

Faith Christian Fellowship
March July 10, 2016
The God of Covenants
He Swore by Himself!

TEXT: Psalms 25:14 NLT The LORD is a friend to those who fear Him. He teaches them His covenant.

Luke 22:20 Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

God is a God of covenants. He deals with us through clear statements of blessing and qualification. Throughout the ancient world, covenants were ratified by any number of rituals and practices that are reflections of God ordained principle.

Without an understanding of covenant, it is impossible to fully grasp the biblical message: where we are in history, His example of truthfulness for us, confidence in the promise.

- 1) Why study covenant?
 - a) Our Bible is divided into Old Testament and New Testament. The Word Testament is another word for Covenant. It seems we should know what that word means.
 - b) Definitions:
 - i) Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary: COVENANT - An agreement between two people or two groups that involves promises on the part of each to the other. The concept of covenant between God and His people is one of the most important theological truths of the Bible.
 - ii) Our working definition: A covenant is a binding agreement between two parties with exacting requirements and penalties for default. It is generally ratified by a blood oath.
 - c) Covenant practices: The killing of a sacrifice, the mingling of blood (the life of the flesh is in the blood) the reading of the terms, a covenant meal, a covenant seal, trading of identities, even sharing names.
- 2) Bible covenants:
 - a) Covenants between men:
 - i) Abraham and Abimelech Gen 21:27-32 / 26:28
 - ii) Jacob and Laban: Gen 31
 - iii) David and Jonathan. I Samuel 18:1-4 / 20:12-17, 42 / 2 Sam 4:4 / 2 Samuel 9

- b) Covenants initiated by God to govern His dealings with man
 - i) God and Adam. Genesis 1:26-30; 2:16-17 / 3:14-24 .
 - ii) God and Noah Genesis 8:20 - 9:17 (8-17)
 - iii) God and Abraham
 - (1) Abraham and descendants: (Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7; 13:14-17; 15; 17:1-14; 22:15-18). –
 - (2) The Mosaic covenant, or the law of Moses, is an addition to the covenant with Abraham. Deuteronomy 11; et al.).
NOTICE: Galatians 3:16-19
 - (3) Palestinian Covenant (Deuteronomy 30:1-10). Land Covenant, amplifies the land aspect that was detailed in the Abrahamic Covenant.
 - iv) God and David: 2 Samuel 7:8-16. See Luke 1:32 / Acts 2:29-30 / Ps 89,
 - v) The New Covenant: Jer 31:31-34 / Heb 8:6
- 3) The significance of Covenant to us:
 - a) Our covenant tells us who we are and what we have in Him. 2 Cor 5:17 / Eph 2:13
 - b) Covenant tells us where we are in history: Dt30:4-5
 - c) His covenant behavior shows us how we should behave in our covenant relationships. 2 Cor 1:17-20
 - d) His offer of covenant tells us just how committed He is to His promise:
 - i) God is not a man who needs to lie: Tit 1:2 / Num 23:19
 - ii) Hebrews 6:15-20 – An oath for confirmation
 - (1) . Notice Gen 15:7-9 / 17:2-4 / 22:15-18
 - (2) God made an oath to convince us. We can have anchored souls

What promise are you clinging to?

God is committed to it.

He swore by Himself!!!