenant**’

Jeremiah 31: 31: *“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:***
 32: *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:*
 33: *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.
 34: *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.”**

These thoughts are taken up by the writer of Hebrews where we find these words about the ‘**new covenant**’

Hebrews 8: 7: *“For if that **first covenant** had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.*
 8: *For **FINDING FAULT WITH THEM,** he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when **I will make a new covenant with the HOUSE OF ISRAEL and with the HOUSE OF JUDAH:***
 9: *Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.*
 10: *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:***
 11: *And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.”*

From these passages we learn the following facts:

- Both the Old and the New Covenants are between **Jehovah** and the **Houses of Israel and Judah**. In other words, **in both covenants the 'parties' are the same.**
- In both the Old and the New Covenant the **'same laws'** are involved; albeit in the New Covenant they are **NOT** written on stone tablets but on the true believer's mind and heart. I repeat, the **'same perfect laws'** are the basis of the New Covenant. One cannot improve on perfection anyway.
- Yahweh didn't find fault with His law, which He tells us is perfect (Psalm 19:7); but with His people - **"WITH THEM;"** that is, with the **'half-converted Israelites'** who didn't want to obey the Almighty's law in the first place.
- That when the new covenant is fully implemented, believers will not need instruction from each other, because everyone - from the youngest to the oldest - will know the LORD. This is not the case at the present time.(2011)
- The New Covenant is new in that it is made with a **'new type of Israelite,'** a truly converted individual whose heart and mind is receptive to Yahweh's law; the same perfect law which He gave to ancient Israel in the days of Moses.

I Repeat:

Both covenants are made between Jehovah and Israel.

In the New Covenant Yahweh's law is inscribed on the true believer's heart and mind.

There is no change in the law. The only change is the place where that law is written.

In the Old Covenant the the Almighty's law was written on tablets of stone.

In the New Covenant it is written on the true believer's mind and is reflected in obedience.

In the New Covenant the blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, cleanses the repentant sinner.

Though farm animals (lambs, rams, goats and bulls) are not used in the New Covenant, the law which requires a repentant sinner to approach God's throne with **'faith in the blood of a Lamb'** still applies. Only now, it is faith in the blood of **Yeshua the Lamb of God!** For further information see **A Voice In The Wilderness - Canada** booklet **Animal Sacrifices ... Are they Necessary?**

Strange as it may seem, the New Covenant is not yet fully implemented. We know this from the fact that believers - young and old - **still need instruction!** But when the New Covenant is fully operational then **"they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."**

8. Everlasting Signs

Everlasting covenants have everlasting **signatories** (parties to the covenant) and everlasting signatures or **signs**. These signatures or **signs** call to remembrance the covenant between the parties concerned. These **signs** are as enduring as the parties and the covenants themselves.

The Rainbow

The rainbow tells us that a total destruction of the earth by water will never happen again. As in Noah's day the Almighty will offer grace and mercy: and some - albeit a few - will believe and be saved. Every time you see a rainbow think of that fact and ask yourself: Am I like Noah or am I behaving like the vast majority who perished in the waters of the flood?

Genesis 9: 16: **"And the bow 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."**

The Sabbath

Having accepted **salvation by faith**, the next step is **obedience, sanctification and holiness**. That is the

purpose of salvation, that we overcome sin and become holy as Yahweh is holy.

The weekly Sabbath is the everlasting Sign of sanctification; a process which, by the power of the Holy Ghost, results in the re-creation of a sinner into a saint.

The Sabbath is referred to as a *'perpetual covenant'* between the true children of Israel those who have put their faith in **Yeshua** (the promised Seed of Abraham) and the LORD God of Israel.

The Sabbath is the divinely ordained SIGN of the everlasting covenant. For more information see the **True Sabbath Day.**

Exodus 31: 16: *"Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.
17: It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever..."*

Ezekiel 20: 12: *"Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a SIGN between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them..."*

19: *I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them;*

20: *And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a SIGN between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God."*

9. The Comandments

We live in a world of increasing **unbelief, disobedience** and **greed**. There is no slackening of the pace of deterioration. Every news bulletin tells of worsening morals in every country. Yahweh gave mankind laws to cover virtually every department of human activity; but comparatively few want to obey them. To most people divine law is irrelevant and unwelcome. And yet the commandments were written by God's own hand! Oh what a tragic paradox, that the Creator Himself, the **Giver of Life**, is ignored, disbelieved and blasphemed!

Exodus 31: 18: *"And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God."*

Deuteronomy 9: 10: *"And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly."*

The Almighty's Law is Perfect

Yahweh's law is perfect. It always has been. To suggest that it was **'imperfect'** is to insult Him. **Yahweh's law is the most effective tool an evangelist can use to identify sin and point souls to the Saviour.** It is not possible to convince a person that he/she is sinning without reference to the law of God.

Psalms 19: 7: *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."*

1 John 3: 4: *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."*

1 John 2: 4: *"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."*

The Almighty's Law is Eternal

Not only is the Almighty's law perfect, but it is eternal. It will outlast the present universe.

Psalms 111: 7: *"The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure.*

8: *They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness."*

Matthew 5: 17: *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

18: *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

19: *Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."*

The Almighty's Law is to Salvation

Obedience is the only reliable evidence of faith. When questioned about the way to eternal life, the Saviour referred his enquirer to obedience.

Matthew 19: 16: *“And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, **what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?***

*17: And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but **if thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS.**”*

Disobedience: the cause of Earth's myriad ills

Isaiah 24: 5: *“The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; **because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.**”*

For more information see [Divine Laws](#).

10. A Final Call to Life

As in the days of Noah, the Almighty is calling for people to repent and be saved. **Grace, mercy and salvation are offered free of charge!** For more information on these vital offers, see [Salvation](#).

- The **Rainbow** is a sign that not all will die, some will be saved. Will you be amongst them?
- The **Sabbath** is a sign of sanctification. Do you want to be sanctified and made holy?
- **Salvation is offered through Abraham's seed - Yeshua the Saviour.** Are you willing to accept salvation?
- **Obedience** demonstrates how alive and active your faith really is. Obedience is faith in action. Are you endeavouring to be obedient?
- **Spiritual Zeal** and the courage to boldly speak out against blatant sin (fornication, adultery, homosexuality, child abuse etc.) identifies the children of **Phinehas**. **Do you want to be part of the everlasting Priesthood?**

These are questions we should regularly ask ourselves. Day and night we should be weighing the issues of life; constantly assessing our own performance to make sure that we do not let our salvation slip away because of sin. Believe me, it is important.

I'll end by quoting a beautiful Divine invitation:

*“**Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live;**
and
I WILL MAKE AN EVERLASTING COVENANT WITH YOU,
even the sure mercies of David.”*

(Isaiah 55: 3)

AMEN!

In the Son's Name — For the Father's glory.

Elder: Max W. Mader

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