

UNDER THE COVERING

Many people believe that Christianity is just one of the 6,000 religions on the planet. It's actually not a religion at all. It's a covenant relationship with the God of Heaven and Earth.

Prior to the Fall of Man from God's presence because of disobedience, God was everything to Man. He was Man's reality, his life, his health, and every provision for Man to fulfill God's destiny for him. After the Fall, God created a covenant with Man to bring him back into relationship with Him.

Let's look at 5 scriptures that reveal God's covenant.

'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' Exodus 19.4

And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the Lord, am your healer." Exodus 15.26

"Then it shall come about, because you listen to these judgments and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will keep with you His covenant and His lovingkindness which He swore to your forefathers. "He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock, in the land which He swore to your forefathers to give you. "You shall be blessed above all peoples; there will be no male or female barren among you or among your cattle. "The Lord will remove from you all sickness; and He will not put on you any of the harmful diseases of Egypt which you have known, but He will lay them on all who hate you. Deuteronomy 7.12

"But if you truly obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. Exodus 23.22

"Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. "All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 28.1-13

God made it quite clear what He was committing to His people by His covenant promises.

But, in Deuteronomy 28, He also spelled out the consequences of living out from under God's covenant.

Verse 15. "But it shall come about, if you do not obey the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.

Verses 15 through 68 spell out in graphic detail all of the horrible consequences that would happen if they didn't stay under this covenant.

The certainty of these blessings and curses of this covenant were based on their obedience and performance of the Law. If they obeyed they were blessed, but disobedience brought the curse.

Moses exhorted the Israelites to keep this covenant in Deuteronomy 30.19.

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

The Old Testament recounts God's chosen people's continual disobedience of God's covenant and its devastating consequences. It also recounts the many times God rescued them from destruction.

God sent Jesus to establish a new covenant with His people based on better promises. This New Covenant is based on Christ's perfect performance and fulfillment of the law, and not our performance and obedience. Hebrews 8.10

The scriptures don't spell out line by line the blessings of this new covenant, but here are a few scriptures to give a broad overview of what is contained in it.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."
John 5.24

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that you may have My life, and have *it* abundantly." John 10.10

"All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He (the Holy Spirit) will take of Mine and will give it to you." John 16.15

"Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not even entered into the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. 1 Corinthians 2.9

John 14 explains that the Holy Spirit will not just be with us, but will be in us. It also states that if we hang on to His word, Jesus and the Father will make their permanent dwelling place in us.

Psalms 91 says that he who dwells in the secret place of the most high will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

Jesus used the word abide a lot when He was explaining our relationship with God.

By abiding in God and God abiding in us, we can expect the abundant blessings of God's presence in our lives, and His provision and protection to fulfill God's purposes in us and through us to this entire world.

God created us to be His supreme creation to manifest His eternal life, His love and His Kingdom to the entire Earth, and draw all men back into His family.

God has called us to live in His presence 24 hours a day, for the rest of our lives.

As we stay under His New Covenant, God will fulfill His promise to put His word in our minds, write them on our hearts, and cause us to know Him, which Jesus defined as eternal life. Hebrews 8.10

He said, " This is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." John 17.3

And Jesus spoke to the Father;

"The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

If we want this entire world to know how much God loves them, we need to receive this New Covenant and live in our oneness with Him that He created for us.

Our eternal life is in God's presence. We can't lead anyone where we've never been ourselves.

Let's receive this as our reality and our identity, so that we can lead others out of death into life by this covenant relationship with the God of Heaven and Earth.

God bless you.

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